



*Alison Stuart  
Head of Legal and  
Democratic Services*

**MEETING** : EXECUTIVE  
**VENUE** : COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD  
**DATE** : TUESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2018  
**TIME** : 7.00 PM

## **MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE**

|                                   |   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Councillor Linda Haysey           | - | Leader  |
| Councillor Eric Buckmaster        | - | Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing                       |
| Councillor Jan Goodeve            | - | Executive Member for Housing                                    |
| Councillor Gary Jones             | - | Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Economic Development     |
| Councillor Graham McAndrew        | - | Executive Member for Environment and the Public Realm           |
| Councillor Suzanne Rutland-Barsby | - | Executive Member for Development Management and Council Support |
| Councillor Geoffrey Williamson    | - | Executive Member for Finance and Support Services               |

**CONTACT OFFICER: Martin Ibrahim**  
**Tel: 01279-502173**  
**Email: [martin.ibrahim@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:martin.ibrahim@eastherts.gov.uk)**

## **DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

1. A Member, present at a meeting of the Authority, or any committee, sub-committee, joint committee or joint sub-committee of the Authority, with a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in any matter to be considered or being considered at a meeting:
  - must not participate in any discussion of the matter at the meeting;
  - must not participate in any vote taken on the matter at the meeting;
  - must disclose the interest to the meeting, whether registered or not, subject to the provisions of section 32 of the Localism Act 2011;
  - if the interest is not registered and is not the subject of a pending notification, must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days;
  - must leave the room while any discussion or voting takes place.
2. A DPI is an interest of a Member or their partner (which means spouse or civil partner, a person with whom they are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom they are living as if they were civil partners) within the descriptions as defined in the Localism Act 2011.
3. The Authority may grant a Member dispensation, but only in limited circumstances, to enable him/her to participate and vote on a matter in which they have a DPI.
4. It is a criminal offence to:
  - fail to disclose a disclosable pecuniary interest at a meeting if it is not on the register;
  - fail to notify the Monitoring Officer, within 28 days, of a DPI that is not on the register that a Member disclosed to a meeting;
  - participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which a Member has a DPI;
  - knowingly or recklessly provide information that is false or misleading in notifying the Monitoring Officer of a DPI or in disclosing such interest to a meeting.

(Note: The criminal penalties available to a court are to impose a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale and disqualification from being a councillor for up to 5 years.)



### **Public Attendance**

East Herts Council welcomes public attendance at its meetings and will provide a reasonable number of agendas for viewing at the meeting. Please note that there is seating for 27 members of the public and space for a further 30 standing in the Council Chamber on a “first come first served” basis. When the Council anticipates a large attendance, an additional 30 members of the public can be accommodated in Room 27 (standing room only), again on a “first come, first served” basis, to view the meeting via webcast.

If you think a meeting you plan to attend could be very busy, you can check if the extra space will be available by emailing [democraticservices@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@eastherts.gov.uk) or calling the Council on 01279 655261 and asking to speak to Democratic Services.

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## AGENDA

### 1. Apologies

*To receive apologies for absence.*

### 2. Leader's Announcements

### 3. Minutes

*To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2018 (previously circulated as part of the Council agenda of 25 July 2018)*

### 4. Declarations of Interest

*To receive any Member(s) declaration(s) of interest.*

### 5. Update from Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Pages 7 - 12)

*To receive a report of the Committee Chairman.*

### 6. Update from Performance, Audit and Governance Scrutiny Committee (Pages 13 - 24)

*To receive a report of the Committee Chairman.*

### 7. Bishop's Stortford North – Allocation of s106 Funding for Sports Investments (Pages 25 - 52)

*Key Decision*

8. Options for the Future of the Pinehurst Community Centre and Attached Properties (Pages 53 - 74)

*Key Decision*

*Note – Essential Reference Papers B – C are enclosed for Members only as they contain exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. In considering these matters, if necessary, the meeting may exclude the press and public in accordance with Agenda Item 21.*

9. Adoption of the East Herts District Plan (Pages 75 - 688)
10. East Herts District Plan - Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Statement (Pages 689 - 722)
11. Community Governance Review of Bishop's Stortford Town Council - Second Stage Consultation (Pages 723 - 768)
12. Community Governance Review of Buntingford Town Council - Second Stage Consultation (Pages 769 - 788)
13. Community Governance Review of Eastwick and Gilston Parish Council - Second Stage Consultation (Pages 789 - 800)
14. Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2019/2020 (Pages 801 - 816)
15. East of Stevenage Masterplan (Pages 817 - 846)
16. Request for Area Designation for Neighbourhood Planning: Ware, Ware Town Council (Pages 847 - 856)

17. Request for Area Designation for Neighbourhood Planning: Stanstead Abbots and St Margaret's, Stanstead Abbots Parish Council (Pages 857 - 870)
18. General Fund Revenue and Capital Outturn 2017/18 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/20 Update (Pages 871 - 894)
19. Insurance Contracts Options (Pages 895 - 906)

*Note – Essential Reference Paper B is enclosed for Members only as it contains exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. In considering these matters, if necessary, the meeting may exclude the press and public in accordance with Agenda Item 21.*

20. Risk Management Annual Report 2018/19 (Pages 907 - 918)
21. Exclusion of Press and Public

*If required, to move that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of items 8 and 19 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act.*

22. Urgent Business

*To consider such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration and is not likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information.*

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 11 SEPTEMBER, 2018

REPORT BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – UPDATE

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

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## **Purpose/Summary of Report**

- This report details the comments and recommendations made following an additional meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10 July 2018.

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b><u>RECOMMENDATION:</u></b> |  |
| <b>(A)</b>                    | <b>That the Executive note the contents of the report.</b> |

## **1.0 Background**

1.1 Issues arising from Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 19 June 2018 were reported separately to the Executive on 17 July 2018. Overview and Scrutiny Committee met again on 10 July 2018 to consider the following items:

- **Shared Services Update : IT**
- **Shared Services : CCTV**
- **Potential Kingsmead Scheme**

## **2.0 Shared Services Update: IT**

2.1 The Committee considered a report outlining the shared IT

service arrangements with Stevenage Borough Council (SBC) and the background which culminated in the shared service arrangement, notably the need to secure value for money and stability of service. The Director explained the savings achieved and the significant investments made particularly over the last six months. The Chief Executive of Stevenage Borough Council (SBC) acknowledged the austerity measures which local government had faced since 2008 which had prompted shared services and the challenges still facing shared IT arrangements. He referred to the successes of shared arrangements, including Revenues and Benefits and the CCTV partnership.

2.2 The Committee discussed the report at length. Members sought and were provided with clarification from Officers (including the SBC team) on a number of key elements contained in the report:

- why the projected savings of £400k had not been achieved in the context of the outturn figures for 2016/17 and 2017/18 but invested in equipment and licences;
- the financial costs of moving to a shared service arrangement;
- retained costs what these were and why sums were held by both Councils;
- the impact of not having a shared service arrangement and the possibility of increasing annual costs;
- the need to continually invest and develop an ICT strategy and improved resilience;
- the need to invest in the right platforms for each Council's services and residents;
- the suggestion of a lack of planning at the infrastructure

phase which had increased the costs in the life of the share service arrangement;

- concerns about controls over projects and usual business;
- the appointment of a new Information Technology (Transformation) Manager and when in post, his views on the emerging ICT Strategy;
- the possibility of inviting another Council to join the shared partnership arrangement;
- going forward, the need to look at service provision and what could be done better;
- concerns about the increasing use of consultants;
- the possibility of outsourcing or privatising the service;
- the need to provide additional information about shared service arrangement including extraction costs;
- a request for further information by Christmas 2018.

2.3 The Committee thanked Officers for the report.

2.4 The Committee recommended that the value for money assessment of the Shared IT Service and the current proposals to help ensure continued value for money be noted and further supported a recommendation to receive a further report by Christmas 2018.

### **3.0 Shared Services : CCTV**

3.1 The Committee considered a report on the current shared service arrangements, hosted by Stevenage Borough Council through which CCTV cameras were monitored. The Head of Housing and Health provided an update on where cameras

were deployed, the profits and losses incurred by the trading arm owned by the four partners and how this was apportioned. An update was provided on the governance review currently underway and the development of a business plan to accommodate demands for CCTV assistance.

3.2 The Committee discussed:

- Whether the service could be extended for use by Buntingford Town Council;
- When and what decisions were taken to move mobile cameras;
- Why the trading arm was established;
- profit and losses how this was distributed and the need for the most tax efficient method for the trading arm to operate particularly in regard to the acquisition of cameras;
- The benefits of “hard wired” systems vs mobile arrangements in terms of the GDPR and compliance;
- The governance review and the development of a business plan.

3.3 The Committee supported the recommendations as detailed.

3.4 The Committee recommended that the shared CCTV arrangements be noted and that Members’ comments be taken on board by the Head of Housing and Health for consideration at an operational level; the reviews of the operational and governance aspects of the shared CCTV service currently underway be acknowledged and Members’ comments be taken on board by the Head of Housing and Health. Lastly, that the Head of Housing and Health submit a report to Members on the outcome of the reviews.



#### 4.0 **Potential Kingsmead Scheme.**

4.1 The Committee received an exempt report and presentation on the potential for improving and/or redevelopment of the Pinehurst Community Centre, the adjacent shop and flat on the site known as the Kingsmead site. The Head of Housing and Health provided background information on the history of the site, its configuration, key issues and opportunities arising from the options appraisal. Members considered three possible initial options:

- Refurbishment of the community centre and shop with no changes to the two residential flats;
- Disposal of the site to a housing association or developer;
- Council-led redevelopment of the site.

4.2 The advantages and disadvantages of each option were debated at length and officers provided clarification.

4.3 Members expressed support for the initiative.

4.4 The Committee recommended that the Executive be advised that Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported the option of a Council-led redevelopment of the site as detailed in the report and that Officers be requested to conduct more financial modelling.

#### Background Papers

None

Contact Member: Councillor M Allen, Chairman, Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
[mike.allen@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:mike.allen@eastherts.gov.uk)

Contact Officer: Alison Stuart– Head of Legal and Democratic Services  
[alison.stuart@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:alison.stuart@eastherts.gov.uk)

Report Author: Lorraine Blackburn – Democratic Services Officer  
[lorraine.blackburn@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:lorraine.blackburn@eastherts.gov.uk)

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 11 SEPTEMBER, 2018

REPORT BY PERFORMANCE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

PERFORMANCE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –  
UPDATE

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

## **Purpose/Summary of Report**

- This report details the comments and recommendations made following Performance Audit and Governance Scrutiny Committee on 24 July 2018.

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b><u>RECOMMENDATION:</u></b> |  |
| <b>(A)</b>                    | <b>That the Executive note the contents of the report.</b> |

## **1.0 Background**

1.1 Issues arising from Performance, Audit and Governance Scrutiny Committee on 22 May 2018 were reported to the Executive on 17 July 2018. Performance Audit and Governance Scrutiny Committee met on 24 July 2018 to consider the following items:

- **General Fund Revenue and Capital Outturn 2017/18 and Medium Term Financial Plan**
- **Annual Statement of Accounts**
- **External Auditors' Report**

- **SIAS – Assurance Statement**
- **SIAS – Progress report on Audit Plan**
- **Annual Governance Statement 2017/18**
- **Risk Management Annual Report**
- **Work Programme**
- **Insurance Options for 2019**

## 2.0 **General Fund Revenue and Capital Outturn 2017/18 and Medium Term Financial Plan**

2.1 The Committee considered a report detailing the general fund revenue outturn for 2017/18 and significant variances. The report also provided a summary of the financing arrangements for the 2017/18 capital outturn and the Head of Strategic Finance and Property updated 2018/19 capital budget and approved slippage for 2017/18. It was noted that the budget was underspent by £7k.

2.2 The Committee discussed the report at length. Members sought and were provided with clarification from Officers on a number of key elements contained in the report, including:

- The depressed rental income on Charrington's House but that more tenants had been secured.
- A request about how many of the PCN appeals were successful;
- The overspend in Legal and Democratic Services salaries budget;
- The underspend of £223k within Housing and Health and whether a review of the service should be carried out;
- Assurances that the first quarter health check in September would provide greater levels of detail in terms of the Council's capital and revenue position;

- The sum of £633k towards demolition costs for The Causeway building and whether these works would be funded from the commercial property fund;
- The additional responsibilities undertaken by the planning department had caused an overspend of £33k given the recruitment difficulties and the need to keep this under review;
- Legal and General's ownership of Jackson Square in Bishop's Stortford and the Council's management role;
- The capital budget overspend of £600k in respect of The Causeway building;
- The slippage figure in relation to the Fire Suppression Unit at Buntingford Depot which had remained unchanged;
- an overspend of £297k against the Business and Technology Service budget, whether this was a one off because of under-investment in previous years and whether this was related to cyber security?
- the an underspend in terms of £51k in relation to interest and investment income;
- the receipt of £325k funding;
- Assurances on level of the Council's level of reserves and resilience in their usage;
- the need to let the public know that it was the Council and not Sainsburys who refunded their parking while shopping in Bishop's Stortford.

2.3 The Committee supported the recommendations as detailed.

2.4 The Committee recommended that the General Fund Revenue

Outturn of £7k underspend be transferred to the General Reserve and the Capital Budgets of £1.496M be re-profiled from 2017/18 capital programme to the 2018/19 programme to fund ongoing capital schemes.

### **3.0 Annual Statement of Accounts**

3.1 The Committee considered a report on the 2017/18 Statement of Accounts. The report also provided details of the overall financial position in the Balance Sheet and revenue activities for the General Fund and Collection Fund. The Head of Strategic Finance and Property requested that the task of signing off the accounts be delegated to her.

3.2 The Committee supported the recommendations as detailed.

3.3 The Committee recommended that

- the Council's Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2017/18 be approved and the Chairman of Performance, Audit and Governance be authorised to sign thereof at the conclusion of the meeting;
- the Letter of Representation be approved for signature by the Chairman of Performance Audit and Governance Scrutiny committee and the Head of Strategic Finance and Property; and
- The Head of Strategic Finance and Property be given delegated authority to sign off the accounts.

### **4.0 External Auditors' Report**

4.1 The Committee considered the External Auditor's (EY) report on the Audit Results for 2017/18 including a summary of their preliminary audit conclusions. Subject to a number of outstanding matters detailed within section 3 of their report, EY expected to issue an unqualified audit opinion on the

financial statements before the statutory deadline of 31 July 2018.

4.2 The Committee received updates on the Executive Summary and in relation to:

- Journals testing
- Payroll differences / testing
- Final Audit Manager and Associate Partner review of the audit work completed
- Review of the final version of the financial statements
- Completion of the subsequent events review; and
- The content of the signed management representation letter
- Understatements in relation to the debtor and creditor figures;
- pension discounts and the impact on the pension reserves
- Virgin Media and NDR Appeals provision

4.3 The Committee noted the impact on of the tighter timetable in which to produce the draft accounts.

4.4 Members sought and were provided with clarification on a number of issues:

- Whether independent partners reviewed the accounts;
- What had impacted on the auditor's final fee for 2017/18;
- the Housing Subsidy deadline claim and last years' administrative assistance by the Council;
- How well the audit had progressed.

4.5 The Committee recommended that the External Auditor's report be received.

## **5.0 SIAS Assurance Statement**

- 5.1 The Committee considered a report by the Shared Internal Audit Services (SIAS) summarising their opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's control environment, the outcomes of self-assessments required against accounting standards, and SIAS's performance in delivering the Council's audit plan. The report also detailed the 2018/19 Audit Charter. Lastly, the report sought management assurance that the scope and resources for the internal audit had not been subject to inappropriate limitations in 2017/18.
- 5.2 Members sought and were provided with assurances regarding the Council's non-financial systems and how Officers worked with SIAS to review riskier issues to make sure property controls were in place.
- 5.3 The Committee sought and was provided with clarification on:
- the six audit projects which had been classified as "not assessed";
  - the limited assurances had been provided in relation to cyber security. The Committee asked for more information in relation to wider IT issues and particularly in relation to cyber security and asked that this be incorporated into the work programme.
- 5.4 The Committee supported the recommendations as detailed.
- 5.5 The Committee recommended:
- that the Annual Assurance Statement and Internal Audit Annual report be noted;
  - the results of the self-assessment required by the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) and the Quality Assurance Improvement Programme (QAIP) be noted;
  - the Audit Charter for 2018/19 be approved; and
  - confirmed that the scope and resources for the internal audit had not been subject to inappropriate limitations



in 2017/18.

## **6.0 SIAS – Progress report on Audit Plan**

- 6.1 The Committee considered a report the internal audit progress in delivering the audit plan as at 6 July 2018, proposed amendments to the approved Internal Audit Plan, and the status of previously agreed internal audit recommendation. The report provided an update on performance management information up to 6 July 2018 and detailed revised assurance definitions / priority levels.
- 6.2 The Committee debated the issue of cyber security and the limited assurance level which had been given. Members also considered the status of high priority recommendations including the IT Disaster Recovery (Post Incident). Members supported the suggestion that a report on cyber security within the context of disaster recovery be added to the PAG Work Programme.
- 6.3 The Committee supported the recommendations as amended and as detailed.
- 6.4 The Committee recommended:
- that the Internal Audit Progress report be noted;
  - the amendments to the Audit Plan (as at 6 July 2018) be approved;
  - the status of high priority recommendations be noted;
  - the revised assurance definitions / priority levels be noted; and
  - the work programme for PAG be amended by the inclusion of a report on cyber security and disaster recovery

## **7.0 Annual Governance Statement**

- 7.1 The Committee considered a report on the current position of the 2017/18 Annual Governance Statement and the 2018/19

## Annual Governance Statement Action Plan.

- 7.2 The Committee suggested that both East Herts Council and Stevenage Borough Council should perform a business impact assessment on the loss of IT and the suggestion that both Councils should define their respective risk appetites on a service basis. The Officer explained what actions were taken in relation to the business continuity plan and which services were determined as priorities.
- 7.3 The Committee supported the recommendation as detailed.
- 7.4 The Committee recommended that the Annual Governance Statement 2017/18 and the annual Governance Statement Action Plan 2018/19 be noted.

## **8.0 Risk Management Annual Report**

- 8.1 The committee considered a report on the proposed content of the Strategic Risk Register. Members were reminded that during 2017/18 Members agreed that an annual risk report would be submitted with updates provided on an exception basis with the next exception report due to PAG on 4 September 2018.
- 8.2 The Committee discussed the matrix numbers allocated to risk and the bases for this.
- 8.3 The Committee supported the recommendations as detailed.
- 8.4 The Committee recommended that the Risk Management Annual Report be received.

## **9.0 Work Programme 2018/19**

- 9.1 The Committee considered a report on the work programme for 2018/19.

- 9.2 The Committee discussed previous presentations which had been made by Housing Associations to the former Community Scrutiny Committee which had reported on general issues such as repairs, maintenance. Members noted that any future report would be within the remit of Overview and Scrutiny committee. The Chairman of that Committee, undertook to submit a request for this via a Scrutiny Proposal Form.
- 9.3 The Committee noted that the Chairman had asked the Head of Legal and Democratic Services for an update on the appointment of a Scrutiny Officer and was advised that the matter was in hand and the content of the role was being reviewed. Members commented that it was critical that a Scrutiny Officer be appointed to support them in the role of scrutiny.
- 9.4 The Committee was reminded that they had already requested the inclusion of a report on disaster recovery following a cyber- attack and asked that this be considered in the context of the business impact / continuity plan.
- 9.5 The Committee referred to ERP B in relation to Section 106 Agreements (Review of the management of Section 106 payments). Members requested that a financial statement detailing the current position be submitted to scrutiny and which provided expiration details.
- 9.6 The Committee supported the recommendations as amended.
- 9.7 The Committee recommended that the work programme as amended be approved by the inclusion of:
- A report on disaster recovery following a cyber-attack and in relation to the business impact continuity / assessment;
  - A report be submitted on Section 106 agreements including a financial statement detailing the summary position be reported to PAG in November 2018.

## **10.0 Insurance Options 2019**

- 10.1 The Committee considered an (in part) exempt report on the future insurance arrangements as the Council's long term agreement ends in March 2019. The Committee received an update on the Council's relationship with the Local Government Association Mutual which was in its early development stages.
- 10.2 The Committee considered the Tender Options as detailed in the exempt part of the report and the advantages and disadvantages of each option were considered.
- 10.3 A Member summarised his involvement in the process and explained that he had attended meetings at the LGA with Officers and that the Mutual was moving towards an operational board and engaging professional consultants. He explained that at the present time there were still a number of unknowns and issues which could impact on the premiums each Council would have to pay. The Member explained that there was a great deal of encouragement to commit to becoming a founder Member but that for the moment, the Council should take a prudent approach over the next couple of years until issues had been resolved. He suggested to Members that the Council could present its "book" for soft market testing on its portfolio, but that this could impact negatively on the relationship with the LGA Mutual and any competitive rates they might offer in the future.
- 10.4 The Committee noted some of the Council's key insurance requirements which were split between eight insurance companies. Members debated:
- The suggestion to extend the current contract for a maximum of two years while seeking further information on the progress of the LGA Mutual;

- The importance of service delivery;
- The Council's insurance requirements (currently split between eight companies);
- The possibility of self-funding and increasing excesses to reduce premiums;
- That by submitting its "book" to the Mutual the Council could be declaring its intention to establish itself as a founding Member;
- The possibility of continuing to attend meetings and corresponding with the Mutual for the interim.

10.5 The Committee supported a prudent approach regarding its future insurance arrangement.

10.6 The Committee recommended that the Council's insurance contracts be extended for a maximum of two years and that officers submit a review in one year when Members will receive an update on the Council's position as an (uncommitted) founding Member.

#### Background Papers

None

Contact Member: Councillor M Pope, Chairman, Performance Audit and Governance Scrutiny Committee  
[mark.pope@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:mark.pope@eastherts.gov.uk)

Contact Officer: Alison Stuart– Head of Legal and Democratic Services  
[alison.stuart@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:alison.stuart@eastherts.gov.uk)

Report Author: Lorraine Blackburn – Democratic Services Officer  
[lorraine.blackburn@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:lorraine.blackburn@eastherts.gov.uk)

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## EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 11 SEPTEMBER 2018

REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

BISHOP'S STORTFORD NORTH – ALLOCATION OF S106 FUNDING FOR  
SPORTS INVESTMENTS

WARD(S) AFFECTED: Bishop's Stortford

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### **Purpose/Summary of Report**

- To propose a process for the allocation of S106 funding arising from the Bishop's Stortford North housing development and to consider the use of the framework for future allocation of S106 sports investments across the District as they arise.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE: That:**

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| (A) | <b>the proposed process for allocating s106 payments arising from the Bishop's Stortford North housing development for sports investments be noted;</b>  |
| (B) | <b>authority be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive and the Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing to agree the final details of the process including the application, evaluation, award, terms and conditions and the agreement, etc; and</b> |
| (C) | <b>authority be delegated to the Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing to determine funding awards to organisations.</b>   |

## 1.0 Background

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the Bishop's Stortford North (BSN) S106 funding opportunities for sports investment arising from the housing development, and proposes the criteria and process for clubs and organisations to submit applications to bid for funding support.

### *Finance - S106 Funding*

- 1.2 There are two S106 funding streams available:

#### BSN Consortia (ASR 1 to 4) – up to £3M

The council has committed £1M of the £3M s106 funding to The Hertfordshire & Essex High School and Science College. This will be forward-funded due to the latent timescales for receipt of S106 payments, but no further forward funding arrangements will be made.

#### Countryside Properties (ASR 5) – £446,233

ASR 5 is ring-fenced to one or more of the following:

- Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club
- Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust
- Bishop's Stortford Community Football Club.

The total sum available was £3,466,233, and the uncommitted balance available is £2,466,233 for allocation.

(An additional £1.095M of S106 is committed for the new Hoggate's Park football ground and pavilion and this will be delivered by the developer).

## 2.0 Report

### *Demand*

- 2.1 A Sports Investment Strategy (SIS) was undertaken by PLC Ltd



in December 2015. The study included consultation with a range of sport and leisure providers in the vicinity including schools and sports clubs, to understand the extent to which their development plans might address the needs arising from the BSN population growth (estimated at 6,070 people).

- 2.2 This identified proposals totalling a minimum of £22.8M, and maximum possible funding of £9.245M (S106, external funding etc) – leaving a funding gap of at least £13.55M, illustrating the need for a process to allocate funding that will address the key needs of the area.
- 2.3 It should also be noted that the ASR 1-4 funding (£2M balance) will be open for all clubs / organisations to bid for; not just the ones that were identified from the SIS study undertaken in 2015.

#### *S106 Payment Timescales*

- 2.4 The following timescales apply:

#### *Consortia (ASRs 1 to 4; x4 developers)*

Assuming the first occupation is August 2018 and working on the basis of the consortiums projections (selling 25 units a month); the payments could flow as follows:

| Number                       | Approximate Date | Amount        |
|------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Prior to occupation          | Complete         | £50,000 (Due) |
| 500 <sup>th</sup> dwelling   | March 2020       | £450,000      |
| 1,000 <sup>th</sup> dwelling | November 2021    | £500,000      |
| 1,500 dwelling               | July 2023        | £1M           |
| 2,000 <sup>th</sup> dwelling | March 2025       | £1M           |

#### *Countryside Properties (ASR5; x1 developer)*

The first occupation was in June 2018 and on the basis of one property sold per week (the general rule of thumb) the payments could flow as follows:

| Number                     | Approximate Date | Amount   |
|----------------------------|------------------|----------|
| 100 <sup>th</sup> dwelling | September 2019   | £200,000 |
| 200 <sup>th</sup> dwelling | March 2021       | £150,000 |
| 300 <sup>th</sup> dwelling | February 2022    | £96,233  |

*Proposed Criteria for Awarding s106 Funding for Sports Investments*

- 2.5 The SIS identified 15 priority criteria for assessing the proposals from the clubs and organisations – please see **Essential Reference Paper B** which the council agreed at the District Planning Executive Panel on 25 February 2016.
- 2.6 It is proposed to use these as the basis for assessing the proposals, and for the proposals to also be considered in the context of the needs identified through the following studies that were completed in 2017:
- Playing Pitch Strategy
  - Built Facilities Strategy
  - Open Spaces Assessment

For example, the Playing Pitch Strategy (2017) identifies:

- The need for a strategic hub solution for Bishops Stortford Community FC - high priority
- Additional pitch and changing capacity needed for Bishop's Stortford Rugby FC – high priority
- A new junior ground and pavilion improvements for Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust (cricket) – high priority

Investments will also align with the Physical Activity Strategy e.g.:

- Active Recreation - investing in leisure facilities, parks and open spaces to provide our residents with a range of affordable leisure opportunities across the district

- Active Sport - provide a facilitation role to local sports clubs and voluntary organisations to support their Health and Well-being offer to the community.

### *Funding Rounds*

- 2.7 The phased S106 payment schedule based on dwellings occupied means that funding is estimated to become available from September 2019 through to August 2027, and therefore three funding rounds can be established.

### Consortia S106 Funding

| Round  | ASR   | Occupation Trigger           | Estimated date of S106 receipt | Funding  |
|--|-------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| 1 – Mar 2020                                   | 1 - 4 | 500 <sup>th</sup> dwelling   | Mar 2020                       | £450,000 |
| 2 – Nov 2021                                   | 1 - 4 | 1,000 <sup>th</sup> dwelling | Nov 2021                       | £500,000 |
| 3 – July 2023                                  | 1 - 4 | 1,500 <sup>th</sup> dwelling | July 2023                      | £1M      |
| Repayment of Herts & Essex £1M forward funding | 1 - 4 | 2,000 <sup>th</sup> dwelling | Mar 2025                       | £1M      |

The Herts & Essex School have been forward funded £1M from ASRs 1 – 4. It is proposed to repay this into the council's capital reserves from the final s106 payment expected in August 2027.

### Countryside Properties S106 Funding

| Round         | ASR | Occupation Trigger         | Estimated date of S106 receipt | Funding  |
|---------------|-----|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| 1 – Sept 2019 | 5   | 100 <sup>th</sup> dwelling | Sept 2019                      | £200,000 |
| 2 – Mar 2021  | 5   | 200 <sup>th</sup> dwelling | March 2021                     | £150,000 |

| Round        | ASR | Occupation Trigger         | Estimated date of S106 receipt | Funding |
|--------------|-----|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|
| 3 – Feb 2022 | 5   | 300 <sup>th</sup> dwelling | Feb 2022                       | £96,233 |

This funding is ring-fenced to one or more of the following:  
Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club, Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust,  
Bishop's Stortford Community Football Club.

*Process for Awarding Funding*

- 2.8 An organisation would make an application to the council for funding by way of an application form which is currently in development – **Essential Reference Paper C.**
- 2.9 The application form will include questions that assess applications against the previously agreed prioritised criteria – **Essential Reference Paper D.**
- 2.10 In February 2016 the District Planning Executive Panel determined that:
- 'The Steering Group, in conjunction with the Executive Member for Health & Wellbeing, be empowered to consider and make recommendations on future investments to council following consultation with the Sounding Board.'
- 2.11 It is proposed that an evaluation panel be established that would consider the applications. The group previously identified consisted of officer roles that no longer exist in the council structure, and it is therefore proposed that the 'S106 Officer Meeting Group' undertake the evaluation, with co-opted officers as necessary to form the following:

1 x East Herts Council (EHC) Planning Officer  
(Chair – as Planning are responsible for the s106 agreements)  
1 x EHC Deputy Chief Executive  
1 x Chief Executive Officer, Bishop's Stortford Town Council

1 x EHC Officer in Leisure and Environment  
1 x EHC Officer in Health & Wellbeing / Community  
Engagement  
1 x EHC Officer in Property Services  
1 x EHC Finance officer

- 2.12 Once evaluated and scored, the Chair will work with the Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing who it is proposed will have delegated powers to approve the funding.
- 2.13 The evaluation panel should have no financial, legal or personal connection with the projects being considered.
- 2.14 Any funding remaining after a bidding round will carry over to the following round.
- 2.15 A formal legal agreement will exist between the council and the recipient organisation for a minimum period of 3 years. The council may choose a longer period depending on the nature and extent of the funding.
- 2.16 Financial assistance will not be made unless the project is secured in all respects, but particularly in terms of land, capital finance and planning permission. The organisation would need to show that it was financially secure.
- 2.17 There is no certainty as to when the developers will meet the trigger points identified earlier in the report and there remains a risk that the developers may seek to re-negotiate the 106 payments.

*Proposed Next Steps*

- 2.18 Subject to feedback on the report, the following documents will need to be produced / finalised:
- The application form
  - Guidance / pre-application checklist
  - Evaluation template

- Offer / award letter
- Terms and conditions
- Agreement

2.19 In addition to internal consultation on the above documents, officers will also consult with Sport England, Herts Sports Partnership, Active East Herts Sports Partnership and Bishop's Stortford Town Council.

2.20 It is proposed that officers contact those organisations identified in the SIS to update them on the proposals for S106 allocation and to obtain an informal update on their development plans.

2.21 Other considerations will include marketing and publicity for the funding rounds to ensure that all suitable clubs and organisations in the locality are aware of the opportunities.

### 3.0 Summary

3.1 The Council is committed to allocating the s106 balance of £2,466,233 to achieve tangible health and wellbeing benefits for the community of Bishop's Stortford. The first tranche of funding anticipated is £200,000 from Countryside Properties around September 2019, and therefore the agreed arrangements for distributing funding should be confirmed prior to this.

### 4.0 Implications/Consultations

4.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

### Background Papers

None

Contact Member: Cllr Eric Buckmaster  
Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing  
[Eric.Buckmaster@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:Eric.Buckmaster@eastherts.gov.uk)

Contact Officer: Helen Standen, Deputy Chief Executive ext 1405  
[Helen.Standen@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:Helen.Standen@eastherts.gov.uk)

Report Author: Steven Dupoy, Leisure and Environment Service  
Manager  
[Steven.Dupoy@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:Steven.Dupoy@eastherts.gov.uk)

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## **ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'**

### **IMPLICATIONS/CONSULTATIONS**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives | Priority 1 – Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities<br><br>Priority 2 – Enhance the quality of people's lives<br><br>Priority 3 – Enable a flourishing local economy         |
| Consultation:  | The draft report was considered by the council's Leadership Team on 30 July 2018.   |
| Legal:   | The anticipated payments are part of an s106 agreement relating to the Bishop's Stortford North development.  |
| Financial:   | The £1M forward funding contribution to the Herts & Essex School from the council is anticipated to be repaid by developers in August 2027. No further forward funding will be permitted. |
| Human Resource:  | None  |
| Risk Management:   | It is important to have a robust and transparent process for allocating s106 funding to organisations.  |
| Health and wellbeing – issues and impacts:                     | Funding will assist organisations in developing and improving their sport and recreation offer to the wider community of Bishop's Stortford.  |
| Equality Impact Assessment required:                           | No  |

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**Approved Prioritised Criteria**

1. The breadth of needs met - The extent of the range of identified needs that would be met by the project.
2. Value for money - The overall cost of the project in relation to its potential benefits.
3. Section 106 value for money - The amount/proportion of Section 106 monies in relation to the potential benefits of the project.
4. Partnership funding secured - The amount of any funding already secured in relation to the overall project costs.
5. Potential for attracting additional partnership funding - The realistic prospect of attracting further partnership funding from other sources.
6. Statutory planning issues - The extent to which the proposed development is compliant with planning policies.
7. Location in relation to the BSN development - The proximity of the project to the BSN development, to maximise accessibility.
8. Project management capability - The track record of the project promoter with managing and/or procuring capital projects.
9. Facility management arrangements - Whether the proposed facility management arrangements have been identified and the extent to which these would maximise accessibility and use.
10. Facility running costs - Whether the running costs have been identified and the extent to which they can be operated on a financially sustainable basis, including provision for 'sinking

funds' where appropriate.

11. External support for the proposals - The extent of any external support for the project, for example from the district and/or town council, community survey responses, Sport England, Hertfordshire Sports Partnership, Active East Hertfordshire and the governing bodies of sport.
12. Risk factors - The extent of any risk factors associated with the project, such as the need for land purchase.
13. Readiness to proceed - The extent to which the project is ready to proceed within a prescribed and credible timescale.
14. Environmental sustainability - The extent to which the project includes features that mitigate its environmental impact and improve its sustainability.
15. Inclusiveness - The extent to which the physical design of the project and the proposed programme of use of the facilities will cater for the needs of those groups in the community that traditionally have low rates of participation in sport and physical activity.

### **Application Process**

It is proposed to keep the process as simple as possible, in recognition of the limited capacity and expertise that clubs and organisations typically have to resource the preparation of funding bids. That said; there is a need to be robust to ensure that projects have the maximum potential to succeed once funding is awarded.

The first stage of the process is for the submitting organisation to review the Guidance / Pre-Application Checklist to test whether their submission is likely to be positively considered. This will save organisations the time of submitting weak bids that would not be supported.

The requirements / criteria for small grants of between £1,000 and £49,999 will be less than those for major grants of between £50,000 and £500,000.

### **Guidance / Pre-Application Checklist**

The following criteria apply:

- The project must benefit the residents of Bishop's Stortford.
- Applications for small grants must be for between £1,000 and £49,999 and major grants between £50,000 and £500,000.
- Projects must be deliverable in an 18 month period from the date of the award letter.
- Projects must be focused on getting more people into sport and / or physical activity.
- Your project must start within 16 weeks from the date of our award letter.
- Applications should show evidence that additional funding has either been:
  - Sourced / guaranteed
  - Unsuccessful efforts have been made to gain additional funding

- And / or other funding applications are currently being reviewed. Priority may be given to funding bids that can demonstrate match funding.
- All applications must show support from their registered national governing body where applicable.
- You must have at least 10 years security of tenure upon the land on which the project is based or have full ownership of the land.
- You must be able to demonstrate a 'need' for the project rather than a 'want'.

Examples of projects that might be supported include:

- Projects involving the construction of new facilities e.g. an astroturf pitch, tennis courts, hockey pitch, changing rooms etc
- Projects involving the refurbishment of existing facilities
- Projects including land improvement work e.g. drainage, resurfacing of playing surfaces, laying of artificial surfaces.
- Replacement of fixed equipment associated with the project e.g. fencing, goals, seating.

The information below provides potential bidders the basis for which applications will be judged.

### Who can apply?

- Funding is open to organisations that are formally constituted not-for-profit organisations as well as statutory bodies. These might include sports clubs, voluntary organisations and town and parish councils.
- This fund is not available to an individual, sole trader or partnerships or organisations established to make profit.
- To be eligible for funding an organisation must have a written constitution or governing document which contains a clear not-for-profit statement and charitable dissolution clause.
- Membership (if applicable) of the organisation should be open to all sections of the community and its governing committee should include at least three individuals who are not related and

- who do not live together.
- Organisations applying to the fund will be required to show supporting documents highlighting appropriate governance.

### Application Form

The application form will feature a range of standard sections e.g.

- About your organisation – name, contact details, bank details, nature of the organisation, whether constituted, details of supporting funding etc
- Project details – location, description, objectives, target audience, does it require planning permission, project management etc
- Membership / Programme – Overview of current delivery and numbers participating and future delivery / numbers post project
- Financials – Project costs, proposed contributions, whether VAT registered, amount of funding requested and the organisations financial year accounts for the previous two years
- Applicants declaration – Signatures, date etc
- References – Two required

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**Application Form – Questions to Assess the Prioritised Criteria**

The application form will also be designed to elicit responses to the 15 key criteria e.g. as follows:

| <b>No.</b> | <b>Question</b>   | <b>Associated Criteria<br/>(1 to 15)</b> | <b>Comments</b>   | <b>Score</b>   |
|------------|---|--|---|--|
| 1          | Please tell us the number of individual participants you currently coach per week and the number you expect to coach per week once the project is complete? | 1 – Breadth of the needs met             | Participation levels before and after the project and the growth achieved.<br>(A separate table will record these details in the application form, including gender, junior / senior, disabled, ethnicity etc). | 0 – No increase or a reduction in the number of people coached<br>1 – 10% increase<br>2 – 20% increase<br>3 – 30% increase<br>4 – 40% increase<br>5 – 50% increase or more |

| No. | Question  | Associated Criteria (1 to 15)                          | Comments  | Score  |
|-----|---|--|---|--|
| 2   | How will the physical design or your project and the proposed programme meet the needs of the target groups that traditionally have low rates of participation? | 15 - Inclusiveness                                     | To be assessed via a statement of not more than 500 words.<br>Property and Leisure to assess this statement.<br>(Some criteria to be developed e.g. design principles, DDA compliance, adequacy of changing facilities, programme audience etc) | 0 – No response<br>1 – Poor response<br>3 – Satisfactory response<br>5 – Full response   |
| 3   | What is the overall amount you are requesting?  | 2 – Value for money<br>3 – Section 106 value for money | Ratio of number of participant beneficiaries to the funding requested e.g.<br>- 50 people / £100,000 = £2,000 p/participant<br>- 100 / £50,000 = £500<br>- 200 / £200,000 = £1,000  | The lower the ratio (monetary sum), the higher the score:<br>1 – £2,000 plus<br>2 – £1,500<br>3 – £1,000<br>4 – £750<br>5 – £500 or less |

| No. | Question  | Associated Criteria<br>(1 to 15) | Comments   | Score   |
|-----|---|----------------------------------|--|---|
| 4   | How much of your:<br>(a) own funding, and<br>(b) other sources of funding are you able to provide to support the project? | 4 – Partnership funding secured  | <p>The higher the ratio of their combined funding in relation to the funding requested, the higher the score e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- £0 match funding / £50k requested = 0</li> <li>- £100k match funding / £100k requested = 1</li> <li>- £100k match funding / £50k requested = 2</li> <li>- £150k match funding / £50k requested = 3</li> <li>- £200k match funding / £50k requested = 4</li> </ul> | <p>The higher the ratio, the higher the score:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0 – 0</li> <li>1 – up to a ratio of 1</li> <li>2 – a ratio of between 1.1 &amp; 2</li> <li>3 – a ratio of between 2.1 &amp; 3</li> <li>4 – a ratio of between 3.1 &amp; 4</li> <li>5 – 4.1 or more</li> </ul> |

| No. | Question   | Associated Criteria (1 to 15)                              | Comments  | Score   |
|-----|--|--|---|---|
| 5   | <p>If you answered positively to (b) above, is your funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In place and secure?</li> <li>- Application submitted and waiting to hear?</li> </ul> | 5 –Potential for attracting additional partnership funding | <p>Higher score for those with funding in place e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Funding applied for and secure</li> <li>- Funding applied for, waiting to hear</li> <li>- No funding applied for and no intention to apply</li> </ul> | <p>0 – No funding applied for</p> <p>2 – Funding applied for, waiting to hear</p> <p>4 – Funding in place</p>         |
| 6   | How do you proposals align with relevant planning policies such that a positive development management decision would be the outcome, if one is required?                                      | 6 – Statutory planning issues                              | Applicant to provide a statement (no more than 500 words) and reference to planning pre-application feedback, where relevant and received.  | <p>0 – Not aligned to planning policies</p> <p>2 – Appears aligned, but some issues unresolved</p> <p>4 – Aligned</p> |

| No. | Question   | Associated Criteria (1 to 15)                   | Comments   | Score   |
|-----|--|---|--|---|
| 7   | What is the address / location of your project?  | 7 – Location in relation to the BSN development | The closer to the development, the higher the score (better accessibility)   | 0 – 6 miles or more<br>1 – 5 miles or less<br>2 – 4 miles or less<br>3 – 3 miles or less<br>4 – 2 miles or less<br>5 – 1 mile or less |
| 8   | Does your organisation have any experience of managing capital / building projects?  | 8 – Project management capability               | (Details of the experience will be requested)<br>Experience will result in a higher score.   | 0 – No experience<br>2 – Some experience<br>4 – Strong relevant experience e.g. similar scope / scale                                 |
| 9   | Accessibility<br>(a) What are the planned opening times / days for the project?<br>(b) Will your project be fully DDA compliant?<br>(c) Will it have facilities for all genders? | 9 – Facility management arrangements            | The greater the accessibility, the higher the score<br>(b) and (c) require a 'Yes' – a 'No' will preclude the application for consideration<br>(a) the longer the opening times the higher the score | 1 – 3 days a week or less<br>3 – 5 to 7 days a week<br>5 – 7 days a week  |

| No. | Question   | Associated Criteria<br>(1 to 15) | Comments  | Score   |
|-----|--|----------------------------------|---|---|
| 10  | Please provide details of the ongoing running costs for the project e.g. staffing, utilities, insurance etc? Please indicate how you will fund these additional costs. | 10 – Facility running costs      | Additional costs to have been estimated and factored into the income and expenditure forecasts for the project when in operation. | <p>0 – Costs not estimated and not factored in to the overall income / expenditure</p> <p>2 – Costs estimated but no evidence to indicate that they are affordable</p> <p>5 – Costs estimated and demonstrated to be affordable</p> |

| No. | Question   | Associated Criteria (1 to 15) | Comments   | Score   |
|-----|--|-------------------------------|--|---|
| 11  | Do your plans and calculations provide for a 'sinking fund' to enable the replacement of the key components of the project in the future e.g. roof, plant, playing surfaces, ventilation, heating systems. Please provide evidence of this in your calculations. | 10 – Facility running costs   | If sinking fund arrangements have been considered and have been factored into the forecasted accounts and the accounts are sustainable, then full marks will be awarded. | <p>0 – No sinking fund</p> <p>0 – Sinking fund identified but not costed / affordable</p> <p>5 – Sinking fund identified and affordable within the projected accounts</p> |

| No. | Question   | Associated Criteria (1 to 15)         | Comments  | Score   |
|-----|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| 12  | Please provide details of the support you have for this project e.g. survey responses, district / town / parish council, Active East Hertfordshire, Hertfordshire Sports Partnership, Sport England, the National Governing Body for the sport(s). | 11 – External support for the project | 1 point for each aspect of support<br>(Support from the NGB is essential, if applicable)                              | 0 – No supporting evidence provided<br>1 – x1 supporting evidence<br>2 – x2 supporting evidence<br>3 – x3 supporting evidence<br>4 – x4 supporting evidence<br>5 – x5 or more supporting evidence |
| 13  | Do you have security of tenure / ownership of the land on which the project is being located, for at least 10 years?   | 12 – Risk factors                     | Yes – project can be considered<br>No – project cannot be supported (subject to consideration of any mitigation made) | Yes or No   |



| No. | Question  | Associated Criteria<br>(1 to 15) | Comments   | Score     |
|-----|---|----------------------------------|--|-----------|
| 14  | Can your project commence within 16 weeks of the award of funding?              | 13 – Readiness to proceed        | Yes – project can be considered<br>No – project cannot be supported (subject to consideration of any mitigation) | Yes or No |
| 15  | Can your project be completed within 18 months of the date of the award letter? | 13 – Readiness to proceed        | Yes – project can be considered<br>No – project cannot be supported (subject to consideration of any mitigation) | Yes or No |

| No. | Question   | Associated Criteria<br>(1 to 15)  | Comments  | Score   |
|-----|--|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| 16  | Please provide details of how your project will reduce its environmental impact e.g. design, lighting, energy saving, noise control etc? | 14 – Environmental sustainability | Applicant to provide a statement (no more than 500 words) | 0 – Environmental impact issues not identified or addressed<br>2 – Environmental impact issues identified but not satisfactorily addressed at this stage<br>4 – Environmental impact issues identified and satisfactorily addressed |

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 11 SEPTEMBER 2018

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND SUPPORT  
SERVICES AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING

OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE PINEHURST COMMUNITY CENTRE  
AND ATTACHED PROPERTIES

WARD(S) AFFECTED:        HERTFORD KINGSMEAD

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## **Purpose/Summary of Report**

- This report discusses the potential for improving and/or redeveloping the Pinehurst Community Centre, the adjacent shop and flat and attached Network Homes flat. This site is collectively referred to as the Kingsmead site.
- ‘In principle’ support is sought for the redevelopment of the site to reprovide an improved community centre, a shop and residential flats with an accompanying recommendation that the Executive recommend to Council that the council’s housing company be requested to carry out this development.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE: That:**

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| <b>(A)</b> | <b>support is granted ‘in principle’ for the redevelopment of the Pinehurst Community Centre and attached shops and flats, for the purposes of reproviding the community centre, a shop and residential flats as outlined in this report, and for engagement with residents and stakeholders, and</b> |
| <b>(B)</b> | <b>it recommends to Council that, acting in its role as shareholder of the council’s housing company, Millstream Property Investments Ltd, Council requests</b>   |

**that Millstream assesses the viability of the scheme for inclusion in its business plan.**

## 1.0 Background

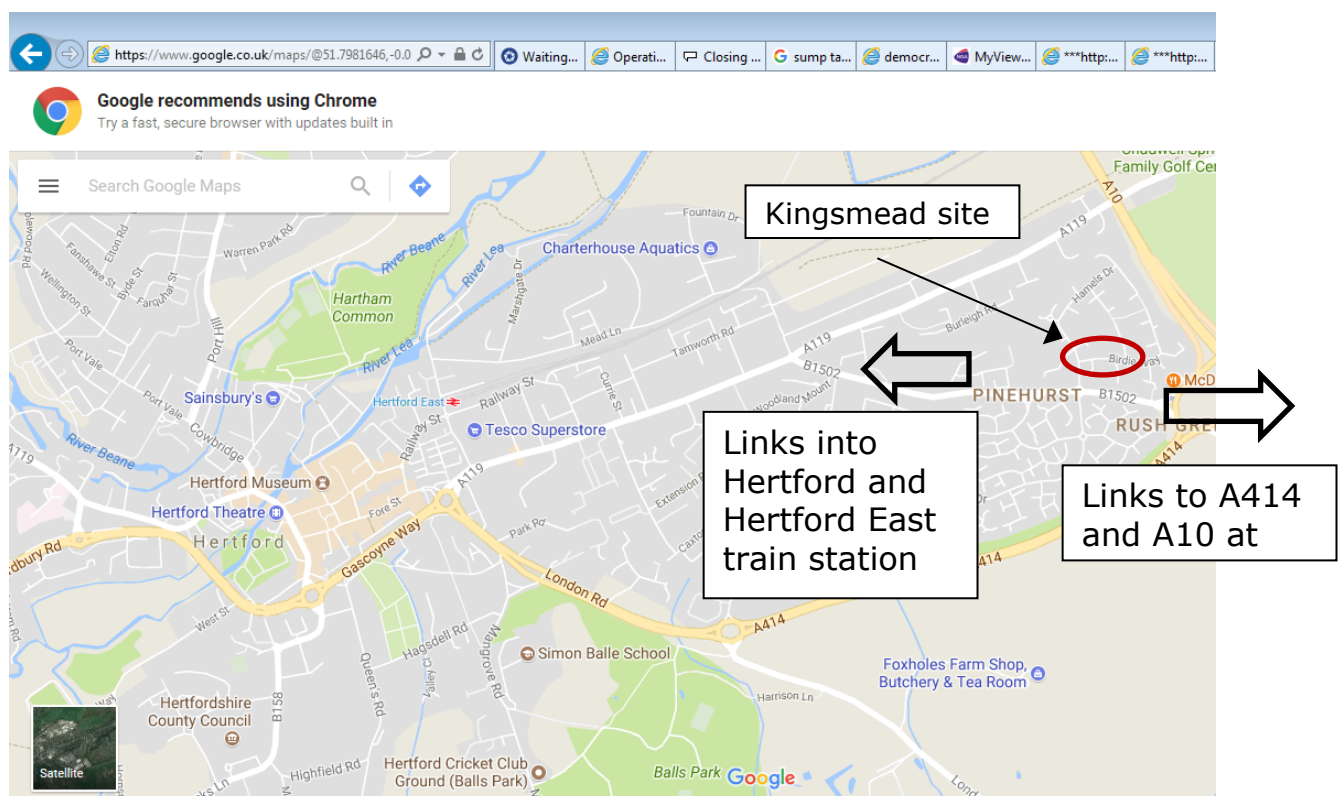
### ***The site***

1.1 The Pinehurst Community Centre and attached shops and flats, referred to herein at the 'Kingsmead site' is located on Birdie Way, Pinehurst, Hertford and consists of:

- the Pinehurst Community Centre, which is considered to be in urgent need of an upgrade
- two shop units which are leased and run as one shop with a two bedroom flat above included in the lease. The shops, run as one, are in need of improvement
- a two bedroom flat which was transferred to Network Homes on a long lease as part of the large scale voluntary stock transfer in 2002.

1.2 The council owns the freehold of the whole building.

1.3 The map below shows the site's location.



1.4 The picture below shows the current buildings.



### ***Why do anything?***

1.5 A fundamental question is; why does anything need to be done to the existing buildings?

1.6 The key issues / opportunities are as follows:

- the Pinehurst Community Centre urgently requires work to modernise it and replace aging elements such as the heating, fire safety equipment, toilets and kitchen. Over the coming five years, the council's Property team has estimated the investment of just under £250k will be required – see the confidential Essential Reference Paper (ERP) B for full details
- the Pinehurst Community Centre Management Committee is unwilling to take on a more formal management role and/or lease without significant improvements being made so that the centre is more attractive to a broader range of groups / activities. Management by and/or a

lease to a community group is the council's preferred approach as this places management of community assets in the hands of local people with the drive and commitment to make sure their local facility best meets local needs. The council has neither the capacity nor arguably the skill set to actively manage community centres to best effect

- the shops have proved hard-to-let in the past. Indeed, currently the two shops are let as a single unit which, from discussion with the current shop leaseholder, would appear to be a little too large given market conditions. It is estimated that works of around £20k would be required at the same time as works to the community centre
- the council owns the freehold of the building; this provides an opportunity for the council to make the best use of one its assets
- significant improvement or redevelopment would give the opportunity to increase the number of residential units on the site, including much needed affordable homes
- at the same time, significant improvement or redevelopment would give the opportunity to remodel and improve parking provision, including installing e-vehicle charging points and cycle racks
- there is an opportunity to work with Network Homes, who own around 40% of the homes on the Pinehurst Estate, to combine works with other environmental and parking improvements to bring about a more significant uplift to the estate. Discussions to date indicate Network Homes would be willing to explore this further.

## 2.0 Report

### ***Options appraisal***

- 2.1 An internal working group led by the Head of Housing and Health and consisting of officers from Housing Services, the corporate Policy Team, Property and Finance was formed to

identify and appraise a range of options. A member/officer working group including the two ward members, Cllr Jan Goodeve and Cllr Mari Stevenson, was also formed.

2.2 A number of initial options have been considered:

1. **refurbishment of the community centre and shop** with no changes to the two residential flats
2. **disposal of the site to a housing association or developer**
3. **council-led redevelopment of the site.**

2.3 Each of these options has been assessed on three key criteria:

- community benefits
- financial implications for the council, based on analysis by GVA consultancy
- deliverability.

| Option  | Community benefits   | Financial implications – see ERP B for details   | Deliverability  |
|---|--|--|---|
| <b>Refurbishment of the community centre and shop</b>             | Improved community centre<br>Some upgrades to the shop   | Council capital required with no means of recovery from the works  | Council-led<br>Relatively straightforward<br>Works procured through tender process<br>Control of asset retained   |
| <b>Disposal of the site to a housing association or developer</b> | <i>So long as required by planning:</i><br>New community centre<br>New shop<br>A total of 11 flats<br>Affordable provision dependent on the developers | Disposal of the freehold at nil value and loss of asset value of £159k<br><i>plus</i><br>Council capital required with no means of recovery from the works (other than | Developer-led<br>Partner procured through tender process<br>Limited control over development timescales and variations to building finally developed<br>No means to recover any additional grant payments made by the |

|  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
|  | viability assessment;<br>council would be able to nominate to any affordable homes provided   | possibly through overage)<br>No ongoing revenue income from buildings developed  | council<br>Control of asset passed to purchaser   |
| <b>Council-led redevelopment of the site (through its housing company)</b> | New community centre<br>New shop<br>A total of 11 flats, including three affordable units – the council's housing company will have full control over who the flats are let to, with the council ability to nominate directly to the affordable flats | Disposal at nil value but increase in the value of the asset (held by the company and so ultimately accruing to the council) net of development finance costs<br>Income generated by development<br>Ongoing revenue income from the building | Council-led<br>Council (or its housing company) would employ a development agent to manage the whole process<br>Any additional grant payments made by the council could be offset from the income from the development<br>Control of asset retained |

### ***Initial development viability modelling***

2.4 Put simply, for a development scheme to be considered viable:

- the **gross development value** (that is, the value of the building(s) once complete plus any subsidies and other income)

#### ***must be equal to or greater than***

- the **cost of development** (including the cost of acquisition and preparation of the site, construction costs, professional fees, finance costs and developer profit).

2.5 This is the standard approach to assessing scheme viability. If what the finished building is worth plus any subsidies and other income is at least equal to what it cost to build, the scheme can be considered viable.



- 2.6 Financial viability modelling has been conducted based on analysis by GVA consultancy funded by the LGA, using up-to-date cost estimates provided by The Design Partnership consultancy in June. More recently Network Homes' views have been sought on some of the assumptions given their development expertise and knowledge of the Pinehurst estate; these comments have been used to further refine the modelling.
- 2.7 The outcomes of the viability appraisal carried out to date are included in the confidential Essential Reference Paper B.
- 2.8 In summary, the viability assessment indicates that redevelopment by a housing association or private developer or council-led redevelopment through the council's housing company would deliver a building with a gross development value at or above the development costs and so the scheme would be viable. The two approaches, however, have different financial implications for the council – the details of this are included in the confidential Essential Reference Paper B.
- 2.9 The financial assessment indicates that disposal to a housing association or private developer to redevelop the site would require a capital contribution from the council with no means of recovery, other than possibly through some form of overage arrangements, couple with a loss of £159k in the value of the assets held.
- 2.10 The council-led redevelopment option, in contrast, would see a net income to the council arising from the development. In addition, the council, through its housing company, would retain the asset and see its value increase substantially, with a net increase in value having taken account of the repayment of development financing.
- 2.11 Council-led redevelopment, through the council's housing company, is predicated on use of the funding model approved by Council on 18 October 2017 to support the housing company's current activities. That is, the council would provide a commercial loan and a shareholder loan (a form of equity).

Further detail is provided in the confidential **Essential Reference Paper B**.

- 2.12 Just as in the established housing company funding model, the interest payable on the commercial loan would accrue to the council as the lender. In addition, the housing company's developer profit would return to its shareholder (the council) as a dividend.
- 2.13 The viability of the development model relies on nil land costs and a council contribution to the costs of the community centre, thus there are no resources accruing in the scheme to fund affordable housing. The council, however, would wish to see affordable homes included thus the model includes a contribution from commuted sums held for this purpose.

***Initial financial appraisal of the retention phase***

- 2.14 Under the disposal and redevelopment by a housing association or private developer option, the council would not retain the building once complete and so would not receive any ongoing income from rental of the residential and commercial elements of the development.
- 2.15 The member/officer working group has, however, explored the potential ongoing revenue income that could accrue from retention of the buildings through the council-led redevelopment route. In this scenario, the council's housing company would essentially 'purchase' the building from its development arm through a refinancing arrangement. This is particularly beneficial as it would allow the company to repay the high cost development finance by borrowing at a lower cost secured against the properties developed.
- 2.16 The confidential **Essential Reference Paper C** gives the key figures from an initial 30 year business plan produced in-house based on retention of the building. It assumes three affordable rented flats and eight private rented flats along with the shop and flat and the community centre.
- 2.17 The modelling assumes the loan principles are repaid to the council at year 30 through either disposal of all/some of the

units or refinancing of the debt. The modelling indicates a revenue income to the council from interest payments, recharges and dividends from after-tax-profits.

***Member/officer working group's preferred option***

- 2.18 Based on the options appraisal and initial financial appraisals, the member/officer working group's preferred option is council-led redevelopment, through the council's housing company. The group is of the view that this approach would maximise community benefits while representing the best financial value to the council. Furthermore, it would see the council, through its housing company, retaining the capital value of the asset and the income arising from the building in the future.

***Overview and Scrutiny Committee's comments and preferred option***

- 2.19 The options for the Kingsmead site were considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018. Committee members discussed the report in some detail. Of note:
- members noted the member/officer working group's preference for council-led redevelopment through the council's housing company
  - members considered whether continuing to have a shop on the site was necessary and satisfied themselves that it provided a much needed local resource
  - members questioned whether Millstream Property Investments Ltd was able to develop and own affordable housing given its commercial remit. Officers assured members the company's articles of association did not preclude this, the council's planning policies regarding the provision of affordable homes in a development of this type would apply and holding affordable homes incidental the company's over-riding commercial purpose would not be at odds with the government's views on local authority housing companies

- members noted that redevelopment of the site would be subject to gaining planning permission in due course.
- 2.20 Having scrutinised the options appraisal and financial assessment, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported the option of council-led redevelopment of the Kingsmead site.

***Informal discussion with the directors of Millstream Property Investments Ltd***

- 2.21 The Shareholder Agreement between the council and Millstream makes provision for the Shareholder Advisory Group to provide strategic guidance to the company. To date, the Shareholder Advisory Group has informally discussed the Kingsmead site the company's directors. The company's directors have indicated that if in due course the shareholder so requested, they would be happy to assess the viability of the company redeveloping the Kingsmead site so as to deliver the council's aspirations. There is no reason to suppose that the outcome of any viability work carried out by Millstream would be substantially different to that completed to date by the council.
- 2.22 Furthermore, Millstream's directors have indicated that assuming the financial assessment demonstrate viability, the company would be willing, if so requested, to include the redevelopment of the Kingsmead site in its Business Plan to be put to the shareholder (the council) for approval later this year in line with the timescales and requirements laid out in the Shareholder Agreement.
- 2.23 The company's directors have indicated that it would deliver a project of this type through the employment of a development agent to handle all relevant matters including planning, tendering, construction, handover and defects and final account closedown. In this way, the council could be assured that the necessary expertise would be available to deliver this scheme through the company.
- 2.24 The Shareholder Agreement reserves for the shareholder (the council), among other powers, decision-making regarding the

approval and/or adoption of any Business Plan or annual budget or any variation of the Business Plan or annual budget. In this way, the council shall be able to determine whether or not to proceed with this redevelopment scheme via its housing company.

### **3. Financial implications**

- 3.1 Work by officers supported by GVA, external specialist consultants, and The Design Partnership, an architects and quality surveyor consultancy specialising in social housing and mixed use development, indicates that all options have financial implications for the council.
- 3.2 The member/officer working group's preferred option, that is, council-led redevelopment via the council's housing company, is the only option that would enable the council's capital contribution to the scheme to be offset by income arising from the development. The income would derive from the company's developer profit being made available as a dividend to the council and interest payments to the council on any loan extended to the company.
- 3.3 The financial modelling is based on prudential borrowing by the council from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) to provide development finance to the company. Interest modelled to accrue to the council from loans extended to company is net of the cost of borrowing from the PWLB.
- 3.4 The retention phase would also require council loans. Again, modelling is based on the council borrowing the required funds from the PWLB to on-lend to the company.

### **4. Legal implications**

- 4.1 Each of the options considered in this report can be achieved legally thus members are invited to consider which option represents the best course of action and best value for the council.
- 4.2 Officers have recommended that the Executive recommends to Council that, acting as the company's shareholder, it

requests Millstream Property Investments Ltd to include the redevelopment as proposed in its business plan, which itself will require Council's approval in due course.

- 4.2 As noted above, the Shareholder Agreement between the council and its housing company, Millstream Property Investments Ltd, reserves decision-making on the pursuit of new schemes for the shareholder, that is, the council. The final details of the proposed scheme would therefore need to form part of the company's next business plan which will need to be approved by Council in due course.

## 5.0 Implications/Consultations

- 5.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

## Background Papers

None

Contact Member: Cllr Jan Goodeve, Executive Member for Housing  
[jan.goodeve@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:jan.goodeve@eastherts.gov.uk)

Cllr Geoff Williamson, Executive Member for  
Finance and Support Services  
[geoffrey.williamson@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:geoffrey.williamson@eastherts.gov.uk)

Contact Officer: Jonathan Geall, Head of Housing and Health  
01992 531594  
[jonathan.geall@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.geall@eastherts.gov.uk)

Report Author: As contact officer

**IMPLICATIONS/CONSULTATIONS**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives: | <p>Priority 1 – Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities</p> <p>Priority 2 – Enhance the quality of people's lives</p> <p>The report considers the improvement/redevelopment on the Kingsmead site. Of three options considered, the member/officer working group considers council-led development, through the council's housing company, would maximise the ability to meet these strategic priorities while representing the best financial value for the council.</p>  |
| Consultation:   | <p>The proposals have been developed internally with full consultation with the two ward members, Cllr Jan Goodeve and Cllr Mari Stevenson. Network Homes have also been invited to give their initial, without prejudice views.</p> <p>The Pinehurst Community Centre Management Committee and the shop leaseholder have also been made aware that the council has been working up options for improvement/redevelopment. They are supportive of improvement/redevelopment at the site. The tenant of the Network flat will be contacted prior to publication of the Executive report</p> |
| Legal:  | <p>Simon Aley, Interim Legal Services Manager has provided Legal oversight of the matters covered in the report.</p> <p>Each of the options considered in this report can be achieved legally thus members are invited to consider which option represents the best course of action and best value for the council. Should members wish to proceed with improvement / redevelopment at the Kingsmead site, the more detailed legal aspects of the</p>   |

|  |   |
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|  | preferred course of action will be outlined.  |
| Financial:                                 | <p>An officer of the Finance team is part of the officer working group and has contributed to the financial modelling. The financial appraisal has been made provided by GVA consultancy.</p> <p>Isabel Brittain, Head of Strategic Finance and Property has provided Finance oversight of the matters covered in the report.</p> <p>Work by officers supported by GVA, external specialist consultants, indicates that all options have financial implications for the council.</p> <p>The member/officer working group's preferred option, that is, council-led redevelopment via the council's housing company, is the only option that would enable the council's contribution to the scheme to be offset by income arising from the development. The income would derive from the company's developer profit being made available as a dividend to the council and interest payments to the council on any loan extended to the company.</p> |
| Human Resource:                            | There are no TUPE implications.   |
| Risk Management:                           | The officer working group has maintained a risk register.   |
| Health and wellbeing – issues and impacts: | <p>Improvement/redevelopment of the Kingsmead site will have a number of benefits including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an improved community centre</li> <li>• an improved shop</li> <li>• depending on the option followed, there is potential for additional housing, including affordable homes, and improved parking provision.</li> </ul>   |



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## EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 11 SEPTEMBER 2018

REPORT BY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

ADOPTION OF THE EAST HERTS DISTRICT PLAN

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

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### **Purpose/Summary of Report**

- To inform Members of the content of the Inspector's Report on the East Herts District Plan.
- To recommend that the East Herts District Plan, incorporating main modifications and minor changes, be agreed for adoption.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b><u>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE:</u> To recommend to Council that:</b> |   |
| <b>(A)</b>   | <b>the content of the Inspector's Report (and associated Appendix detailing the Main Modifications) as set out in Essential Papers 'B' and 'C', be noted;</b>   |
| <b>(B)</b>   | <b>the East Herts District Plan as set out in Essential Reference Paper 'E', incorporating the main modifications and minor changes as set out in Essential Reference Papers 'C' and 'D', be adopted.</b> |

### 1.0 Background

1.1 The District Plan sets out the Council's planning framework to guide future development and the use of land in the district. It

identifies how East Herts will grow and develop whilst at the same time maintaining its attractiveness as a place to live, work and visit. The Plan covers the period 2011–2033. Once adopted, the policies in the District Plan will replace the policies in the Local Plan 2007.

- 1.2 The District Plan, together with the Minerals and Waste Local Plans for Hertfordshire and any adopted Neighbourhood Plans, form the Development Plan for the district. The Development Plan is the basis upon which planning applications must be determined, unless there are material planning considerations that indicate otherwise. The policies of the Development Plan should be read as a whole.
- 1.3 The District Plan is a long-term document which provides certainty to communities and businesses as to where development will be provided and, likewise, where development will be restricted. It also allows infrastructure providers to plan effectively for the future.
- 1.4 Work on the emerging District Plan has been ongoing now for a number of years. The Council carried out public consultations on the District Plan and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal in 2010 (Issues and Options), 2014 (Regulation 18 consultation) and 2016 (Regulation 19 publication).
- 1.5 The Council submitted its District Plan for examination on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. An independent Planning Inspector (Christine Thorby DIPTP MRTPI), appointed by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, examined the District Plan during hearing sessions held between October 2017 and January 2018.
- 1.6 In response to issues raised by the Inspector, the Council drafted a series of Main Modifications to the Plan, which were considered necessary to make the Plan sound. These Main Modifications and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal were

considered by the Council on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018 and agreed for public consultation. A number of minor changes were also proposed, but these were not subject to public consultation, being corrections or immaterial changes.

1.7 Representations made in response to the consultation were collated by officers and then passed to the Planning Inspector for her consideration when drafting her report on the District Plan.

1.8 The Inspector's Report was received by the Council on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018. A copy of the Report is attached at **Essential Reference Paper 'B'**.

## 2.0 Report

2.1 The Inspector's Report concludes that, with the Main Modifications proposed (detailed in **Essential Reference Paper 'C'**), the East Herts District Plan can be considered sound and as such provides an appropriate basis for the planning for the district.

2.2 The Main Modifications all concern matters that were discussed at the examination hearing sessions. Following consideration of the representations made in response to the consultation on the Main Modifications, the Inspector has recommended some further amendments to the Plan in terms of the detailed wording of the following Main Modifications:

- **MM/4/02, MM/4/03, MM/10/13 and MM/10/19:** these all state that any future Green Belt boundary changes, resulting from the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan in a Group 1 Village, would be included within a Site Allocations Development Plan Document. The Inspector has amended these modifications to say '*if necessary*' as, at the time of writing her report, it was acknowledged that this requirement may be overtaken by subsequent changes to national policy.

- **MM/5/03, MM/5/05, MM/5/07, MM/5/08, MM/5/10, MM/5/11, MM/5/12, MM/5/13, MM/6/06, MM/7/03, MM/7/04, MM/7/05, MM/7/06, MM/7/08, MM/7/09, MM/7/11, MM/7/12, MM/7/13, MM/8/03, MM/8/06, MM/8/10, MM/8/11, MM/8/12, and MM/12/03:** the wording 'at least' in relation to each of these site allocations is altered to '*around*' to be more flexible and to acknowledge that within a settlement or allocation where there is more than one site, there should be flexibility for some to exceed or others to be slightly below the identified capacity, depending on site circumstances.
- **MM/7/08, MM/7/11, MM/9/05, and MM/11/10:** the Inspector has added to the landscaping criteria, attached to each of these allocations (West of Hertford, North of Hertford, Land North and East of Ware and The Gilston Area), a requirement to provide a defined and recognisable boundary to the Green Belt, necessary to mitigate impacts on the Green Belt in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- **MM/11/06:** this has been modified to state that the employment land (in the Gilston Area) must be located and designed to be in keeping with Garden City principles.

- 2.3 Members are requested formally note the content of the Inspector's Report and associated Appendix (which details the Main Modifications).
- 2.4 Upon receipt of the Inspector's Report, the Council can either adopt the East Herts District Plan, with the modifications proposed, or it must withdraw the Plan completely.
- 2.5 It is recommended that the Council adopt the District Plan, with the modifications proposed.



- 2.6 The final version of the District Plan, incorporating the main modifications recommended by the Inspector, as well as any minor changes (see **Essential Reference Paper 'D'**), is attached to this report at **Essential Reference Paper 'E'**.
- 2.7 It should also be noted that the Council must maintain a policies map which illustrates geographically the application of the policies in the District Plan. As such when the plan is adopted, in order to comply with legislation and give effect to the Plan's policies, the Council will need to update the policies map. Work on this is currently underway and the Policies Map will be made available as soon as reasonably practicable following adoption of the Plan.
- 2.8 Once adopted, the District Plan and Policies Map will replace the existing 2007 Local Plan and Proposals Map.
- 2.9 As soon as reasonably practicable after the District Plan is adopted, the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 require the Council to make available:
- (i) the District Plan;
  - (ii) an Adoption Statement;
  - (iii) the Sustainability Appraisal report;
  - (iv) details of where the District Plan is available for inspection and the places and times at which the document can be inspected.
- 2.10 A copy of the Adoption Statement is attached to this report at **Essential Reference Paper 'F'**. This also sets out the details of where the District Plan is available for inspection and the places and times at which the document can be inspected. As required by the regulations the document s will be made available as soon as practicable after the adoption of the District Plan.

2.11 The Council is also required to send a copy of the Adoption Statement to any person who has asked to be notified of the adoption of the District Plan, and send a copy of the Adoption Statement to the Secretary of State.

### 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

Information on the District Plan Examination can be found here:

<https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/districtplanexamination>

The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 are available here:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/767/contents/made>

Contact Member: Cllr Linda Haysey – Leader of the Council  
[linda.haysey@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:linda.haysey@eastherts.gov.uk)

Contact Officer: Kevin Steptoe – Head of Planning and Building Control  
Contact Tel No 01992 531407  
[kevin.steptoe@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.steptoe@eastherts.gov.uk)

Report Author: Claire Sime – Service Manager – Policy and Implementation  
[claire.sime@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:claire.sime@eastherts.gov.uk)

**IMPLICATIONS/CONSULTATIONS**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives | Priority 1 – Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities<br>Priority 2 – Enhance the quality of people's lives<br>Priority 3 – Enable a flourishing local economy  |
| Consultation:  | Extensive consultation has been undertaken in preparing the District Plan as set out in the Council's Regulation 22 Consultation Statement. Public consultation on the Main Modifications took place between the 15 February and 29 March 2018.  |
| Legal:   | <p>Preparation of a local plan is a statutory duty upon every Local Planning Authority. Local plans are prepared within the framework set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 ('the Act'), as amended by the Localism Act 2011.</p> <p>Once adopted, the District Plan will become part of the statutory Development Plan. Section 38(6) of the Act requires planning decisions to be made in accordance with the plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.</p> <p>The District Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Council's Local Development Scheme.</p> <p>Consultation on the District Plan and the Main Modifications was carried out in compliance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement.</p> <p>Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment has been carried out.</p> <p>The District Plan complies with all relevant legal requirements, including the 2004 Act (as amended)</p> |

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.   |
| Financial:                                 | The cost of the preparing a District Plan is significant and has been budgeted over the duration of its preparation. The cost of the adoption process, notification, publicity and printing of the adopted Plan is to be met within existing budgets. Additional costs may be incurred if there is a legal challenge following adoption.             |
| Human Resource:                            | Staff resource is in place to ensure the ongoing timely adoption of the District Plan.   |
| Risk Management:                           | The efficient and timely progression of the District Plan is of paramount importance and a risk assessment has been carried out to ensure that the preparation of the Plan takes place in accordance with the Council's Local Development Scheme. Without an adopted District Plan the district will be vulnerable to further unplanned development. |
| Health and wellbeing – issues and impacts: | The link between planning and health has long been established. The built and natural environments are major determinants of health and wellbeing. The District Plan will have positive impacts on health and wellbeing through a range of policy approaches that seek to create sustainable communities   |
| Equality Impact Assessment required:       | No. The policies of the plan, including the development strategy and design and housing policies make provision for the disabled and for other protected groups. The preparation of the plan and the examination has had due regard to its impact on equality in accordance with the Public Sector Equality duty.                                    |

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# **Report to East Herts Council**

**by Christine Thorby MRTPI IHBC**

**an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government**

**Date 09 July 2018**

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**Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004**

**(as amended)**

**Section 20**

## **Report on the Examination of the East Herts District Plan 2011-2033**

**The Plan was submitted for examination on 31 March 2018**

**Examination hearings were held between 3 October 2017 and 30 January 2018**

**File Ref: PINS/J1915/429/1**

## **Abbreviations used in this report**

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| AA    | Appropriate Assessment                                 |
| CLG   | Former Department for Communities and Local Government |
| DtC   | Duty to Co-operate                                     |
| EHDP  | East Herts District Plan                               |
| FEMA  | Functional Economic Market Area                        |
| GB    | Green Belt   |
| GLA   | Greater London Authority                               |
| HIPP  | Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Planning Partnership  |
| HMA   | Housing Market Area                                    |
| HRA   | Habitats Regulations Assessment                        |
| LDS   | Local Development Scheme                               |
| LPA   | Local Planning Authority                               |
| LSCC  | London Stansted Cambridge Corridor                     |
| MHCLG | Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government  |
| MM    | Main Modification                                      |
| MoU   | Memorandum of Understanding                            |
| NPPF  | National Planning Policy Framework                     |
| OAN   | Objectively assessed need                              |
| PPG   | Planning Practice Guidance                             |
| PPTS  | Planning Policy for Traveller Sites                    |
| SA    | Sustainability Appraisal                               |
| SHLAA | Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment         |
| SHMA  | Strategic Housing Market Assessment                    |
| SoCG  | Statement of Common Ground                             |
| WGC   | Welwyn Garden City                                     |
| WH    | Welwyn and Hatfield Council                            |

## Non-Technical Summary

This report concludes that the East Herts District Plan provides an appropriate basis for the planning of the District, provided that a number of main modifications [MMs] are made to it. East Herts Council has specifically requested me to recommend any MMs necessary to enable the Plan to be adopted.

All the MMs were proposed by the Council, and were subject to public consultation over a six week period. In some cases I have amended their detailed wording. I have recommended their inclusion in the Plan after considering all the representations made in response to consultation on them.

The Main Modifications can be summarised as follows:

- Revised OAN and housing requirement;
- Revised housing land supply;
- Revised employment and retail figures and sites;
- Rewording policies to ensure they are positively prepared;
- Adding or deleting policies and explanatory text to guide development;
- Setting new monitoring regime to include triggers and action taken.

## Introduction

1. This report contains my assessment of the East Herts District Plan in terms of Section 20(5) of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). It considers first whether the Plan's preparation has complied with the duty to co-operate. It then considers whether the Plan is sound and whether it is compliant with the legal requirements. The National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 182) makes it clear that in order to be sound, a Local Plan should be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.
2. The starting point for the examination is the assumption that the local planning authority has submitted what it considers to be a sound plan. The East Herts District Plan pre-submission consultation 2016, submitted in March 2017 is the basis for my examination.

## Main Modifications

3. In accordance with section 20(7C) of the 2004 Act the Council requested that I should recommend any main modifications [MMs] necessary to rectify matters that make the Plan unsound and thus incapable of being adopted. My report explains why the recommended MMs are necessary. The MMs are referenced in bold in the report and are set out in full in the Appendix.
4. Following the examination hearings, the Council prepared a schedule of proposed MMs and carried out sustainability appraisal (SA) of them. The MM schedule was subject to public consultation for six weeks. I have taken account of the consultation responses in coming to my conclusions in this report and in this light I have made some amendments to the detailed wording of the main modifications. None of the amendments significantly alters the content of the modifications as published for consultation or undermines the participatory processes and sustainability appraisal that has been undertaken. Where necessary I have highlighted these amendments in the report.

## Policies Map

5. The Council must maintain an adopted policies map which illustrates geographically the application of the policies in the adopted development plan. When submitting a local plan for examination, the Council is required to provide a submission policies map showing the changes to the adopted policies map that would result from the proposals in the submitted local plan.
6. The policies map is not defined in statute as a development plan document and so I do not have the power to recommend main modifications to it. However, a number of the published MMs to the Plan's policies are likely require further corresponding changes to be made to the policies map.
7. When the Plan is adopted, in order to comply with the legislation and give effect to the Plan's policies, the Council will need to update the adopted policies map.



## Assessment of Duty to Co-operate

8. Section 20(5)(c) of the 2004 Act requires that I consider whether the Council complied with any duty imposed on it by section 33A in respect of the Plan's preparation.
9. The Council prepared a 'Duty to Co-operate Statement' which summarises how they co-operated with other Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) and with the additional bodies prescribed in Regulation 4 of the 2012 Regulations.
10. Collaboration has been carried out with the surrounding LPAs to establish the joint Housing Market Area (HMA) and Functional Employment Market Area (FEMA) of West Essex and East Hertfordshire. Following this, the joint market area authorities of East Hertfordshire, Harlow, Epping Forest and Uttlesford District have been extensively involved in the preparation of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) and employment market area assessments.
11. A Co-operation for Sustainable Development Board (Co-op Board) was established in 2014 comprising the West Essex/East Herts market area partners, Hertfordshire and Essex County Councils, Broxbourne and Brentwood Borough Councils, Chelmsford City Council and the London Boroughs of Redbridge, Enfield and Waltham Forest, with the Greater London Authority (GLA) having observer status. The co-op board also engaged with the Corporation of London (conservators of Epping Forest), the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority and the London Stansted Cambridge Consortium. The Council is also a member of the Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Planning Partnership (HIPP). The Duty to Co-operate statement sets out the comprehensive work undertaken by the co-op board and HIPP on strategic issues, including housing, social and transport infrastructure, employment and environmental impact.
12. Regular engagement with North Hertfordshire, Stevenage, and Welwyn Hatfield Councils has taken place on all strategic issues from an early stage in Plan preparation. Essex County Council and Hertfordshire County Council have worked with East Herts Council on cross boundary transport modelling and infrastructure. There are number of Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) and Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) with the HMA partners, surrounding authorities and other stakeholders on strategic issues which are the result of extensive pre-submission co-operation.
13. Overall, I am satisfied that, where necessary, the Council has engaged comprehensively, constructively, actively and on an on-going basis in the preparation of the Plan and that the duty to co-operate has therefore been met.

## Assessment of Soundness

### *Main Issues*

14. Taking account of all the representations, the written evidence and the discussions that took place at the examination hearings I have identified 8 main issues upon which the soundness of the Plan depends. Under these

headings my report deals with the main matters of soundness rather than responding to every point raised by representors.

**Issue 1 – Whether the overall development strategy is soundly based and presents a clear spatial vision for the District, appropriate to the needs of the area**

15. The vision statement and objectives (Chapter 2) provide a high level strategy for East Hertfordshire (East Herts) setting out social, economic and environmental priorities to deliver sustainable development. This includes planning positively to deliver the homes and jobs needed in the area, the necessary transport and social infrastructure and protection of the environment as sought by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). East Herts lies in the London Stansted Cambridge Corridor (LSCC) and the Plan includes a separate vision for the corridor, recognising its importance to economic growth. The vision seeks sustainable growth at greater Harlow and Bishop's Stortford as well as investing in and delivering key road and rail infrastructure throughout the area to support the economic ambitions of LSCC.
16. The development strategy (Chapter 3) builds upon the existing settlement pattern with new housing and employment allocations directed towards the District's five main towns of Bishop's Stortford, Buntingford, Hertford, Ware and Sawbridgeworth. Three strategic areas for development are also proposed next to Stevenage, Welwyn Garden City and Harlow, towns which adjoin, but are, outside the District. The villages are significantly constrained with poor services and public transport, and, therefore, will only provide for limited growth. The general approach towards directing growth to existing urban areas where there are good facilities and public transport opportunities, and limited development in less accessible areas is consistent with the overarching aim of the NPPF to provide sustainable development.

*The five main towns of the District*

17. The Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA), SA, Settlement Appraisals and Supporting Document demonstrate that the highest level of growth (over 4,000 homes) can be supported in Bishop's Stortford. This is the largest town where many of the major services and facilities are located and there are fast rail services into London and Cambridge. It is also close to the M11 and Stansted Airport, which is a major employer. The level of development sought, including for employment would support the LSCC aim for promoting growth in the area.
18. Hertford and Ware, are the second and third largest towns. They have significant employment bases, good roads and public transport links. The supporting documents provide a robust evidence base for the allocation of 950 homes, employment land and associated infrastructure in Hertford which are spread across brownfield sites and urban extensions. Ware is a sustainable location for the provision of 1,000 homes during the Plan period with scope for 500 to come forward after (or towards the latter end) of the Plan period. This would be a large urban extension as brownfield land has been exhausted in the town. Sawbridgeworth has a more limited number of services and facilities. In addition, the road network is constrained. Having regard to these factors it would be a suitable and sustainable location for around 500 homes.

Buntingford has limited services, infrastructure and poor transport links. However, the level of development already committed through the approval of planning applications is over 1,000 homes. Because of its poor infrastructure, no further housing sites are allocated.

*Strategic sites adjoining Stevenage, Welwyn Garden City and Harlow*

19. Stevenage and Welwyn Garden City (WGC) are large towns outside East Herts. Although they share strong housing and economic links with East Herts they are in separate HMAs. However, the SHMA shows that there is a need in East Herts for homes to the west of the District which would be served by the extensions to Stevenage and WGC. Both allocations are highly accessible locations, relatively close to the facilities and transport opportunities offered by Stevenage and WGC. The sites would support the provision of 1,350 homes to the East of WGC and 600 to the East of Stevenage. The East Herts element of the East of WGC allocation is part of a larger site with a section within Welwyn Hatfield District (WH). The WH Plan is some way behind the EHDP in its examination. However, the portion in East Herts sits independently of the WH element and would not be prejudiced or less effective if the WH site does not come forward.

*The Gilston Area*

20. One of the key provisions of the Plan is to locate a strategic area of development to the north of Harlow, (known as The Gilston Area), currently a rural area comprised of villages. This would eventually provide for 10,000 homes, with 3,000 sought in the Plan period. It would be part of a wider, comprehensive area of growth encompassing Harlow and Gilston. The site would have a long term effect on the surrounding area and as a significant strategic site, much of the work underpinning its development has been carried out through the Co-op Board with input from a wide range of Local Authorities and stakeholders. The background documents, including significant technical evidence, supports the allocation and demonstrates that whilst it would meet housing need in East Herts, an important factor is its contribution towards the regeneration of Harlow.
21. Harlow is a major settlement, with a range of high order services and employment opportunities, but it has not been performing well for many years. The allocation is part of a comprehensive growth strategy, seeking a significant role for Harlow in accommodating future area-wide growth. The Gilston Area would be a new community to the north of the city with associated infrastructure, employment and transport links, and this would support Harlow's long term prospects as a major settlement in the area. Progress has been made, with East Herts working with partners to secure investment in major infrastructure, increasing rail capacity on the West Anglia Mainline, maximising the opportunities for Crossrail 2, and various road improvements including a new junction on M11 (7a), which are all necessary to support the allocation. Gilston and Harlow area has been awarded Garden Town status by the Government and this gives access to funding to secure the necessary governance and package of measures to secure delivery, including associated infrastructure. However, the Gilston Area will be a distinct new place with its own community, designed carefully around Garden City principles. The detailed criteria for the site are addressed later this report.

### *The villages*

22. East Hertfordshire is a mainly rural District with a dispersed settlement pattern of market towns and over a hundred villages and hamlets. EHDP identifies three categories of villages with the most sustainable category 1 villages supporting a 10% increase in housing numbers and a small number as windfalls in the category 2 villages. This approach leads to over 500 homes over the Plan period which will meet a local need and help to sustain the villages. The approach is supported by the SHLAA and the SA, directing development away from the villages to the most sustainable locations.
23. The development would come forward through neighbourhood plans, but the approach is not adequately explained. Modifications **MM/10/01, 09, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20** and **21** introduce explanatory text to policy VILL1 Group 1 villages, setting out the approach to neighbourhood plans and their role in bringing housing forward, necessary to make the policy effective. The modifications ensure that if development does not come forward by 2021 through a neighbourhood plan, the Council would consider identifying sites through a site allocations plan. This is necessary to make the policy effective. Modifications **MM/10/14, 15** and **17** explain the approach for category 2 and 3 villages, identifying where and how neighbourhood plans should bring forward development. A separate policy VILL4 neighbourhood plans is deleted as a result (**MM/10/21**).
24. The Plan is not clear on the likely numbers to come forward from category 1 villages and modifications **MM/10/02, 03, 04**, rectify this, updating existing figures by reference to each village. In order for the villages to accommodate growth it may be necessary for the settlement boundaries to change. The approach to village boundaries requires further explanation and **MM/10/05, 06, 07, 08, 10, 11** delete text and replace it with clear guidance.
25. Three of the villages are inset from the Green Belt. There is no certainty that the Green Belt boundaries would need to be changed in the future to accommodate growth. As set out in paragraph 59 of this report, GB boundaries can only be altered in exceptional circumstances, through the preparation or review of a Local Plan. Therefore, if the GB boundaries are to be altered at a later date, exceptional circumstances will need to be demonstrated and the alterations made through the review of a Local Plan. Modifications **MM/10/11, 12, 13** and **19** state that any future GB boundary changes would be included within a Site Allocation Plan which constitutes a Local Plan. However, I have amended the modifications to say 'if necessary' as this may be overtaken by changes to national policy. Similar modifications **MM/04/01, 02** and **03** are made to Green Belt policy GBR1 for consistency. The modifications are necessary to make the Plan effective in this respect.
26. Modification **MM/10/17** clarifies that small settlements would also fall within category 3 villages to make policy VILL3 clear and effective.
27. The level of development reflects the roles, needs, opportunities and constraints of the settlements and of the wider HMA, together with the aims of the LSCC. A very comprehensive and wide range of documents including SHLAA, SA, settlement appraisals, supporting documents, character,

environmental, Green Belt, transport and infrastructure studies, support the choices made. They show a comprehensive and well considered evidence base, leading to a preferred approach which has been tested. The impact on the Green Belt has been a key consideration in the development strategy and this is addressed later in my report. Other development options and sites were put forward but were less sustainable and those in the plan are, therefore, the best options for the District. The infrastructure required to support growth throughout the District has been considered in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan which I come on to later.

28. In summary, the EHDP represents a reasonable, pragmatic and soundly based development strategy for East Herts over the plan period, appropriate to the needs of the area and it would achieve the sustainable growth objectives sought by the NPPF.

## **Issue 2 – Whether the approach to the provision of housing is positively prepared, is appropriate to the needs of the area and is soundly based**

### *Objectively assessed needs for housing and the housing target*

29. The West Essex/East Herts HMA best reflects the relationship between where people live and work in the area. Policy DPS1 sets out an Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) for the HMA of 46,058 for the period 2011 -2033 (16,390 in East Herts for the plan period = 745 per year), informed by the 2012 based Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) national household projections. The Plan indicates that this would rise after a two year review to 54,608 for the HMA (19,500 for East Herts) to take into account the more recent (2014 based) CLG household projections. However, this approach is not in accordance with the Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) which seeks LPAs to use the latest housing data as the basis for assessing need and the Plan is not sound in this respect.
30. To remedy this, an updated Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) has been undertaken (after submission of the plan for examination) which sets out a level of housing need of 51,878 for the HMA and 18,458 for East Herts (including slight adjustments during the examination). Modifications **MM/3/01, 02, 07, 08** and **22** update DPS1 and references throughout the plan with the revised numbers. The modifications are necessary to ensure that the OAN reflects housing need, is up to date and consistent with national policy and guidance.
31. *Migration assumptions.* The updated figures are robust. However, the 2014 CLG figures use migration trends from a 5 year period (2009-2014). The SHMA calculation uses trends from a 10 year period. This is because, prior to 2009, migration levels were rising consistently each year, but for part of the 5 year period (2013 – 2014) levels of inward migration were significantly raised. There was some speculation about why this had happened, but no clear cause and the figures across the HMA returned to previous levels from 2015 onwards. The higher level of migration cannot, therefore, be assumed to continue. The modelling of different migration scenarios shows that adopting the longer, 10 year, base period would establish a more robust migration trend and this would be a reasonable approach.

32. *Market signals.* The updated SHMA considers market signals affecting the HMA. This demonstrates that there are considerable housing market pressures in the HMA, with price and affordability indicators being higher than the national average, across all of the partner authorities. Of particular concern is affordability with worsening rates seen over the last few years. Census data also shows that 6.6% of households are overcrowded. Taking this into account a 14% market signal uplift is appropriate as a response to address market pressures. This equates to over 6,200 dwellings across the HMA. This has been tested through benchmarking with other Authorities demonstrating similar market signals, and the impact assessed on overcrowding and affordability. This shows that the uplift is reasonable and would make a considerable difference to overcrowding and affordability in East Herts.
33. The functional economic market area (FEMA) is aligned with the HMA and covers the same local authority areas. The SHMA concludes that evidence based on current commuting patterns, economic growth and the growth of the working age population jobs would align with workers (with some residual out commuting) and there would be no need for an uplift to OAN. There is some overlap with employment policy considerations for the market area. However, the conclusion is robust that there is no need for further adjustment to OAN or the housing requirement. On this basis, the full OAN across the HMA is 51,878 and 18,458 (839 per year) for East Herts.
34. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed that commits all four Local Authorities within the HMA to meeting their individual housing needs within their own administrative boundaries. The preparation of the MoU followed the completion of work which assessed the sustainability of strategic spatial options for meeting the overall OAN within the HMA. Constraints have been considered through the development strategy and Green Belt review and no further adjustments are made. No further adjustment is sought for affordable housing (see below). The final figure for the housing requirement is 18,458 for East Herts.
35. The PPG acknowledges that establishing the future need for housing is not an exact science and the housing requirement figure requires some reasoned judgments to be made. However, the approach is robust and the aforementioned modifications adjusting the figures throughout the Plan are necessary to make the Plan sound in this respect.

#### *Affordable housing*

36. The SHMA affordable housing identifies a need for around 11,800 affordable homes in the HMA over the period 2016 – 2033. For East Herts this is over 3,600 homes. The figure takes account of newly arising needs and the existing backlog and is equivalent to around 32% of the full OAN for East Herts. This figure is likely to be higher than the amount of affordable housing to be delivered through the application of Plan policy and other means. However, policy HOU3 includes a range from 35 – 40% (subject to viability) which will help to meet the affordable housing need. The 14% uplift to OAN will assist in bringing forward affordable housing and taking account of the viability assessment for the Plan and the expected rates of delivery (see below) no further uplift to the housing requirement is sought for affordable housing.

### *Gypsies and Travellers*

37. The need of the travelling community has been carefully and robustly assessed and locations to meet identified needs have been allocated for the plan period. Policy HOU9 sets out the need for 5 permanent pitches for Gypsies and Travellers and 9 plots for Travelling Showpeople across the plan period and where they will be provided. It is justified by a range of studies undertaken in accordance with national Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS). For Gypsies and Travellers this would be met by the expansion of an existing site and within the larger proposed site allocations at East of Welwyn Garden City (EWEL1) and in the Gilston Area (GA1). For Travelling Showpeople, accommodation needs are met on the allocation East of Stevenage (EOS1), at the North and East of Ware (WARE2) and in the Gilston Area (GA1). The assessment and approach for site allocation accords with PPTS. The location of the sites within larger allocations is sought through the masterplanning process required by criteria in the policies. The provision would meet the need of the travelling community over the plan period and is justified.
38. In summary, subject to the MMs referred to, the approach to the provision of housing is comprehensive, positively prepared, appropriate to the needs of the area and consistent with national policy.

### **Issue 3 - Whether the approach towards the supply and delivery of housing land is positively prepared and soundly based**

39. The numbers of new dwellings and their distribution are set out in Policy DPS3 as a table. However, the table does not correlate easily to the allocated sites, nor does it contain the most recent land supply numbers, altered throughout the process to take account of the revised housing requirement, planning permissions and other evidence. To remedy this and make the policy effective, modifications **MM/3/17, 18 and 19** correct the text (where relevant) clarifying the numbers of new homes expected from the allocations. Modification **MM/3/15** is necessary to update the windfall allowance (from 50 to 75) in line with an updated analysis of past performance.
40. The modified table demonstrates that through a range of allocated sites, windfalls, completions and commitments some 18,900 homes can be delivered across the plan period. This is in excess of the housing requirement and a very positive step towards the provision of homes to meet need. This is particularly important as there is an acute need for housing, given there has been persistent under delivery.
41. The additional capacity allows for some flexibility, recognising that delivery may be slower than predicted on some sites and ensuring to a greater degree that East Herts can meet the requirement. To ensure the plan is effective, modifications **MM/3/16, MM/9/04 and MM/9/05** are necessary, adding that additional capacity identified for beyond the plan period could come forward earlier on sites GA1 and WARE2.
42. The timescale for delivery of homes is set out in Appendix B; however the information is out of date. Modification **MM/A/02** updates the appendix with a detailed trajectory of development, together with capacities and timescales, including figures for the 5 year housing land supply. This is necessary to

ensure that the plan can be effectively monitored and provide homes to meet the need within the plan period.

43. Appendix B shows the component sources of housing supply; however, it does not provide the key assumptions relied upon to calculate the 5 year supply. To make the plan sound modifications **MM/3/09, 10, 11, 12, 13** and **14** rectify this, setting out the shortfall (1,790), 20% buffer and annual delivery rates. East Herts has been persistently under delivering and a 20% buffer is justified. Meeting the shortfall within the first 5 years would be difficult given the nature of the sites coming forward and the significant number of homes needed. A 10 year period to meet the shortfall and the 20% buffer for the 5 years from April 2017 would still ensure that greater delivery occurs in the first part of the plan period and can be met on the sites shown in Appendix B. This is a reasonable and realistic approach. On this basis, a robust analysis of sites shows that the Council can demonstrate a housing land supply of over 5.7 years.
44. The IDP demonstrates that there is a reasonable prospect of key infrastructure coming forward (addressed in detail later in the report). Sites with possible mineral extraction have been realistically timetabled in the trajectory (agreed with stakeholders) to ensure they are deliverable over the plan period. Monitoring and action to be taken if the sites do not come forward as planned is dealt with in the detailed policy section (issue 8) of this report. There is considerable evidence contained in various background documents, including SoCG with stakeholders, that the sites are deliverable.
45. In summary, subject to the MMs, the approach towards the supply and delivery of housing land is positively prepared, effective and consistent with national policy.

#### **Issue 4 –Whether the plan sets out a strategy for employment and retail land which is positively prepared and soundly based**

##### *Employment*

46. The FEMA authorities have worked together through the duty to cooperate to identify need and apportion the required land across the market area. A range of forecasts, assessments and land reviews support the employment need and distribution. The MoUs set this out clearly and robustly, indicating that each Authority will meet its own needs. The figures in policy DPS1 and in the preceding text do not accurately reflect the latest employment needs assessment for the FEMA, which includes the wider aspirations of the LSCC, and they are not sound. Modification **MM/3/03** updates the figures in the Plan setting out that around 10,800 jobs will be created in East Herts over the Plan period and that 19 – 20 hectares of land would be provided. The 19 – 20 hectares reflects the higher growth scenario and is a positive step towards meeting economic needs over the plan period.
47. The background studies show that the sites for employment are the best options when considered against a range of other sites. However, the land needed and the precise locations are not up to date in policy DPS1. Modification **MM/3/04** rectifies this identifying that some 8-9 hectares of new employment land is directed towards Bishop's Stortford, allocations BISH3 and BISH 5, and 5 hectares within the Gilston Area (GA1). The modification also



adds flexibility to the type and level of employment provision at Mead Lane (HERT2) which was restrictive. The modifications make the policy effective.

48. To ensure that there is greater flexibility to the provision of employment land, modification **MM/3/05** identifies the existing industrial and commercial area to the east of Welwyn Garden City as an employment area and updates the employment area at Pegs Lane. The land at Bishop's Stortford, Ware and The Gilston Area would come forward through the masterplanning process. The sites have good access and are in sustainable locations and there is a reasonable prospect of the land coming forward within the plan period to meet employment needs.

#### *Retail*

49. The East Herts retail and town centre study sets out the retail floorspace required for the Plan period. The spatial distribution across the settlements identifies what is needed and where. In line with the development strategy and retail hierarchy of the District, the greatest amount of floorspace is sought at Bishop's Stortford, Hertford and the other main towns. The floorspace is directed toward existing town centres as the most sustainable locations and in allocations where neighbourhood/local centres are sought. The Gilston Area alone could support approximately 9,000 sqm of retail floorspace, with 7 neighbourhood centres and this is to come forward through the masterplanning process.
50. The retail figures in the explanatory text and policy DPS1 are out of date. Modifications **MM/3/06** and **MM/3/07** corrects these to 7,100 square metres (sqm) convenience and 5,700 sqm comparison floorspace over the plan period and these are necessary for the policy to be effective.
51. In summary, subject to the MMs, the plan sets out a strategy for employment and retail land which is positively prepared and soundly based.

### **Issue 5 – Whether or not the plan sets out a strategy for infrastructure and transport which is positively prepared and soundly based**

#### *Infrastructure*

52. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan identifies major infrastructure schemes required in order to support development. The main strategic transport schemes are to support development in the Gilston Area, Hertford and Ware.
53. Schemes for The Gilston Area are being progressed, including a new M11 Junction (7a) which has received planning permission and is expected to be delivered in 2021. A housing infrastructure funding bid has been put forward to assist with the sustainable transport corridors and second Stort Crossing and there is a reasonable prospect that these would be delivered.
54. Improvements to the A414, a main route in to Hertford and Ware area are needed to enable development to come forward towards the end of the Plan period. These are identified in Hertfordshire County Council's Transport Vision and have informed the preparation of the Local Transport Plan. The monitoring and delivery section deals with measures put in place to ensure

that if there are delays alternative solutions will be found to ensure delivery of the planned development.

55. Modifications **MM/3/20** and **MM/3/21** update policy DPS4 (Infrastructure requirements) and the explanatory text adding several criteria. They set out that the IDP will identify risks and this would enable better monitoring. They indicate that a bypass is sought as the improvement to the A414 as this would be the best solution for Hertford (modifications **MM/7/02** and **14** carry this forward into the Hertford chapter of the Plan), and that measures to promote sustainable transport should be included as part of the strategic infrastructure. These are necessary to make the policy effective.
56. The IDP clearly identifies the necessary social and community infrastructure (including health and education) to support development sought by the Plan. This has been carefully considered involving a wide range of stakeholders, viability and other assessments and there is a reasonable prospect of delivery.

#### *Transport*

57. East Herts has worked together with Hertfordshire County Council and Essex County Council on modelling the transport impact for the level and distribution of development sought by the Plan. There will undoubtedly be more traffic generated on smaller roads which may cause congestion and require further site specific engineering solutions. However, the development strategy positively seeks allocations that are self-contained, close to good public transport and which would reduce the need to travel by car. Impacts on the major road network have been identified and schemes set out in the IDP to mitigate where necessary to ensure that the local road network can cope with the capacity without risk to highway safety.
58. Overall, subject to MMs, the approach to the transport and infrastructure has been positively prepared and is consistent with national policy and guidance.

#### **Issue 6 - Whether exceptional circumstances exist to justify the revisions of the Green Belt boundary**

59. The Plan alters the Green Belt (GB) boundary, removing 15 areas, mainly for new homes. This is around 1,000 hectares (6%) of the District's GB and would provide sites for around 43% of the housing land supply. EHDP Policy GBR1 and the introductory paragraphs in Chapter 4 endorse the Green Belt (GB) principles set out in the NPPF, explaining that GB boundaries can only be altered in exceptional circumstances, through the preparation or review of a Local Plan.
60. The northernmost two thirds of the district are outside the GB. However, with the exception of Buntingford, the main settlements are located to the south and are surrounded by GB. Informed by a wide range of background documents including SHLAA and SA, a number of scenarios were tested to achieve the most sustainable options. The studies investigated the capacity of urban areas and non-GB land. For reasons of lack of access to services and facilities, and access to sustainable modes of transport, locating significantly more development outside the GB would not be a sustainable approach.

61. All options have been explored: brownfield land has been assessed and prioritised; significantly higher densities in urban areas have been discounted because of the harm to local character, and a much larger range of smaller sites in the GB has been discounted because they could not bring forward the infrastructure necessary to support the quality of development needed in the District. Additionally, neighbouring authorities are also reviewing their GB boundaries to meet their own needs. The studies are comprehensive and demonstrate that in the absence of any reasonable alternative, the release of GB land for development is needed for the Plan period and beyond to provide land for homes.
62. In summary, East Herts seeks to meet its housing requirement within the District, as do its HMA partners and there is no scope for the homes to go elsewhere. Housing need is acute and the supply and suitability of land outside the GB is constrained. Without release from the GB, there would not be enough homes to meet the needs of people within East Herts. As such, exceptional circumstances exist to justify the release of land from the GB.
63. A comprehensive GB review evaluates the sensitivity of land to any development and/or change having regard to its contribution to the purposes of the GB. Where the land makes a strong contribution it is identified as having a low/very low suitability for development. The search areas were for large sites around the main settlements and the main Group 1 villages in the District. The review also included areas to the north of Harlow (the Gilston Area), east of Welwyn Garden City and east of Stevenage.
64. Very few parcels of GB were found to have a high suitability for development or change within the GB review. Policies SAWB4 and BISH9 fall into this category and are allocated for development. Additionally, two small sites, the Leventhorpe School to the northwest of Sawbridgeworth and the Bishop's Stortford Football Club at Dunmow Road, Bishop's Stortford both have an urban character. A small (0.44 hectares) sliver of land sits between the High Street and residential areas at Watton-at-Stone. Although no development is proposed, removal from the GB would rationalise the village boundary and ensure a long term permanent boundary. There would be very limited harm in terms of impact on the GB from these sites. Benefits would be new homes, rationalisation of boundaries and there would be exceptional circumstances for their release. The remaining allocations are addressed below.

#### Green Belt Housing Allocations

65. *Bishop's Stortford - BISH5*. The GB review identified the site as having a low suitability for development. The SHLAA and SA demonstrate convincingly why alternative sites in the area were discounted. Through the Settlement Appraisal for Bishop's Stortford, informed by other studies, the impact on the GB has been considered against a range of factors. This includes the benefits of the site in providing key infrastructure to support the needs of the existing community as well as new residents with expanded/new schools serving education needs for the rest of the town. Land for around 750 new homes, associated retail, community and employment uses are sought, which would make a significant contribution to the District. The site is contained by existing residential areas and the strong urban feature of the southern distributor road, St James's Way, provides a clear and defensible boundary.

66. *Hertford - HERT3, HERT4 and HERT5*. The GB review identifies these allocations as having a low or very low suitability for development. The SHLAA and SA demonstrate convincingly why alternative sites in the area were discounted. Through the Settlement Appraisal for Hertford informed by other studies, the impact on the GB has been considered against a range of factors. This includes the benefits of HERT3 in providing land for around 550 homes, HERT4 for around 150 homes, and HERT5 for around 50 homes which would make a significant contribution to meeting housing need in Hertford. The sites are better located than the reasonable alternatives in terms of protecting the historic character of the town, access to facilities and deliverability and are sustainable, long term options for housing. I have added that there should be a defined and recognisable boundary to the landscape criteria (modifications **MM/7/08** and **MM/7/11**) necessary to mitigate impacts on the GB in accordance with the NPPF.
67. *Sawbridgeworth – SAWB2 and SAWB3*. The GB review identified these as having a low suitability for development. However, the aforementioned studies show that both allocations are better located than the reasonable alternatives, particularly in terms of proximity to services and facilities and the retail facilities in the town centre. The Settlement Appraisal balanced the impact on the GB against a range of factors and these are sustainable sites. The development of SAWB2 enables the expansion of Mandeville Primary School to facilitate the delivery of homes within the town. Together with SAWB4, in total, they provide land for around 500 homes which contributes significantly to meeting housing need.
68. *Ware - WARE2*. The GB review identified the land as having a very low suitability for development. Through the Settlement Appraisal for Ware, informed by other studies, the impact on the GB has been considered against a range of factors. The SHLAA and SA show that the allocation is the best option to enable a comprehensive, urban extension with improved transport links, in a location which would prevent coalescence with Hertford and ensure that Ware's unique historic character is maintained. It would bring forward 1,000 homes during the plan period with scope for 500 to come forward after (or toward the latter end) of the Plan period, a neighbourhood centre, employment and sports facilities. The allocation makes a significant contribution to meeting the needs of the district in a highly sustainable location. I have added (modification **MM/9/05**) that there is a defined and recognisable boundary to the GB to the landscaping criteria attached to the allocation necessary to mitigate impacts on GB in accordance with the NPPF.
69. *The Gilston Area - GA1*. The Gilston Area (north of Harlow) contains the single greatest release of land from the GB in the Plan, of around 590 hectares and is defined in the GB review as having a very low suitability for development. The allocation of the site is the result of joint working with surrounding LPAs over many years. Supporting significant growth around Harlow, a major settlement, is the best and most sustainable solution for the wider area. Harlow is surrounded by the GB, and to bring forward the necessary growth, GB release would be required. The SHLAA, Supporting Document, SA and other joint documents consider alternatives, and demonstrate that GA1 is the best option, to provide a self-contained community which maintains the principles of design for Harlow. As stated, a Garden Town is planned including 10,000 homes in East Herts, 3,000 of which are to be delivered within the plan period. The

area will provide a significant proportion of the District's housing needs, plus employment, retail, sustainable infrastructure, schools, health centres and public open space. The background documents balance the benefits against adverse impact and conclude that this is the most sustainable option for the area.

70. The revised GB boundaries for the Gilston Area only release as much GB as necessary to deliver housing, albeit that this is substantial. The amended boundary follows recognisable physical features such as roads, treelines/hedgerows and watercourses wherever possible. The boundary leaves a relatively narrow strip of GB between the built form of Harlow and the Gilston Area. However, when looking at the Metropolitan GB as a whole, this is not an unusual occurrence. Crucially, the remaining GB will perform an important function, preventing Harlow from encroaching further on the Stort Valley. I have added (modification **MM/11/10**) that there should be a defined and recognisable boundary to the landscape criteria necessary to mitigate impacts on the GB in accordance with the NPPF. This is a crucial strategic site for East Herts and the wider area, which is a highly sustainable, long term option contributing significantly toward meeting housing, employment and infrastructure need in East Herts.
71. *East of Stevenage - EOS1*. The GB review identifies this land as having a very low suitability for development. Stevenage is surrounded by the GB and to enable the necessary growth in East Herts, GB land is required. The SHLAA, Supporting Document, SA and Settlement Appraisal show that the allocation is better located than the reasonable alternatives, particularly in terms of deliverability and access to the transport network. In addition, the Stevenage GB review, character appraisals and other documents prepared by Stevenage Council were taken into account. A MoU between the two Councils forms part of the evidence base. The site is contained and defined by structural planting and would be mostly screened from views across the sensitive landscape of the Beane Valley. The criteria would ensure appropriate woodland management and reinforcement of the peripheral vegetation which will further mitigate impact. This site is important as it is relatively unconstrained with good access to the main road network and is able to deliver some 600 new homes (around 500 within 5 years). It will also deliver a site for Travelling Showpeople and local shopping facilities. It contributes significantly to meeting the need for new homes in East Herts.
72. *East of Welwyn Garden City - EWEL1*. The GB review identifies the site in East Herts as having a low or very low suitability for development. Welwyn Garden City is surrounded by the GB and to enable the necessary growth in East Herts, GB land is required. As with the above, the allocation is supported by a wide range of documents which show that the impact on the GB has been assessed against the benefits, and it is the best option for East Herts for access to the transport network and deliverability. The GB boundaries can be defined using physical features, which are readily recognisable and likely to be permanent. New infrastructure will benefit Welwyn Garden City, Hertford and nearby villages, and include a new secondary school. The site would provide around 1,350 homes in East Herts, serviced land for Gypsies and Travellers, a neighbourhood centre, employment land, and community and education facilities. It would be in a sustainable location and would contribute significantly towards meeting housing needs in East Herts.

73. In summary, there has been a rigorous process of balancing the importance of the GB and the impact of development against the benefits. In each case the sites are the best and most sustainable, long term options contributing significantly to meeting needs of the District. Careful design, suitable landscaping and planting will mitigate impacts on GB. There is an acute need for housing and not building on the GB would mean that people in East Herts would not have homes. Therefore, there are exceptional circumstances for removing these areas from the GB.

**Issue 7 – Whether the allocations are positively prepared and effective, providing sufficient information to guide development**

74. The allocated sites in the plan are arranged by settlement. Each allocation sets out criteria for development. The overall development for each settlement or on very large allocations is set at a minimum to ensure that development needed to meet the plan requirement comes forward. However, I accept that within each settlement or allocation, where there is more than one site, there should be flexibility, for some to exceed or other be slightly below the identified capacity, depending on site circumstances. To ensure flexibility the modifications referred to below change 'at least' on a range of sites to 'around'. Modification **MM/A/01** makes changes to Appendix 1 the key diagram of the allocations to align with other modifications in the Plan.

*Bishop's Stortford*

75. Policy BISH1 (development in Bishop's Stortford) sets out the level and type of development sought, which is justified by the development strategy. However, the figures are not up to date, due to recent planning permissions and not, therefore, sound. Modification **MM/5/03** updates the information for housing, indicating that a minimum of 4,426 homes will be provided over the plan period. The wording 'at least' for each allocation recommended in the modification is altered to 'around' to be more flexible. The modification also introduces employment and retail space which is necessary for the plan to meet these needs. Modification **MM/5/02** updates the key diagram with the correct numbers, to be effective.
76. BISH2 (Bishop's Stortford Town Centre Planning Framework) is modified (**MM/5/04**) deleting the word 'conform with' to 'take account of' the town centre framework (which is guidance only) to ensure flexibility and be positively worded.
77. BISH3 (Bishop's Stortford North). Comprises two large areas of land allocated for over 2,500 homes and associated infrastructure. Modification **MM/5/05** introduces the words 'a minimum of' to the housing numbers to positively assist with delivery of the housing requirement. 'At least' is changed to 'around' by the modification to add flexibility between the two areas of land that comprise the allocation. The modification also adds flexibility by removing restrictive criteria for the new secondary school to be positive and effective.
78. BISH4 (Land south of Hadham Road). This is allocated as a reserve site for a school if appropriate land could not be found on BISH3, otherwise for residential. Circumstances have changed with a recent planning permission for housing at the site and the identification of land on BISH3 for a school.

Modifications **MM/5/06** and **MM/5/07** delete the unnecessary text and replace with up to date information to ensure the policy is effective. The modification adds that public rights of way should be retained and enhanced, this is necessary to ensure connections to neighbouring areas are promoted consistent with other policies in the plan.

79. BISH 5 (Bishop's Stortford South) For the reasons given, modification **MM/5/08** is changed from 'at least' to 'around'. The criteria are not precise in terms of guiding development. This modification deletes and replaces or adds to text to add precision and ensure dual use of leisure facilities are provided, ecological connections are maintained and enhanced, and Wallbury Camp is taken into account in views. These modifications add clarity and precision to the text ensuring that the policy is positive and effective.
80. BISH 6 (Bishop's Stortford High School). There is a realistic prospect of the school moving during the Plan period and the policy identifies residential development of 150 homes would take its place. The policy is updated to be effective by modifications **MM/5/09** and **MM/5/10** to ensure that land remains for the expansion of Thorley Hill primary school and the school playing fields are retained as public open space. 'At least' is replaced with 'around' in the modification to be flexible and effective.
81. BISH7 (The Goods Yard). Further evidence shows that the site can accommodate 600 homes rather than the 400 set out in the policy. Modification **MM/5/11** updates the information. It also increases the range of uses to include community and leisure, in line with town centre policies and to meet the needs of residents. Without the modifications the policy would not be effective.
82. BISH8 (The Causeway/Old River Lane) and BISH9 (East of Manor Links). Modifications **MM/5/12** and **MM/5/13** are changed to 'around' instead of 'at least' for the reasons given. They add clarity to BISH9 regarding utilities, to make the policy effective.
83. BISH 10 (The Mill Site). The policy is not clear on the compatibility of future uses with the operation of the mill and other commercial uses. Modification **MM/5/14** adds that residential use would only be acceptable if the mill use ceased and/or commercial uses are not prejudiced. This site is not identified to bring housing forward during the plan period, and its purpose is to set criteria for any future, possible, large scale development submitted during the plan period. The modification would assist with this and is necessary for the policy to be effective. The modification also adds necessary clarity to the provision of a footbridge.
84. BISH11 (Employment in Bishop's Stortford). The explanatory text was restrictive and failed to identify Bishop's Stortford football club as a suitable site, (if they relocate) for employment use. Modification **MM/5/15** adds this to the text. This is not necessary to bring forward the employment, but is positive and offers long term flexibility to the range of potential employment sites in Bishop's Stortford.

### *Buntingford*

85. BUNT 1 (development in Buntingford) is not sound as it does not indicate where new homes would be located. Although these all have planning permission, they may not be implemented. To make provision for the numbers of homes expected, modifications **MM/6/06** and **MM/6/04** add details of site locations and expected capacity/numbers of sites with planning permission. This would ensure that if the permissions are not implemented or lapse, residential development would be suitable on the sites. This is necessary to make the policy effective. Modifications **MM/6/02** and **MM/6/03** add clarity to the explanatory text to protect the open character of the countryside and to recognise the role of the existing neighbourhood plan, ensuring it is effective.
86. BUNT2 (First school allocation site). The policies in Buntingford relating to the provision of a school have changed and BUNT2 is not sound. Modifications **MM/6/01, 05, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14** and **16** reflect the change. Two options for the school are considered in the EHDP and ongoing work has resolved the location on land to the east of London Road, which is justified and can be delivered. The modifications reflect these changes, including deleting text making reference to the incorrect site. The policies map is adjusted accordingly.
87. BUNT3 (Employment in Buntingford). There is no associated site location map for 'land north of Buntingford business park'. Modification **MM/6/15** adds the relevant map (to be updated in the policies map) to make this effective.

### *Hertford*

88. Policy HERT1 (Development in Hertford) sets out the level and type of development sought from the allocations. Modification **MM/7/03** updates the information for housing, indicating that 'a minimum' of 950 homes will be provided over the plan period. The wording 'at least' for each allocation recommended in the modification is altered to 'around' to be more flexible. The modification also introduces employment and retail space which is necessary for the plan to meet employment and retail needs.
89. HERT2 (Mead Lane Area). The wording of the modification **MM/7/04** is changed from 'at least' to 'around' for the reasons given. The allocation criteria are updated in modification **MM/7/05** to widen the type of employment uses, ensure there is a buffer between employment land and residential land, address access arrangements and ensure the protection of heritage assets. The modification would ensure that the policy is effective and flexible.
90. HERT3 (west of Hertford). As before, modifications **MM/7/06** and **MM/7/08** are changed from 'at least' to 'around'. The size of the site has been increased by 0.66 hectares to ensure that an infiltration basin can be provided as well as transport links established with the adjoining area. Modification **MM/7/07** updates the map accordingly to make the policy effective.
91. HERT4 (North of Hertford) and HERT5 (South of Hertford). The wording of the modifications **MM/7/09, 11, 12** and **13** is changed from 'at least' to 'around' for the reasons given. Modification **MM/7/10** is necessary to delete explanatory text relating to minerals for HERT4 which was restrictive and confusing. This would make the policy effective.



92. HERT6 (Employment in Hertford) and HERT7 (Hertford Town Centre urban design strategy). Policy HERT6 requires some clarification to identify the Mead Lane site. Modification **MM/7/15** rectifies this, adding the allocation reference to make the policy clear. Modifications **MM/7/16** and **17** include 'or other town centre sites' in the explanatory text to HERT7 to make the wording more flexible. They change 'conform with' to 'take account of' the Town Centre Strategy, which is guidance only. The modifications are necessary to make the policies effective.

#### *Sawbridgeworth*

93. SAWB1 (Development in Sawbridgeworth) sets out the level and type of development for Sawbridgeworth. Policies SAWB2 (Land to the North of West Road), SAWB3 (Land to the South of West Road), SAWB4 (Land to the North of Sawbridgeworth) would bring forward some 500 new homes. Modifications **MM/8/03, 04, 06, 07, 10, 11** and **12** add the word 'minimum' to the overall quantity, but 'around' for each allocation to offer flexibility. The modifications are necessary to make the policies effective. Directing new retail to the town centre is added to SAWB1 (modification **MM/8/03**) to be consistent with national policy and other policies in the plan. Modifications **MM/8/05, 08, 09** update the map for SAWB3, removing a green area which incorrectly appeared as part of the allocation, which was unjustified. SAWB5 (Sports Pitch Provision) was unjustified as it could not be delivered. To ensure the plan is effective, modification **MM/8/13** deletes the allocation. There are no implications for sports and leisure in Sawbridgeworth, as other policies in the plan seeking open space and sports provision apply.

#### *Ware*

94. Policy WARE 1 sets out the level and type of development for Ware. There is a single allocation for Ware (WARE2) and, therefore, it is necessary for the words 'at least' to be inserted in front of the housing capacity (Modifications **MM/9/03, 04, 05**) to ensure that the development strategy can be implemented. The modifications update policy WARE1 by adding the retail and employment floorspace sought to meet these needs.
95. WARE2 is an urban extension for 1,000 homes, indicating that an additional 500 could come forward beyond the plan period. To add flexibility the words 'beyond the plan period' are deleted by modification **MM/9/04** as it is possible this could come forward earlier. **MM/9/02** makes the consequential changes to the key diagram. This would make the policy positive and effective. Modification **MM/9/05** also deletes other restrictive criteria requiring a masterplan before submission of a planning application. The modification also updates requirements for education, allotments and site infrastructure to ensure the infrastructure necessary to support the homes is in place. This is necessary to make the policy effective.

*East of Stevenage*

96. Policy EOS1 (land east of Stevenage) is an urban extension for 600 homes; the level and type are set out in the policy. 'At least' 600 homes is added by **MM/12/01** to ensure that East Herts meets its housing needs. Some criteria require clarification to be effective. Modification **MM/12/03** remedies this adding that provision towards secondary education would be sought and that a cycleway should be provided along Gresley Way. Modification **MM/12/04** updates the key diagram accordingly. This would make the policy effective. The modifications seek a landscape led development and the existing boundaries are retained and enhanced, recognising that the site is close to the sensitive Beane Valley. The modifications would ensure that the impact on the valley is mitigated and are necessary for effectiveness.

*East of Welwyn Garden City*

97. The allocation EWEL1 (land east of Welwyn Garden City) sets out the type and level of development expected including retail and employment, and infrastructure to support the new housing.
98. Welwyn Garden City is of high historic value as one of the first, planned Garden Cities. The successful assimilation of new development adjacent to the existing buildings relies on the quality the layout and design which should follow Garden City principles. Several of the design criteria are amended by modification **MM/13/01** reinforcing this, to be effective. This includes seeking a sympathetic and semi-rural led solution to the more isolated section of housing to the east of the allocation.
99. The areas sought for homes and a school would harm the significance of heritage assets, including Panshanger Park contrary to the NPPF. Modification **MM/13/01** alters the location of the homes and the school, and a buffer of open land is established adjacent to the park. Screening is added to the A414 for this purpose. New wording seeking protection of heritage assets and their setting are added to the criteria. This would ensure that the heritage assets are protected consistent with the NPPF and other policies in the plan. The criteria seeking sustainable transport measures lacked detail, and the modification adds that these will be prioritised, setting out necessary detail to guide developers. The modification introduces criteria for the green corridor which is necessary to support and maintain an ecological network and protect habitats and wildlife communities. The modification is necessary to comply with the NPPF and be effective. Modification **MM/13/02** amends the key diagram accordingly.
100. Although an SPD is referred to in the policy to guide design, it is not clear what this would entail. In order for the policy to be effective **MM/13/01** sets out what the SPD will cover.

*The Gilston Area*

101. While the Plan sets out a range of facilities and development criteria for the Gilston Area, policy GA1 fails to set out how the existing local community would be involved, what the vision is for the area and how the Garden City Principles would be applied and the policy is not sound. Modifications **MM/11/01** and **MM/11/ 10** include new criteria to explain how the local

community will be engaged. They set out the Garden City principles, including strong vision and leadership, community ownership of assets, healthy communities, enhancement of the natural environment, good design and integrated sustainable transport. These are all necessary to achieve a long term, sustainable community which meets the needs of both existing and future residents.

102. It is unclear from the policy how The Gilston Area would contribute to wider regeneration of the surrounding area and what links there would be with other stakeholders. To make the policy effective, Modification **MM/11/02** introduces a new section setting out the roles of its partners, updating the position of the Garden Town status, identifying its role in the LSCC and the wider Garden Town development.
103. Other criteria are unclear and required further information to effectively guide development. Modifications **MM/11/03, 04, 05, 06, 07** and **09** add provision for self-build homes, the type of education facilities sought, the amount and location of employment land, the provision of parkland and continued land for farming, enhancement of woodland, and the provision of the River Stort Catchment Management Plan. I have altered modification **MM/11/06** to include that the employment land must be located and designed to be in keeping with Garden City Principles.
104. There are a number of heritage assets in The Gilston Area, which are not adequately protected by policy GA1. To remedy this, policy modifications **MM/11/08** and **MM/11/13** set out principles for development and protection of heritage assets, consistent with the NPPF and other policies in the Plan. Modifications **MM/11/10** and **MM/11/12** add that the sustainable transport corridor should link to Harlow and that additional crossings to the River Stort should be made, these are to ensure that sustainable transport links are provided and to ensure sufficient capacity on the road network. Modification **MM/11/11** provides further information on the Stort Crossings adding details of the function of the crossings, necessary for effectiveness. The policy lacked information on delivery and monitoring, a key element for bringing forward such a large allocation. The modification **MM/11/10** adds a delivery and monitoring mechanism, which, together with the section on monitoring, addressed under issue 8, would make the policy effective.
105. In summary, the allocations contain a comprehensive range of criteria, which are clear and positive, and subject to the modifications, would be sound.

**Issue 8 – Whether the detailed policies would positively promote the development strategy, and are soundly based**

106. The development management policies are set out in topic based chapters covering the GB and rural area, housing, economic development, retail and town centres, design and landscape, transport, community facilities, leisure and recreation, natural environment, heritage assets, climate change, water, environmental quality and delivery and monitoring. The range of policies in the EHDP will positively promote the aims and objectives of the plan. Consistent with the NPPF, the overarching aim of the policies is to deliver sustainable development.

107. *The rural area beyond the Green Belt.* Protecting the rural character of the District is a key strategic aim of the Plan. However, Policy GBR2 – Rural Area beyond the GB is highly restrictive, with criteria similar for development in the GB. This does not reflect national policy and is not sound. Modifications **MM/4/04, 05, 06** and **07** delete the restrictive text, and change to a positively framed policy which is focussed on sustainable locations for development and protecting character and appearance. Modifications **MM/10/16** and **MM/14/10** and **11** carry the modifications through to the related villages and housing chapter policies. The modifications are necessary to make the policies effective consistent with national policy.
108. *Housing.* The EHDP contains 13 policies which relate to type and mix of housing, housing density, affordable housing, dwellings for rural workers, specialist housing for older and vulnerable people, accessible and adaptable homes, self-build housing, Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, extensions and changes of use. The aim of the policies is to deliver sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities. The policies are generally positively worded supporting proposals for new homes on appropriate sites.
109. Policy HOU1 (housing type and mix), promotes a mix of housing to suit specific area needs. The information in the justification to the policy about house types is out of date and too rigid to cope with any changes over the plan period. To remedy this and ensure the plan is effective, modifications **MM/14/01** and **02** delete the text and add criteria to the policy to ensure new development brings forward the right type and mix of housing.
110. Policy HOU3 (affordable housing) sets thresholds and targets for affordable housing for new development. The policy identifies a range of 35-40% depending on number of new dwellings, and subject to viability. This is justified by the SHMA (including updates) and the EHDP viability assessment. The explanatory text for the policy contains out of date information on figures for affordable housing need and mix. Modifications **MM/14/03, 04, 05** and **06** update the information, necessary to justify the approach to tenure mix. In the circumstances, the approach to affordable housing is reasonable and realistic and will bring forward much needed affordable housing.
111. Policy HOU8 (self-build housing). The percentage sought on larger sites was not justified by evidence indicating that it was potentially viable. Modification **MM/14/07** reduces this to an expectation of at least 1% which is reasonable and which would ensure that individual or group self-build projects are supported, in line with national policy.
112. HOU9 (Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople). The wording of the policy is amended (modification **MM/14/08**) to comply with national policy to ensure that local needs are met. To make policy HOU10 (Non-nomadic Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople) effective, modification **MM/14/09** makes it clear in policy that the criteria apply to the non-nomadic community.
113. *Economic Development.* This chapter has 6 policies which support and promote sustainable economic growth. The policies are generally positively worded protecting existing employment land and supporting proposals for new employment where appropriate, including in rural areas to support the rural

economy. Flexible working practices and the provision of a communications infrastructure are supported. Policy ED1 (Employment) incorrectly seeks to 'reserve' land for employment. To be effective, modification **MM/15/01** amends this to the word 'allocated'.

114. *Retail and Town Centres*. This chapter has 5 policies which seek to promote competitive town centre environments. The policies are generally positively worded setting out criteria for the management of town centres, District and neighbourhood centres, local parades and individual shops. Modification **MM/16/01** deletes text in Policy RTC5 (District neighbourhood centres, local parades and individual shops) which seeks to protect a 50% continuous retail frontage as this is too restrictive and not justified by evidence.
115. *Design and Landscape*. This chapter has 5 policies which seek to promote high quality design in all development and protect local character. Masterplans are sought through the allocation criteria to ensure a comprehensive approach to design takes place. However, there is no explanation of what is expected. To add clarity to the process, making the plan effective, modification **MM/17/01 and 02** introduce a new Policy DES1 which sets out the aims for masterplans which is to ensure development is designed comprehensively to function well, create attractive communities and respond to local character. Modifications **MM/5/01, 07, 10, MM/7/01, 05, 08, 11, 13, MM/8/01, 06, 10, 12, MM/9/01 and MM/12/02** add a reference to the masterplan for each strategic area to align with this policy, necessary for effectiveness.
116. Policies DES1 and DES2 (now DES2 – Landscape character and DES3 – landscaping) are written in a restrictive and negative way, with regard to landscape harm and mitigation. Modifications **MM/17/03 and MM/17/04** rectify this setting out that mitigation can be taken into account when assessing landscape harm. This ensures the policies are positive and effective. The modification also recommends 'having regard to' supplementary documents which are guidance only, necessary to make the policy DES1 effective. Modification **MM/17/05** makes policy DES3 (now DES4 – design of development) effective, and accord with the NPPF by replacing 'encourage' with 'incorporate' good design.
117. *Transport*. The EDHP contains 3 policies in this chapter which seek to promote sustainable transport. To accord with the NPPF, modifications **MM/18/01 and MM/18/02** add to the explanatory text and policy TRA1 (sustainable transport) the aim to reduce pollution and improve air quality, including minimising the impact from public transport associated with new development. Modifications **MM/18/02 and MM/18/03** change 'comply/in accordance with' other documents which are guidance only to 'take account of/take into account' to make the policy effective.
118. *Community Facilities, Leisure and Recreation*. There are 10 policies in this chapter covering open space, sport and recreation, local green space, rights of way, the Lee Valley Regional Park, equine development, community facilities, health and well-being and education. All are generally positively prepared and would promote social interaction and enhance the quality of life. Modification **MM/19/01** adds clarity to policy CFLR1 (open space, sport and recreation) seeking net benefits to biodiversity and criteria for delivery of playing fields to align with other policies in the plan and be effective.

Modification **MM/19/02** changes the text in Policy CFLR2 (Local Green Space) deleting the phrase development 'will not be allowed.... other than in very special circumstances' which is very restrictive, to the appropriate wording which aligns with that in the NPPF. Modification **MM/19/03** deletes 'does not conflict with' other documents (which are guidance only), and inserts 'takes account of' to make policy CFLR4 (water based recreation) positive and effective.

119. It was unclear how Policy CFLR6 (equine development) would be implemented as it was restrictive and failed to cover all types of equine development. Modification **MM/19/04** deletes the restrictive text ensuring that the policy is effective for all types of equine development. For policy CFLR7 (community facilities), modifications to include the full range of facilities covered by the policy, seek net biodiversity and delete unnecessary text about the Green Belt are necessary to align with other plan policies and be effective (**MM/19/05** and **MM/19/06**).
120. *Natural Environment*. This chapter contains 4 policies covering designated and non-designated conservation sites, species and habitats and green infrastructure which seek to protect and enhance the natural and local environment. While the wording of policy NE1 (International, national and locally designated nature conservation sites) and policy NE2 (non-designated conservation sites) generally reflects national policy and legislation covering nature conservation sites, there is a lack of precision and clarity in the criteria to ensure appropriate protection, making the policy unsound. Modifications **MM/20/01, 02** and **3** correct this removing restrictive or unnecessary text and adding details about the type of evidence required, seeking information on alternatives and mitigation, compensatory measures and biodiversity necessary to effectively assess new development.
121. *Heritage Assets*. This chapter has 9 policies relating to a range of heritage assets, archaeology, advertisements and shopfronts in conservation areas and enabling development which seek to protect and enhance the historic environment. Four of the policies (HA1 - designated heritage assets, HA4 - conservation areas, HA7 - listed buildings and HA8 - historic parks and gardens) are not in accordance with the NPPF and are not sound. Modifications **MM/21/01, 02, 03** and **MM/21/04** are required to make the necessary adjustment to criteria. These relate to: significance, harm and balancing public benefits; having regard to guidance; preserve 'or' enhance, and deleting negative text such as 'will not be permitted'. The modifications make the policies effective and consistent with the NPPF. Policy HA9 (enabling development is significantly modified (**MM/21/05**) removing long and unnecessary criteria which are restrictive and replacing it with a short flexible policy which would be effective.
122. *Climate Change*. The chapter contains 3 policies relating to climate change adaptation, mitigation, and renewable and low carbon energy. In combination with other policies in the plan they will help to ensure that development and use of land will contribute to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. These include the overall spatial focus on large settlements to reduce the need to travel. Policy CC2 (climate change mitigation) was too restrictive and without justification for recycling construction materials. Modification **MM/22/01**, therefore adds the words 'where possible'.

123. *Water*. The chapter contains 6 policies covering flood risk management, source protection zones, water quality and the water environment, efficient use of water resources, sustainable drainage and waste water infrastructure. These seek to ensure the planned environment is managed to take account of the natural water environment and any associated risks. Modification **MM/23/01**, to policy WAT3 (water quality and the water environment), adds 'preserve or enhance' the water environment without which it would not be consistent with other policies in the plan.
124. The wording of Policy WAT6 (wastewater infrastructure) would not ensure that wastewater capacity was available to service development. Modification **MM/23/02** adds a sentence to this effect to ensure that this is the case, making the policy effective.
125. *Environmental quality*. This chapter has 4 policies relating to contaminated land and instability, noise and light pollution, and air quality. In combination with other policies in the plan, (including the development strategy which seeks to minimise travel), they aim to manage development to promote healthy lifestyles and enhanced quality of life, and plan for climate change. Although Policy EQ4 (Air Quality) seeks to minimise the potential impact on air quality by setting out a number of criteria, these are not precise or comprehensive enough to be effective. Guided by EH Environmental Health team modification **MM/24/01** rewrites the policy to make it more comprehensive, clear taking account of legislation and national policy on air quality. This makes the policy sound.
126. The chapter failed to address the overlap between the Hertfordshire Waste Local Plan and the Minerals Local Plan for waste and recycling impacts and minerals. Two new advisory sections are added by modifications **MM/24/02** and **MM/24/03** making sure that the EHDP aligns with these plans to make the Plan effective.
127. *Delivering and Monitoring*. The chapter has 2 policies which are aimed at securing the objectives and policies of the plan. However, they make only limited provision for action to be taken if delivery of key infrastructure does not happen or is delayed and this reduces the effectiveness of the plan over the plan period. Modifications **MM/25/01**, **02** and **03** introduce actions and measures to be taken if development is behind expectations. The EHDP lacked a specific indicator on delivery of housing which would trigger additional measures to bring forward development, and in this respect the plan is not positively prepared. Modification **MM/25/04**, therefore, introduces a new policy, DEL3, which sets out a trigger point for delivery of housing below which measures are to be taken. Modifications **MM/A/03** and **04** delete appendix C as it is superseded by the new policies and make the consequential amendments to the glossary. The measures are set out and are comprehensive, securing actions if necessary.
128. Given the complexity and size of the Gilston Area allocation, GA1, it is clear that the plan does not have a specific range of measures to effectively monitor its delivery and is not positively prepared. Modifications **MM/25/05** and **MM/25/06** introduce a new policy, DEL4, and explanatory text setting out expectations and how the housing delivery will be monitored. Together with

other policies in the Plan, this will ensure that development is managed and monitored effectively in the Gilston Area.

129. The modifications to this chapter ensure that there is a reasonable prospect of the development identified by the plan being delivered within the plan period and make the plan sound in this respect.

130. In summary the detailed policies will positively promote the development strategy. They will be effective, with the recommended modifications, and they are consistent with national policy.

## **Public Sector Equality Duty**

131. The policies of the plan, including the development strategy and design and housing policies make provision for the disabled and for other protected groups. The preparation of the plan and the examination has had due regard to its impacts on equality in accordance with the Public Sector Equality duty.

## **Assessment of Legal Compliance**

132. My examination of the legal compliance of the Plan is summarised below.

133. The East Herts District Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Council's Local Development Scheme.

134. Consultation on the Local Plan and the MMs was carried out in compliance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement.

135. Sustainability Appraisal has been carried out and is adequate.

136. The Habitats Regulations Appropriate Assessment Screening Report December 2010 and updates in 2012 and 2016 set out that a full assessment has been undertaken, and that the plan may have some negative impact which requires mitigation and that this mitigation has been secured through the plan.

137. The Local Plan includes policies designed to secure that the development and use of land in the local planning authority's area contribute to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.

138. The East Herts District Plan complies with all relevant legal requirements, including in the 2004 Act (as amended) and the 2012 Regulations.

## **Overall Conclusion and Recommendation**

139. The Plan has a number of deficiencies in respect of soundness for the reasons set out above, which mean that I recommend non-adoption of it as submitted, in accordance with Section 20(7A) of the 2004 Act. These deficiencies have been explored in the main issues set out above.

140. The Council has requested that I recommend MMs to make the Plan sound and capable of adoption. I conclude that with the recommended main modifications set out in the Appendix the East Herts District Plan satisfies the



requirements of Section 20(5) of the 2004 Act and meets the criteria for soundness in the National Planning Policy Framework.

*Christine Thorby*

**Inspector**

This report is accompanied by an Appendix containing the Main Modifications.

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# East Herts District Plan

## Main Modifications Consultation

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February 15 - March 29 2018

[www.eastherts.gov.uk/mainmodifications](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/mainmodifications)

## **Explanatory Note**

### **What is the East Herts District Plan?**

East Herts Council is in the process of finalising the East Herts District Plan. The District Plan sets out the planning framework for the District for the period between 2011 – 2033 and will deliver sustainable development. The Plan will guide the provision of new homes, jobs, facilities and infrastructure across the District. It also contains Development Management policies that will be used to determine planning applications. The East Herts District Plan will replace the Adopted Local Plan (second review), 2007 and will be part of the Development Plan for the District.

### **What is this document?**

This document sets out the changes (known as 'Main Modifications') that have been identified as necessary to make the East Herts District Plan 'sound'. The changes proposed to the Plan evolved throughout the Examination process, before, during and after the Hearing Sessions. The modifications propose to amend the Pre-Submission East Herts District Plan and therefore this document must be read alongside the East Herts District Plan, 2016. The Main Modifications are now being published for consultation.

All main modifications are denoted by an 'MM' prefix. Where relevant, the Policy Number, Paragraph Number, Section and Page Number that the modification relates to has been referenced, in order to help the reader identify the areas of the Plan that are proposed for modification (the page number refers to the Pre-Submission Version of the District Plan). The tables also include a column headed with 'reason for change' which highlights the source of the modification.

Deleted text is shown via a ~~strike through~~, whilst new text is underlined and highlighted in red. The Inspector's additions are in blue text.

Outside of the scope of this consultation, the Council have identified some 'Minor Changes' to the Plan and Policies Map. However, as these do not affect the soundness of the plan and are not matters considered by the Inspector, they are not subject to consultation and have not been included as part of this document. Moreover, as a result of insertions/deletions as part of the Main Modifications, it should be noted that some numbering/lettering of policies may not directly accord with those contained in the Pre-Submission Consultation version.

## East Herts District Plan Main Modifications

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## Chapter 1: Introduction

There are no Main Modifications for Chapter 1.

## Chapter 2: Vision and Strategic Objectives

There are no Main Modifications for Chapter 2.

## Chapter 3: The Development Strategy

| Ref No. | Policy/Para                                 | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification   |
|---------|---|--------------------|--|
| MM/3/01 | 3.2.4                                       | 25                 | <del>The SHMA</del> <u>The evidence</u> concludes that the combined level of housing need across the four local authority areas is <del>46,058</del> <u>51,878</u> homes for the period 2011 - 2033. This figure has been disaggregated amongst the four authorities. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) <del>is under preparation</del> <u>has been agreed</u> which will commit <u>commits</u> all four Councils to meeting their individual housing needs within their own administrative boundaries. For East Herts, the level of need is <del>745</del> <u>839</u> new homes per year, or <del>16,390</del> <u>18,458 new homes</u> by 2033. <sup>1</sup> <u>The Council is committed to meeting its Full Objectively Assessed Housing Need, and as such its housing requirement over the Plan period 2011-2033 is for 18,458 homes.</u> |
| MM/3/02 | 3.2.4<br>Footnote 1                         | 25                 | <del>The Plan Period is 2011 – 2033 (22 years). Therefore 745 homes x 22 = 16,390</del>  |
| MM/3/03 | 3.2.8<br>(renumbered<br>3.2.7 –<br>MC/3/03) | 25                 | <b>3.2.7</b> In addition to housing need, the Council has also worked with <del>our</del> <u>its</u> neighbouring authorities in order to understand how many new jobs are likely to be created within the plan period. This work, which was undertaken to inform the SHMA, indicates that <del>between 435 and 505</del> <u>10,800</u> new jobs will be created <del>each year</del> in East Herts <u>between 2011 and 2033, equivalent to 491 jobs each year.</u>  |
| MM/3/04 | 3.2.9<br>(renumbered<br>3.2.8 –<br>MC/3/05) | 26                 | <b>3.2.8</b> In order to help support jobs growth in the District, this Plan seeks to ensure sufficient provision of land and premises for office, industrial and warehousing uses (B1, B2, B8 uses) in sustainable locations which meet the needs of local businesses. As such, <del>10 – 11</del> <u>19 – 20</u> hectares of new employment land will be provided in the following locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 hectares to the north of Buntingford Business Park (<u>BUNT3</u>);</li> <li>• <u>4 hectares within the development at Bishop's Stortford North (BISH3);</u></li> </ul>  |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para   | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification   |
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|         |   |                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4-5 hectares within the development at South of Bishop's Stortford <u>South (BISH5)</u>; and</li> <li>3 hectares within the development at North and East of Ware <u>(WARE2)</u>; and</li> <li><u>5 hectares within the development at the Gilston Area (GA1)</u>.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, <u>around</u> 3,000 square metres of additional B1 employment floorspace, <u>or other employment generating uses that would be compatible with the uses on neighbouring land</u>, will be provided at the Mead Lane <u>Area</u>, Hertford, <u>site (HERT2)</u>.</p>   |
| MM/3/05 | 3.2.10<br>(renumbered<br>3.2.9 –<br>MC/3/10)                  | 26                 | <p><b>3.2.9</b> In order to recognise the valuable role existing businesses have, the following <u>existing industrial and commercial</u> locations have also been designated as Employment Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>6 hectares to the east of Welwyn Garden City</u>;</li> <li>0.23 hectares at Millside Industrial Estate, Bishop's Stortford;</li> <li>0.36 hectares at Southmill Trading Estate, Bishop's Stortford;</li> <li><del>7.71</del> <u>7.44</u> hectares at Pegs Lane/Hale Road, Hertford;</li> <li>0.43 hectares at Leaside Works, Stanstead Abbots; and</li> <li>0.59 hectares at Riverside Works, Amwell End, St Margarets.</li> </ul>                                      |
| MM/3/06 | 3.2.13<br>(renumbered<br>3.2.12 –<br>MC/3/11)                 | 27                 | <p><b>3.2.12</b> As the population grows additional retail development will be required to provide shopping opportunities at the local level. The Council's 'Retail and Town Centres Study Update' (2013) assesses qualitative issues and quantitative requirements for additional retail floorspace to meet future needs. The Study concludes that there will be a need over the Plan period for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convenience (food) retail – an additional <del>7,600m<sup>2</sup></del> <u>7,100m<sup>2</sup></u> (net) of new floorspace</li> <li>Comparison (non-food) retail – an additional <del>6,100m<sup>2</sup></del> <u>5,700m<sup>2</sup></u> (net) of new floorspace</li> </ol> |
| MM/3/07 | Policy DPS1<br>Housing,<br>Employment<br>and Retail<br>Growth | 28                 | <p>In the period 2011 to 2033 the Council will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide for a minimum of <del>16,390</del> <u>18,458</u> new homes in the District up to 2033.</li> <li>Maximise opportunities for jobs growth in the District, with the aim of achieving a minimum of <del>435 – 505 additional jobs in East Herts each year</del> <u>10,800 new jobs in the District up to 2033</u>. This will include making provision for <del>10-11</del> <u>19-20</u> hectares of new employment land for B1/B2/B8</li> </ol>   |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para                        | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification   |
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|         |                                    |                    | uses.<br><br>c) Encourage an additional <del>7,600m<sup>2</sup></del> <u>7,100m<sup>2</sup></u> of convenience and <del>6,100m<sup>2</sup></del> <u>5,700m<sup>2</sup></u> of comparison retail floorspace in the District.  |
| MM/3/08 | 3.3.4                              | 29                 | Firstly, the NPPF requires that every effort should be made to meet the housing, business and other development needs of an area. As set out above in Section 3.2, the housing need in the District is for <del>745</del> <u>839</u> new homes each year. East Herts' projected need is back-dated to 2011 when the previous Local Plan figures ended, meaning that the total need is for <del>16,390</del> <u>18,458</u> homes up to 2033.  |
| MM/3/09 | 3.3.6 (moved and renumbered 3.3.5) | 29                 | <b>3.3.5</b> In the period 2011-2017 (the 'pre-plan' period) it is anticipated that only <del>3,161</del> <u>3,244</u> homes will be built, leaving a shortfall of <del>1,309</del> <u>1,790</u> homes when measured against the projected need of <del>4,470</del> <u>5,034</u> over <del>5</del> <u>6</u> years. <sup>3</sup> The Plan seeks to make up this shortfall <del>in the first five</del> <u>over the ten</u> year period <del>2017-2022</del> <u>2017-2027</u> <del>(2017-2022)</del> <u>as set out in Table 3.1 below</u> .<br><br><b><u>Table 3.1 Annualised Housing Requirement including 10-year spread of shortfall</u></b><br><br><b><u>SEE TABLE 3.1 AT END OF THIS SECTION</u></b>          |
| MM/3/10 | 3.3.6 Footnote 3                   | 29                 | <sup>3</sup> <del>The pre-plan period is 2011 – 2017. Therefore, the level of housing need in this period is 745 homes x 6 years = 4,770. Expected number of housing completions in this is period is 3,161 homes. This leaves a shortfall of 1,309 homes (4,470-3,161).</del>   |
| MM/3/11 | 3.3.7                              | 29                 | Thirdly, the NPPF also requires the provision of an additional buffer in the first five year period (moved forward from later in the plan period) to ensure choice and competition in the market for land. A 20% buffer should be applied where there is a persistent record of under-delivery. Given the significant shortfall in housing delivery since 2011, <del>the Council accepts that</del> a 20% buffer should be applied. Taking into account identified need, the shortfall and the 20% buffer, the total housing requirement for the first five year period <del>(2017-2022)</del> <u>(2017-2027)</u> is <del>6,041</del> <u>6,108</u> new homes <u>as set out in Table 3.2 below</u> . <sup>4</sup> |



| Ref No. | Policy/Para                                       | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification  |
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|         |   |                    | <p><b><u>Table 3.2 5-Year Housing Land supply Requirement 2017-2022</u></b></p> <p><b><u>SEE TABLE 3.2 AT END OF THIS SECTION</u></b></p>   |
| MM/3/12 | 3.3.7<br>Footnote 4                               | 29                 | <sup>1</sup> The first five year period is 2017 – 2022. The level of need for this period is 745 homes x 5 = 3,725 homes. 3,725 homes plus the shortfall of 1,309 homes = 5,034 homes. The 20% buffer is then added: 5,034 homes x 1.2 = 6,041 homes.   |
| MM/3/13 | 3.3.8   | 30                 | Policy DSP2 (The Development Strategy 2011-2033) below identifies how housing need, both within the first five year period and beyond, will be met <u>sets out the Council's strategy for delivering sustainable development</u> . More detailed information about individual sites can be found in the settlement chapters. <u>Policy DPS2 also sets out the key assumptions which are relied on to calculate the 5-year housing land supply.</u>  |
| MM/3/14 | Policy DPS2<br>The Development Strategy 2011-2033 | 30                 | <p>I. <del>Provision will be made to meet the projected housing need of at least 745 homes per year, making a total minimum requirement of 16,390 homes in the period 2011-2033.</del></p> <p>II. <del>In the first five years of the Plan after adoption (2017-2022), the housing requirement will total at least 6,041 homes, comprising:</del></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a) <del>3,725 based on projected housing needs for 5 years;</del></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b) <del>1,309 to address the shortfall from the period 2011-2017;</del></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">c) <del>1,007 to allow a 20% buffer for choice and flexibility, brought forward from later in the plan period.</del></p> <p>III. <del>Brownfield locations in the towns will be prioritised for mixed-use development. The</del></p> |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification   |
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|         |             |                    | <p>remainder of the housing and development needs in the Plan period will be met on a range of greenfield sites across the District.</p> <p><del>IV. Development in the villages shall be delivered in accordance with local initiatives led by Parish Councils, subject to the review triggers set out in Policy VILL1 (Group 1 Villages).</del></p> <p><u>I. The strategy of the District Plan is to deliver sustainable development in accordance with the following hierarchy:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Sustainable brownfield sites;</u></li> <li><u>Sites within the urban areas of Bishop's Stortford, Buntingford, Hertford, Sawbridgeworth and Ware;</u></li> <li><u>Urban extensions to Bishop's Stortford, Hertford, Sawbridgeworth and Ware, and to the east of Stevenage, east of Welwyn Garden City and in the Gilston Area; and</u></li> <li><u>Limited development in the villages.</u></li> </ul> <p><u>II. The 5-year housing land supply will comprise the following elements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>The projected housing need of 839 dwellings per annum;</u></li> <li><u>Any shortfall in delivery since the start of the Plan period (to be met over the ten year period 2017-2027);</u></li> <li><u>A 20% buffer for choice and flexibility brought forward from later in the Plan period.</u></li> </ul> |
| MM/3/15 | 3.3.10 (3.) | 30                 | 3. It is also anticipated that there will be a number of permissions granted on small sites of less  |

| Ref No.            | Policy/Para                                      | District Plan Page                 | Proposed Main Modification  |               |  |                                    |                    |     |     |             |   |       |
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|                    |  |                                    | than 10 homes that have not currently been identified. These are known as windfalls. A windfall allowance <u>of 75 dwellings per annum</u> has been made on the basis of an analysis of past windfalls.   |               |  |                                    |                    |     |     |             |   |       |
| MM/3/16            | 3.3.12   | 31                                 | The identified housing supply to 2033 exceeds the requirement by 1,650 <u>around 450</u> homes. <sup>5</sup> <del>This serves two functions. Firstly, it provides a contingency to allow for flexibility.</del> Contingency planning is necessary to allow for eventualities beyond the Council's control, including the economic cycle and factors relating to specific sites or developers, which could result in stalled sites. The Plan provides a range of sites in different locations which means that it is not reliant on delivery at a single location. <u>Flexibility could also be provided by accelerating the delivery of homes at the Gilston Area, thereby providing a greater amount of development within the Plan period. The potential to achieve this will be considered through joint work in relation to the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town.</u> A full breakdown of the housing supply is included at Appendix B. |               |  |                                    |                    |     |     |             |   |       |
| MM/3/17            | 3.3.12<br>Footnote 5                             | 31                                 | <del>The housing need for the Plan Period (2011 – 2033) is 16,390 homes. The District Plan identifies sufficient sites to deliver 18,040 new homes. Therefore, 18,040 minus 16,390 – 1,650 homes.</del>   |               |  |                                    |                    |     |     |             |   |       |
| MM/3/18            | 3.3.13   | 31                                 | <del>Secondly, as identified within paragraph 3.2.5, the Council recognises that recent household projections demonstrate a further upward trend in housing need. While this Plan is not able to identify sufficient sites to meet these additional needs in full, providing a level of housing that is significantly in excess of 745 homes per year demonstrates the Councils commitment to positive planning. The positive approach is further enforced by a commitment to bring forward a significant amount of new housing beyond the Plan period.</del>   |               |  |                                    |                    |     |     |             |   |       |
| MM/3/19            | Policy DPS3<br>Housing Land Supply 2011-2033     | 32-33                              | <div>The overall housing supply will meet projected housing need over the plan period 2011 to 2033.</div> <table><tr><th>Supply Source</th><th>Housing supply:<br/>First five years<br/>2017-2022</th><th>Housing supply:<br/>Total 2011-2033</th></tr><tr><td>Windfall allowance</td><td>250</td><td>800</td></tr><tr><td>Completions</td><td>0</td><td>2,625</td></tr></table>  | Supply Source | Housing supply:<br>First five years<br>2017-2022 | Housing supply:<br>Total 2011-2033 | Windfall allowance | 250 | 800 | Completions | 0 | 2,625 |
| Supply Source      | Housing supply:<br>First five years<br>2017-2022 | Housing supply:<br>Total 2011-2033 |   |               |  |                                    |                    |     |     |             |   |       |
| Windfall allowance | 250  | 800                                |   |               |  |                                    |                    |     |     |             |   |       |
| Completions        | 0  | 2,625                              |   |               |  |                                    |                    |     |     |             |   |       |

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|         |             |                    | Commitments   | 1,899 | 2,435     |
|         |             |                    | Villages  | 300   | 500       |
|         |             |                    | Deliverable sites in existing urban areas as identified by Strategic Land Availability Assessment | 88    | 88        |
|         |             |                    | Bishop's Stortford Goods Yard   | 250   | 400       |
|         |             |                    | Land at Old River Lane, Bishop's Stortford  | 0     | 100       |
|         |             |                    | Hadham Road Reserve Secondary School Site, Bishop's Stortford                                     | 0     | 163       |
|         |             |                    | Bishop's Stortford High School Site, London Road  | 150   | 150       |
|         |             |                    | North of Bishop's Stortford   | 800   | 2,529     |
|         |             |                    | South of Bishop's Stortford   | 250   | 750       |
|         |             |                    | Bishop's Stortford- East of Manor Links   | 50    | 50        |
|         |             |                    | Hertford- Mead Lane Area  | 100   | 200       |
|         |             |                    | North of Hertford   | 50    | 150       |
|         |             |                    | South of Hertford   | 50    | 50        |
|         |             |                    | West of Hertford  | 550   | 550       |
|         |             |                    | Sawbridgeworth- North of West Road  | 125   | 125       |
|         |             |                    | Sawbridgeworth- South of West Road  | 175   | 175       |
|         |             |                    | North of Sawbridgeworth   | 0     | 200       |
|         |             |                    | North and East of Ware  | 0     | 1,000 (1) |
|         |             |                    | East of Stevenage   | 600   | 600       |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification   |       |           |
|---------|-------------|--------------------|--|-------|-----------|
|         |             |                    | Gilston Area   | 0     | 3,050 (2) |
|         |             |                    | East of Welwyn Garden City   | 210   | 1,350     |
|         |             |                    | TOTAL  | 5,897 | 18,040    |
|         |             |                    | (1) With a further 500 homes beyond 2033, subject to suitable mitigation.  |       |           |
|         |             |                    | (2) With a further 6,950 homes beyond 2033.  |       |           |
|         |             |                    | The minimum housing supply to meet projected housing need over the Plan period 2011-2033 is set out below. A more detailed Strategy Worksheet is included in Appendix B. |       |           |
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| Ref No. | Policy/Para                       | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification   |                       |                              |                               |
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|         |                                   |                    | <a href="#">South of Bishop's Stortford</a>  | <a href="#">BISH5</a> | <a href="#">200</a>          | <a href="#">750</a>           |
|         |                                   |                    | <a href="#">East of Manor Links, Bishop's Stortford</a>  | <a href="#">BISH9</a> | <a href="#">50</a>           | <a href="#">50</a>            |
|         |                                   |                    | <a href="#">West of Hertford</a>   | <a href="#">HERT3</a> | <a href="#">415</a>          | <a href="#">550</a>           |
|         |                                   |                    | <a href="#">North of Hertford</a>  | <a href="#">HERT4</a> | <a href="#">50</a>           | <a href="#">150</a>           |
|         |                                   |                    | <a href="#">South of Hertford</a>  | <a href="#">HERT5</a> | <a href="#">50</a>           | <a href="#">50</a>            |
|         |                                   |                    | <a href="#">North of West Road, Sawbridgeworth</a>   | <a href="#">SAWB2</a> | <a href="#">125</a>          | <a href="#">125</a>           |
|         |                                   |                    | <a href="#">South of West Road, Sawbridgeworth</a>   | <a href="#">SAWB3</a> | <a href="#">175</a>          | <a href="#">175</a>           |
|         |                                   |                    | <a href="#">North of Sawbridgeworth</a>  | <a href="#">SAWB4</a> | <a href="#">200</a>          | <a href="#">200</a>           |
|         |                                   |                    | <a href="#">North and East of Ware</a>   | <a href="#">WARE2</a> | <a href="#">100</a>          | <a href="#">1,000 *</a>       |
|         |                                   |                    | <b><a href="#">Urban Extensions to the east of Stevenage, east of Welwyn Garden City and in the Gilston Area:</a></b>  |                       |                              |                               |
|         |                                   |                    | <a href="#">East of Stevenage</a>  | <a href="#">EOS1</a>  | <a href="#">500</a>          | <a href="#">600</a>           |
|         |                                   |                    | <a href="#">East of Welwyn Garden City</a>   | <a href="#">EWEL1</a> | <a href="#">220</a>          | <a href="#">1,350</a>         |
|         |                                   |                    | <a href="#">Gilston Area</a>   | <a href="#">GA1</a>   | <a href="#">0</a>            | <a href="#">3,050**</a>       |
|         |                                   |                    | <b><a href="#">Villages:</a></b>   |                       |                              |                               |
|         |                                   |                    | <a href="#">Group 1 Villages</a>   | <a href="#">VILL1</a> | <a href="#">391</a>          | <a href="#">500</a>           |
|         |                                   |                    | <b><a href="#">TOTAL</a></b>   |                       | <b><a href="#">7,029</a></b> | <b><a href="#">18,913</a></b> |
|         |                                   |                    | <a href="#">* With a further 500 homes, subject to suitable mitigation</a>   |                       |                              |                               |
|         |                                   |                    | <a href="#">** With a further 6,950 homes beyond 2033</a>  |                       |                              |                               |
| MM/3/20 | 3.3.20<br>(renumbered<br>3.3.19 – | 34                 | <b>3.3.19</b> A full list of infrastructure schemes can be found in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP), which also provides information on costs, funding and phasing. The IDP will be reviewed on a regular basis in order to <a href="#">identify risks and</a> monitor the implementation of infrastructure schemes |                       |                              |                               |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para                                | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification  |
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|         | MC/3/27)                                   |                    | and identify where interventions might be required.   |
| MM/3/21 | Policy DPS4<br>Infrastructure Requirements | 34                 | <p>I. Infrastructure needed to support development must be phased appropriately with the delivery of residential and other development to ensure that capacity is provided and impacts are satisfactorily mitigated in a timely manner.</p> <p>II. The <u>During the Plan-period the</u> following strategic infrastructure will be required to support the development identified in East Herts and the wider housing market area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) a new Junction 7a on the M11;</li> <li>b) upgrades to Junction 7 and 8 of the M11;</li> <li>c) widening of the existing River Stort crossing, and provision of a second crossing;</li> <li>d) <del>improvements to the A414 through Hertford</del> <u>provision of a Hertford bypass to address identified constraints on the A414 in combination with Sustainable Travel Town initiatives;</u></li> <li>e) the Little Hadham bypass;</li> <li>f) upgrades to the A602;</li> <li>g) upgrades to the rail network;</li> <li>h) <u>measures to facilitate sustainable transport;</u></li> <li>i) new schools and the expansion of existing schools;</li> <li>j) healthcare facilities;</li> </ul> |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para                                | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification  |
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|         |  |                    | <p>k) broadband telecoms; and</p> <p>l) upgrades to waste water and water supply networks.</p> <p>III. The Council will use planning obligations with landowners and developers to secure direct provision or financial contributions towards infrastructure necessary to support the District Plan, including both on-site and off-site provision to address the cumulative impacts of development on strategic infrastructure.</p>  |
| MM/3/22 | Section 3.4<br>Review of the District Plan | 35                 | <p><del>3.4 Review of the District Plan</del></p> <p><del>3.4.1 As noted in paragraph 3.2.7, the Government has recently published updated 2014 household projections. As a result, the level of objectively assessed needs across the housing market area has increased to 54,600 homes by 2033. For East Herts, this equates to around 19,500 homes.</del></p> <p><del>3.4.2 Given the upward trend in housing needs across the housing market area, and the fact that the Council is unable to identify sufficient sites to meet this higher housing target at present, an early review of the District Plan will be undertaken following adoption.</del></p> <p><del>Policy DPS5 Review of the District Plan</del></p> <p><del>Following adoption of the District Plan, the Council will undertake an early review in order to seek to meet the additional housing needs arising from the 2014 household projections.</del></p> |

**Table 3.1 Annualised Housing Requirement including 10-year spread of shortfall**

|                    | <u>2011 - 2017</u> | <u>2017- 2018</u> | <u>2018- 2019</u> | <u>2019- 2020</u> | <u>2020- 2021</u> | <u>2021- 2022</u> | <u>2022- 2023</u> | <u>2023- 2024</u> | <u>2024- 2025</u> | <u>2025- 2026</u> | <u>2026- 2027</u> | <u>2027- 2028</u> | <u>2028- 2029</u> | <u>2029- 2030</u> | <u>2030- 2031</u> | <u>2031- 2032</u> | <u>2032- 2033</u> | <u>2011- 2033</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Completions</b> | <u>3,244</u>       |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |
| <b>QAHN</b>        |                    | <u>839</u>        | <u>839</u>        | <u>839</u>        | <u>839</u>        | <u>839</u>        | <u>839</u>        | <u>839</u>        | <u>839</u>        | <u>839</u>        | <u>839</u>        | <u>839</u>        | <u>839</u>        | <u>839</u>        | <u>839</u>        | <u>839</u>        | <u>839</u>        |                   |



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| <u>Shortfall addressed over 10-years</u> |              | <u>179</u>   | <u>179</u>   | <u>179</u>   | <u>179</u>   | <u>179</u>   | <u>179</u>   | <u>179</u>   | <u>179</u>   | <u>179</u>   | <u>179</u>   |            |            |            |            |            |            |               |
| <u>Annual Housing Requirement</u>        | <u>3,244</u> | <u>1,018</u> | <u>1,018</u> | <u>1,018</u> | <u>1,018</u> | <u>1,018</u> | <u>1,018</u> | <u>1,018</u> | <u>1,018</u> | <u>1,018</u> | <u>1,018</u> | <u>839</u> | <u>839</u> | <u>839</u> | <u>839</u> | <u>839</u> | <u>839</u> | <u>18,458</u> |

**Table 3.2 5-Year Housing Land supply Requirement 2017-2022**

|                                      | <u>2017-2018</u> | <u>2018-2019</u> | <u>2019-2020</u> | <u>2020-2021</u> | <u>2021-2022</u> | <u>2017-2022</u> |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <u>Annual Requirement</u>            | <u>1,018</u>     | <u>1,018</u>     | <u>1,018</u>     | <u>1,018</u>     | <u>1,018</u>     | <u>5,090</u>     |
| <u>20% Buffer</u>                    | <u>204</u>       | <u>204</u>       | <u>204</u>       | <u>204</u>       | <u>204</u>       | <u>1,020</u>     |
| <u>Total Land Supply Requirement</u> | <u>1,222</u>     | <u>1,222</u>     | <u>1,222</u>     | <u>1,222</u>     | <u>1,222</u>     | <u>6,110</u>     |

## **Chapter 4: Green Belt and Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt**

| <b>Ref No.</b> | <b>Policy/Para</b> | <b>District Plan Page</b> | <b>Proposed Main Modification</b>  |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--|
| MM/4/01        | 4.5.1 & 4.5.2      | 39                        | <del>Hertford Heath, Stanstead Abbotts &amp; St Margarets, and Watton-at-Stone are identified as Group 1 Villages (see Chapter 10 Villages). These villages are inset from the Green Belt and therefore development beyond the existing built up area of the village can only come forward by amendment of the Green Belt boundary (other than the exceptions listed in paragraphs 89 and 90 of the NPPF).</del> |

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|         |                           |                    | <del>4.5.2 As these villages are considered to be sustainable locations for development, these villages will be encouraged to consider whether it is appropriate to amend their Green Belt boundary through the formulation of a Neighbourhood Plan, to accommodate additional development especially where it contributes to wider sustainability objectives and the delivery of community benefits.</del>   |
| MM/4/02 | New 4.5.1                 |                    | <u>4.5.1 The villages of Hertford Heath, Stanstead Abbots &amp; St Margarets, and Watton-at-Stone are inset from the Green Belt. These villages will be encouraged to consider accommodating development in their Neighbourhood Plans, especially where it contributes to wider sustainability objectives and the delivery of community benefits. Where such proposals would involve changes to Green Belt boundaries, the District Council will consider making these amendments either through the next Review of the District Plan or through a separate Site Allocations Development Plan Document if necessary.</u>  |
| MM/4/03 | Policy GBR1<br>Green Belt | 40                 | <p>I. Planning applications within the Green Belt, as defined on the Policies Map, will be considered in line with the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework.</p> <p>II. The villages of Hertford Heath, Stanstead Abbots &amp; St Margarets, and Watton-at-Stone will be encouraged to consider whether it is appropriate to amend their Green Belt boundary through the formulation of a Neighbourhood Plan to accommodate additional development especially where it contributes to wider sustainability objectives and the delivery of community benefits. <u>Where such proposals would involve changes to Green Belt boundaries, the District Council will consider making these amendments either through the next Review of the District Plan or through a separate Site Allocations Development Plan Document if necessary.</u></p> |
| MM/4/04 | 4.6.1 & 4.6.2             | 40                 | <del>4.6.1 The Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt covers approximately the northern two-thirds of the District and contains the settlement of Buntingford, together with a number of villages. East Herts has a long tradition of seeking to restrain development within the Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt. This has ensured the protection of the smaller rural settlements in the District, as well as the</del>   |

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|         |  |                    | <p>wider area of countryside.</p> <p><del>4.6.2</del> In order to continue to preserve the special character of the District's rural area, and to direct development towards the most sustainable locations, it is considered appropriate that a policy of restraint should continue in this location.</p>   |
| MM/4/05 | New 4.6.1                                    |                    | <p><u>4.6.1 Green Belt in East Herts covers approximately one-third of the District. The remaining two-thirds of the District are located in the 'Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt'. This Rural Area is highly valued by the District's residents and visitors alike, particularly for its open and largely undeveloped nature. As such it forms an important part of the character of the District. It is a considerable and significant countryside resource, which Policy GBR2 seeks to maintain by concentrating development within existing settlements.</u></p>  |
| MM/4/06 | 4.7.1  | 40                 | <p>When considering planning applications in the Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt, <u>sustainable</u> development will <del>only</del> be permitted <u>in accordance with Policy GBR2</u>, <del>where there is no material harm to the character or amenity of the environment.</del></p>  |
| MM/4/07 | Policy GBR2 Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt | 40-41              | <p>I. <del>Within the Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt, as defined on the Policies Map, the construction of new buildings will be considered inappropriate. Exceptions to this include:</del> <u>In order to maintain the Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt as a valued countryside resource, the following types of development will be permitted, provided that they are compatible with the character and appearance of the rural area:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) buildings for agriculture and forestry;</li> <li>(b) <del>the provision of appropriate</del> facilities for outdoor sport, outdoor recreation, including equine development in accordance with CFLR6 (Equine Development), and for cemeteries;</li> <li>(c) new employment generating uses where they are <del>appropriately and</del> sustainably located, in accordance with Policy ED2 (Rural Economy);</li> </ul> |

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|         |             |                    | <p><del>(d) extensions and alterations to buildings, dwellings, residential outbuildings or extensions to existing outbuildings, and works within residential curtilages provided that development does not result in an unacceptable impact on the rural character and appearance of the site and its surroundings;</del></p> <p>(d) the replacement, <u>extension or alteration</u> of a building, provided the new building is in the same use and not materially larger than the one it replaces <u>the size, scale, mass, form, siting, design and materials of construction are appropriate to the character, appearance and setting of the existing building and/or surrounding area;</u></p> <p>(e) limited infilling or the partial or complete redevelopment of previously developed sites (brownfield land), whether redundant or in continuing use (excluding temporary buildings) <u>in sustainable locations, where appropriate to the character, appearance and setting of the site and/or surrounding area</u> <del>which would not have a greater impact than the existing development on the rural character and appearance of the site and its surroundings;</del></p> <p>(f) rural exception housing in accordance with Policy HOU4 (Rural Exception Affordable Housing Sites);</p> <p>(g) <del>the provision of accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in accordance with Policy HOU9 (Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople)</del> <u>or Non-Nomadic Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in accordance with Policy HOU10 (New Park Home Sites for Non-Nomadic Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople);</u></p> <p>(h) development identified in an adopted Neighbourhood Plan.</p> |

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|         |             |                    | <p><del>II. Certain other forms of development are also not inappropriate in the Rural Area Beyond Green Belt. These are:</del></p> <p><del>(a) mineral extraction;</del></p> <p><del>(b) engineering operations;</del></p> <p><del>(c) local transport infrastructure which can demonstrate a requirement for a location in the Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt;</del></p> <p><del>(d) the re-use of buildings provided that the buildings are of permanent and substantial construction in accordance with Policy ED2 (Rural Economy); and</del></p> <p><del>(e) development brought forward under a Community Right to Build Order in accordance with Policy DPS6 (Neighbourhood Planning).</del></p> |

## Chapter 5: Bishop's Stortford

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| MM/5/01 | New 5.1.4   |                    | <u>5.1.4 Design: collaboratively prepared Masterplans for development in Bishop's Stortford (at sites BISH3, BISH4, BISH5, BISH6, BISH7, BISH8, BISH9 and BISH10) will form an important part of the delivery of the site allocations. These Masterplans will provide a strong framework for the development, which will ensure the highest quality design and layout of each area and provide a comprehensive approach to the development as a whole, whilst reflecting different character areas across the sites. The Masterplans will accord with the provisions of Policy DES1 Masterplanning.</u> |
| MM/5/02 | Figure 5.1  | 46                 | Original Key Diagram to be deleted and replaced with an updated Key Diagram.  |

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|         | Key Diagram for Bishop's Stortford             |                    | <p>New Key Diagram to be inserted:</p> <p>Map is illustrative</p>   |
| MM/5/03 | Policy BISH1 Development in Bishop's Stortford | 46-47              | <p>I. <del>In accordance with Policy DPS3 (Housing Supply 2011-2033), Bishop's Stortford will accommodate</del> <u>a minimum of 4,426 homes, which will include</u> <del>between 3,729 and 4,142 homes at the following sites:</del></p> <p>(a) <u>around</u> 2,529 homes at Bishop's Stortford North, including 2,200 on ASRs 1 to 4 and 329 at ASR 5 as set out in Policy BISH3;</p> <p>(b) <u>around</u> <del>247</del> <u>0-163</u> homes at the Reserve Secondary School site at Hadham Road contingent on the provision of a secondary school site at Bishop's Stortford North, as set out in Policy BISH4;</p> <p>(c) <u>around</u> 750 homes at Bishop's Stortford South as set out in Policy BISH5;</p> <p>(d) <u>around</u> <del>0-150</del> homes at the Bishop's Stortford High School site at London Road contingent</p> |

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|         |  |                    | <p>on the relocation of the school to Bishop's Stortford South as set out in Policy BISH6;</p> <p>(e) <del>around 600</del>400 homes at the Goods Yard <del>as</del> set out in Policy BISH7;</p> <p>(f) <del>around 0-100</del> homes at <del>The Causeway</del> Old River Lane as set out in Policy BISH8;</p> <p>(g) <del>around</del> 50 homes at land East of Manor Links as set out in Policy BISH9; and</p> <p>(h) a proportion of the overall windfall allowance for the District.</p> <p><u>II. New employment and retail floorspace will be delivered primarily within the town centre and the two strategic allocations of Bishop's Stortford North and South:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Through mixed-use development at the Old River Lane (Policy BISH7) and Goods Yard (Policy BISH8) sites;</u></li> <li><u>Through two mixed-use local centres at Bishop's Stortford North (Policy BISH3) providing 4.1ha of land comprising 21,000sq.m of commercial floorspace (B1 a, b and c), up to 3,000sq.m for D1 uses and up to 1,200sq.m retail floorspace. Further provision of up to 4,000sq.m of commercial floorspace may also be delivered;</u></li> <li><u>By provision for up to 1,000 sq.m retail floorspace and between 4 and 5 hectares of new employment land at Bishop's Stortford South (Policy BISH 5).</u></li> </ul> <p>III. In the longer term, land at the Mill Site may come forward for mixed-use development as set out in Policy BISH10.</p> |
| MM/5/04 | Policy BISH2<br>Bishop's<br>Stortford Town | 48                 | Development proposals in Bishop's Stortford Town Centre will be expected to <del>conform with, and</del> <u>take account of, and</u> positively contribute to, proposals contained within the Bishop's Stortford Town Centre Planning Framework, as appropriate.   |

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|         | Centre Planning Framework                |                    |   |
| MM/5/05 | Policy BISH3<br>Bishop's Stortford North | 49-52              | <p>Land at Bishop's Stortford North will accommodate <del>approximately</del> <b>a minimum of</b> 2,529 homes between 2017 and 2033 (650 homes to be delivered between 2017 and 2022; 1,250 homes between 2022 and 2027; and, 300 homes between 2027 and 2033).</p> <p>I. West of Hoggate's Wood, will accommodate <b>around</b> 850 homes <del>in accordance with planning application 3/13/0804/OP</del>. The site shall include the provision of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) a primary school of two forms of entry;</li> <li>(b) a neighbourhood centre providing a range of local shops and services;</li> <li>(c) a new roundabout on Hadham Road to provide vehicular access to the area;</li> <li>(d) outdoor playing pitches at Hoggate's Wood;</li> <li>(e) equipped areas for play as part of a wider green infrastructure strategy;</li> <li>(f) a sustainable transport spine road (bus route, cycleway and pedestrian use only) connecting Hadham Road through to the land east of Hoggate's Wood, a hierarchy of local roads, including walking and cycling networks.</li> </ul> <p>II. Land between Hoggate's Wood and Farnham Road will accommodate <b>around</b> 1,350 new homes between 2017 and 2033. Prior to the submission of <del>a detailed planning application</del> <b><u>reserved matters planning applications (pursuant to outline planning permission 3/13/0804/OP)</u></b>, a Masterplan will be collaboratively prepared, involving site promoters, landowners, East Herts Council, Hertfordshire County Council, Bishop's Stortford Town</p> |



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|         |             |                    | <p>Council and other key stakeholders. This document will further be informed by public participation in the process. Development in this location shall include the provision of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) a primary school of two forms of entry with an Early Years facility;</li> <li>(b) <del>land for</del> a secondary school of <del>at least six forms of entry, with potential to expand to eight forms of entry to accommodate future needs.</del> The layout of the schools should be designed to <del>accommodate community</del> <u>provide for the dual</u> use of indoor and outdoor sports facilities <u>for community purposes</u>;</li> <li>(c) vehicular access by a new roundabout on the A120 and also by a new junction on Rye Street;</li> <li>(d) continuation of the sustainable transport spine road connecting to the western neighbourhood to access points created for the eastern neighbourhood;</li> <li>(e) a neighbourhood centre comprising a mix of local shops and facilities, business incubator units, health facilities, and a play area/open space;</li> <li>(f) a new employment allocation to provide modern business premises attractive to B1 employment uses;</li> <li>(g) preservation and enhancement of Foxdells Farm as a focus for a public space and appropriate community or leisure facilities; and</li> </ul> <p>III. In order to ensure that the site is planned and delivered comprehensively, any application for development on part of the site will be assessed against its contribution to the Masterplan, and will not prejudice the implementation of the site as a whole.</p> |

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|         |             |                    | <p>IV. East of Farnham Road, 329 homes shall be provided in accordance with planning permission 3/13/0886/OP. The site shall include the provision of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) a site for a one form entry primary school, unless appropriate provision is made elsewhere;</li> <li>(b) public open and amenity space and appropriate landscaping, including land to the east of Hazelend Road;</li> <li>(c) access and highway improvements, including a new roundabout junction to provide suitable access to the site and surrounding land;</li> <li>(d) a sustainable transport route through the site;</li> <li>(e) essential on-site infrastructure including utilities.</li> </ul> <p>V. The development across the whole site is expected to address the following provisions and issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the full provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing);</li> <li>(b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);</li> <li>(c) a care home/ flexi-care or sheltered properties in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU6 (Specialist Housing for Older and Vulnerable People);</li> <li>(d) Self-Build and Custom Build Housing in accordance with Policy HOU8 (Self-Build and Custom Build Housing);</li> </ul> |

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|         |             |                       | <p>(e) responding to the existing landform, incorporating existing landscaping within new streets, paths and spaces, creating quality local green infrastructure which maximises opportunities presented by existing landscape features including watercourses, to create net gains to biodiversity through additional planting and other measures. Proposals in the vicinity of Farnham Bourne and Bourne Brook will need to reflect the River Stort Catchment Management Plan;</p> <p>(f) a new Country Park shall be provided to include the Green Belt land north and south of Dane O' Coy's Road, including Hoggate's Wood and Ash Grove, including long-term arrangements for management and maintenance. Other open spaces and play areas should also be provided throughout the site;</p> <p>(g) the rural character of Dane O' Coys Road shall be preserved, and access along the road shall be reserved for pedestrians and cyclists only;</p> <p>(h) a network of well-signposted pedestrian and cycle routes between the development and the town centre;</p> <p>(i) a circular bus route connecting with the bus/rail interchange in the town centre;</p> <p>(j) the preservation of strategic long views of St. Michael's Church and All Saints, Hockerill, and views of mature trees;</p> <p>(k) easy access to the village of Farnham must be maintained along Farnham Road, including during the construction period;</p> <p>(l) necessary utilities, including integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home-working, and upgrades to the localised sewerage network;</p> |

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|         |   |                    | <p>(m) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure;</p> <p>(n) other policy provisions of the District Plan, Bishop's Stortford Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan for Silverleys and Meads Wards and any other relevant matters, as appropriate.</p>  |
| MM/5/06 | 5.3.11 & 5.3.12   | 52                 | <p><del>5.3.11 One of the main challenges facing development in Bishop's Stortford is the funding and provision of additional secondary school capacity. In order to enable flexibility and avoid jeopardising opportunities for successful resolution of the school sites issues, land has been reserved for an additional secondary school at land adjacent to Patmore Close off Hadham Road. The 2007 Local Plan reserved land south of Hadham Road for the provision of a secondary school until such time as alternative provision was secured. A six-form entry secondary school will now be delivered as part of the Bishop's Stortford North development.</del></p> <p><del>5.3.12 Designated for this purpose in the 2007 Local Plan, part of this site was granted permission for 163 homes in 2014, on the condition that the County Council confirms it is the legal owner of the proposed secondary school site provided as part of the second phase of the Bishop's Stortford North development within ASRs 3 and 4. As detailed planning permission has yet to be secured for this second phase of development, the delivery of the secondary school is currently uncertain. Therefore, this site will be retained for a secondary school until detailed planning permission is granted for the delivery of the Bishop's Stortford North secondary school and the County Council is able to fulfil the above condition. Outline permission has recently been granted on appeal for the delivery of 247 homes on this site. However, it is considered appropriate to maintain a policy to guide the anticipated detailed application/s.</del></p> |
| MM/5/07 | Policy BISH4<br>Reserve<br>Secondary<br>School Site,<br>Hadham Road | 53-54              | <p><b>Policy BISH4: Reserve Secondary School Site, <u>Land South of</u> Hadham Road</b></p> <p><del>1. The Reserve Secondary School Site, Hadham Road will only be released for residential development if sufficient additional secondary school capacity is provided within the Bishop's Stortford North development.</del></p>   |

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|         |             |                    | <p>II. <del>In the event that the site comes forward for non-educational development, 163</del> <u>Land South of Hadham Road will accommodate around 247</u> new homes <del>will be provided between 2022</del> <u>2017</u> and 2027 <del>in line with the approved planning application 3/14/2144/OP.</del></p> <p><u>II. A Masterplan will be collaboratively prepared, involving site promoters, landowners, East Herts Council, Hertfordshire County Council, Bishop's Stortford Town Council, and other key stakeholders. This document will further be informed by public participation in the process.</u></p> <p>III. The development is expected to address the following provisions and issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the <del>full</del> provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing);</li> <li>(b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);</li> <li>(c) retention and enhancement of <u>public rights of way</u> <del>the outdoor playing pitches in the western parcel of the site for community purposes,</del> providing connections to neighbouring residential areas where possible. Skelleys Wood in the south of the site will be retained and connections made between it and the site through buffer planting, tree-lined streets and it will be subject to appropriate management.</li> <li>(d) necessary utilities, including integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home-working, and upgrades to the localised sewerage network;</li> <li>(e) sustainable drainage and provision for flood mitigation;</li> <li>(f) access arrangements and wider strategic and local highways mitigation measures;</li> </ul> |

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|         |  |                    | <p>(g) sustainable transport measures which encourage walking and cycling, and enhanced passenger transport services;</p> <p>(h) public amenity green space and play areas;</p> <p>(i) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure;</p> <p>(j) other policy provisions of the District Plan, Bishop's Stortford Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan for Silverleys and Meads Wards and any other relevant matters, as appropriate.</p>   |
| MM/5/08 | Policy BISH5<br>Bishop's Stortford South | 55-57              | <p>I. Land to the south of Whittington Way is allocated as a residential-led mixed-use development, to accommodate approximately <u>around</u> 750 new homes by 2027.</p> <p>II. <del>Prior to the submission of any planning application, a</del> <span style="color: red;">▲</span> Masterplan will be collaboratively prepared, involving site promoters, landowners, East Herts Council, Hertfordshire County Council, Bishop's Stortford Town Council, Thorley Parish Council and other key stakeholders. This document will further be informed by public participation in the process.</p> <p>III. The development is expected to address the following provisions and issues:</p> <p>(a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the full provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing);</p> <p>(b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);</p> <p>(c) a care home/ flexi-care or sheltered properties in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU6 (Specialist Housing for Older and Vulnerable People);</p> |

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|         |             |                    | <p>(d) Self-Build and Custom Build Housing in accordance with Policy HOU8 (Self-Build and Custom Build Housing);</p> <p>(e) education facilities, including land for a two-form entry primary school with an Early Years facility with room to expand to three-forms of entry; land for a six-form entry secondary school (<del>co-educational or single sex</del>), with room to expand to eight-forms of entry to meet longer term needs;</p> <p>(f) indoor and outdoor sports facilities will be <u>delivered</u> <del>provided</del> as part of the secondary school, <u>which should provide for dual use of facilities for community purposes;</u> (<del>where available for community use</del>) and/or by other means;</p> <p>(g) a neighbourhood centre in an accessible location, providing local retail and community uses including a healthcare facility;</p> <p>(h) <del>a</del> <u>4-5 hectares of new employment land</u> <del>business park</del> of landmark design, in an accessible location;</p> <p>(i) appropriate access arrangements, which will not include direct vehicular access on to London Road, and wider strategic and local highways mitigation measures, including improvements along London Road;</p> <p>(j) sustainable transport measures which encourage walking and cycling through the site and beyond, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the provision of cycleways and footways that provide links into the existing residential areas;</li> <li>appropriate treatment of the Hertfordshire Way, including the retention of an open</li> </ul> |

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|         |             |                    | <p>southerly aspect;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>enhancement of other Public Rights of Way, making new east-west connections across London Road;</li> <li>enhanced passenger transport services to the town centre and station, including the creation of a sustainable route through the site;</li> </ul> <p>(k) responding to the existing landform, incorporating existing landscaping within new streets, paths and spaces, creating quality local green infrastructure which maximises opportunities presented by existing landscape features including watercourses, to create net gains to biodiversity through additional planting and other measures;</p> <p>(l) sustainable drainage and provision for flood mitigation;</p> <p>(m) a variety of public open spaces across the site, including the provision of play areas and opportunities for indoor and outdoor health and fitness activities, as well as space for wildlife;</p> <p>(n) <u>maintain and enhance ecological</u> connections to existing green infrastructure assets such as Southern <del>e</del>Country Park and the <del>Thorley Flood Pound SSSI and nature reserve</del> Stort Valley;</p> <p>(o) <del>Layout</del> <u>layout</u> and orientation of spaces to facilitate views and vistas beyond the site, in particular towards Thorley church <u>and Wallbury Camp</u>, protecting and enhancing the setting of listed buildings along London Road where necessary. <u>This will be done through careful layout, design and planted screening;</u></p> <p>(p) necessary utilities, including integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home-</p> |



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|         |  |                    | <p>working, and upgrades to the localised sewerage network;</p> <p>(q) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure;</p> <p>(r) other policy provisions of the District Plan, Bishop's Stortford Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan for All Saints, Central, South and parts of Thorley Wards and any other relevant matters, as appropriate.</p> <p>IV. In order to ensure that the site is planned and delivered comprehensively, any application for development on part of the site will be assessed against its contribution to the masterplan, and will ensure that such development would not prejudice the implementation of the site allocation as a whole.</p>                                  |
| MM/5/09 | 5.3.15   | 57                 | <p><del>Should the</del> Bishop's Stortford High School <u>will</u> relocate to the land at Bishop's Stortford South, <u>and</u> the existing school site will be released for residential development. However, land will be set aside on the site to accommodate the expansion of Thorley Hill Primary School and to retain some of the land for public open space. <u>The delivery of homes on this site is linked to the delivery of the new school campus at Bishop's Stortford South. As such, new homes are not anticipated to be delivered until 2021/22.</u></p>   |
| MM/5/10 | Policy BISH6<br>Bishop's Stortford High School Site, London Road | 58-59              | <p>I. The Bishop's Stortford High School Site will only be released for residential development if sufficient secondary school capacity is provided within the Bishop's Stortford South development or elsewhere in the town.</p> <p>II. In the event that the site comes forward for non-educational development, <del>approximately</del> <u>around</u> 150 new homes will be provided between 2017 and <del>2022</del> <u>2027</u>.</p> <p>III. <u>A Masterplan will be collaboratively prepared, involving site promoters, landowners, East Herts Council, Hertfordshire County Council, Bishop's Stortford Town Council and other key stakeholders. This document will further be informed by public participation in the process.</u></p> |

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|         |             |                    | <p>IV. The development is expected to address the following provisions and issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the <del>full</del> provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing);</li> <li>(b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);</li> <li>(c) <u>land set aside to accommodate the expansion of Thorley Hill Primary School by one form of entry.</u></li> <li>(d) retention and enhancement of part of the <u>school</u> outdoor playing pitches in the western parcel of the site <u>as public open space</u> for community purposes, <u>commensurate with the amount of residential development, and</u> providing connections to neighbouring residential areas where possible;</li> <li>(e) necessary utilities, including integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home-working, and upgrades to the localised sewerage network;</li> <li>(f) sustainable drainage and provision for flood mitigation;</li> <li>(g) access arrangements and wider strategic and local highways mitigation measures. Where a new access is required to serve the western part of the site, consideration will need to be given to the relationship of this new access and neighbouring uses, including residential and school uses;</li> <li>(h) sustainable transport measures which encourage walking and cycling, and enhanced passenger transport services;</li> <li>(i) public amenity green space and play areas;</li> </ul> |

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|         |                                |                    | <p>(j) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure;</p> <p>(k) other policy provisions of the District Plan, Bishop's Stortford Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan for All Saints, Central, South and parts of Thorley Wards and relevant matters, as appropriate.</p>   |
| MM/5/11 | Policy BISH7<br>The Goods Yard | 60-62              | <p>I. The Bishop's Stortford Town Centre Planning Framework will form the basis of a Supplementary Planning Document, which will be used to inform the masterplanning of this site.</p> <p>II. <del>In the context of this, the</del> The Goods Yard will provide for <del>around 400</del> <u>around 600</u> homes between 2017 and 2027, as part of a mixed use development including a significant amount of B1a office floorspace and small-scale retail provision <u>and other community and leisure uses</u>. Development of the site shall include:</p> <p>(a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing), including residential apartments on the upper floors of commercial uses and 3-4 bed family homes;</p> <p>(b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);</p> <p>(c) Self-Build and Custom Build Housing in accordance with Policy HOU8 (Self-Build and Custom Build Housing);</p> <p>(d) sustainable transport measures which encourage walking and cycling through the site and beyond, including:</p> <p>(e) the provision of cycleways and footpaths that provide links through the site, connecting the river to the station, the station and the town centre via the Anchor Street Leisure</p> |

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|         |             |                    | <p>Park and improved Station Road bridge, and to provide opportunities to cross the railway line;</p> <p>(f) the creation of a new station forecourt that provides a safe and attractive public realm which facilitates the movement of people between various modes of transport;</p> <p>(g) enhanced passenger transport services to the town centre and station, including the creation of a sustainable route through the site;</p> <p>(h) high quality, vehicle-free public realm along the river frontage, enabling improved access to the town centre along the waterway. The orientation of buildings will retain an open riverside environment, facilitate views of local landmarks and provide a direct route between the Goods Yard footbridge and the station;</p> <p>(i) landscaping and tree planting to reduce urban heat island effects, including retention and enhancement of the area of woodland to the south of the site;</p> <p>(j) improvements to the riverside environment in line with the River Stort Catchment Management Programme;</p> <p>(k) high quality design which incorporates local material pallets and provides varying character and style across the site, incorporating sustainable design features;</p> <p>(l) residential blocks which have access to private amenity green space, separate from parking areas;</p> <p>(m) multistorey parking which is appropriately screened and separated from residential buildings, ensuring homes have pleasant outlooks;</p> |

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|         |   |                    | <p>(n) necessary utilities, including integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home-working, and upgrades to the localised sewerage network;</p> <p>(o) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure;</p> <p>(p) other policy provisions of the District Plan, Bishop's Stortford Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan for All Saints, Central, South and parts of Thorley Wards and relevant matters, as appropriate.</p> <p>III. On-site car parking will need to be sufficient to meet the needs of the uses proposed, without encouraging travel to the town centre in order to avoid worsening traffic congestion and further impact on the Hockerill Air Quality Management Area. Parking will need to be provided to serve the town centre as well as commuters.</p> <p>IV. Site promoters must work with Hertfordshire County Council as the Highways and Transport Authority to undertake transport modelling to assess and provide suitable mitigation measures against vehicular congestion in the town centre.</p> |
| MM/5/12 | Policy BISH8<br>The Causeway/Old River Lane | 63-64              | <p>I. The Bishop's Stortford Town Centre Planning Framework will form the basis of a Supplementary Planning Document, which will be used to inform the masterplanning of this site.</p> <p>II. The site will provide for a mixed use development and <del>up to</del> <a href="#">around</a> 100 new homes between 2022 and 2027.</p> <p>III. The site will represent an extension of a historic market town. Therefore the masterplan will address the following:</p> <p>(a) the creation of a high quality mixed-use development of retail, leisure uses, along with a 'civic hub' of other commercial and community uses such as GP surgery and B1 office</p>   |

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|         |             |                    | <p>floorspace;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(b) the creation of new streets and public spaces;</li> <li>(c) connections between the site and the existing town centre, towards Castle Gardens and to parking areas off Link Road;</li> <li>(d) a reduction in traffic speed along Link Road, with new or enhanced crossing points;</li> <li>(e) a design and layout which respects the significance and relationship of the site with designated and un-designated heritage assets, within the Bishop's Stortford Town Centre Conservation Area;</li> <li>(f) key frontages such as Coopers will be enhanced by new public realm and buildings that reflect locally distinctive materials and design;</li> <li>(g) On-site car parking will need to be sufficient to meet the needs of the uses proposed, without encouraging travel to the town centre in order to avoid worsening traffic congestion and further impact on the Hockerill Air Quality Management Area. Parking will need to be provided to serve the town centre as well as commuters.</li> </ul> <p>IV. In addition, the development is expected to address the following provisions and issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing), including residential apartments on the upper floors of commercial uses;</li> <li>(b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);</li> </ul> |

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|         |                                     |                    | <p>(c) new utilities infrastructure where necessary;</p> <p>(d) planning obligations including on and off-site developer contributions where necessary and reasonably related to the development; and</p> <p>(e) other policy provisions of the District Plan, Bishop's Stortford Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan for Silverleys and Meads Wards and relevant matters, as appropriate.</p>   |
| MM/5/13 | Policy BISH9<br>East of Manor Links | 65                 | <p>I. Land to the east of Manor Links will provide <a href="#">around</a> 50 new homes between 2017 and 2022.</p> <p>II. The development is expected to address the following provisions and issues:</p> <p>(a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing), including the provision of bungalows to the rear of Manor Links itself;</p> <p>(b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);</p> <p>(c) access arrangements onto Manor Links, wider strategic and local highways mitigation measures, including improvements to Dunmow Road at the entrance to Manor Links;</p> <p>(d) sustainable transport measures which encourage walking and cycling through the site, including the provision of a new pedestrian crossing point on Dunmow Road;</p> <p>(e) responding to the existing landform, incorporating existing landscaping within new streets, paths and spaces, creating quality local green infrastructure which maximises opportunities presented by existing landscape features including watercourses, to create net gains to biodiversity through additional planting and other measures;</p> |

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|         |                                |                    | <p>(f) public amenity green space and play areas;</p> <p>(g) sustainable drainage and provision for flood mitigation;</p> <p>(h) necessary utilities, including integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home-working, and upgrades to the localised sewerage network <u>in order to serve the proposed development;</u></p> <p>(i) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure;</p> <p>(j) other policy provisions of the District Plan, Bishop's Stortford Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan for All Saints, Central, South and parts of Thorley Wards and relevant matters, as appropriate.</p>   |
| MM/5/14 | Policy BISH10<br>The Mill Site | 67-68              | <p>I. Reflecting the site's town centre location and proximity to the station, should the site come forward within or beyond the Plan period, the Bishop's Stortford Town Centre Planning Framework <del>will form the basis of a Supplementary Planning Document, which</del> will be used to inform the masterplanning of this site, <u>ensuring that partial redevelopment of the site does not prejudice the ongoing operation of the site for commercial purposes. Masterplanning of the site</u> This should be undertaken in a collaborative manner involving the District Council, Bishop's Stortford Town Council and other key stakeholders.</p> <p>II. Should the whole site, or any part of the site, come forward for development, the Mill Site shall include:</p> <p>(a) access along the river frontage connecting to the town centre via a new footbridge over the River Stort <u>towards which this site will contribute as appropriate;</u></p> <p>(b) a new riverside hub of leisure and commercial uses with active frontages on the ground floor with residential and/or B1 office space on upper floors. <u>Such development will not</u></p> |




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|         |             |                    | <p><u>prejudice the continued operation of the mill and residential uses will only be permissible if the Mill ceases to operate on the site and the employment land designation is subsequently removed;</u></p> <p>(c) retention and enhancement of the most significant historic buildings, including improving the setting of the Registration Office and adjacent listed building, reflecting the site's location within the Conservation Area;</p> <p>(d) high quality, vehicle-free public realm along the river frontage, enabling improved access to the town centre along the waterway. The orientation of buildings will retain an open riverside environment and building heights will avoid a 'canyon' effect;</p> <p>(e) a direct pedestrian and cycle-friendly route between the station to the south of the site, along Dane Street towards a new bridge over the river, connecting to the town centre;</p> <p>(f) high quality design which incorporates local material pallets and references the historic mill and industrial riverside heritage, incorporating sustainable design features;</p> <p>(g) opportunities for mooring;</p> <p>(h) landscaping and tree planting to reduce urban heat island effects;</p> <p>(i) the retention of a suitable buffer strip adjacent to Station Road Bridge to enable bridge widening to provide safe and attractive access between the station and the town centre for pedestrians and cyclists;</p> <p>III. If residential uses are proposed on upper floors, they should provide:</p> <p>(a) a range of dwelling size, in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix</p> |

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|         |             |                    | <p>of Housing), including some three-bed apartments;</p> <p>(b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);</p> <p>(c) necessary utilities, including integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home-working; and upgrades to the localised sewerage network;</p> <p>(d) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure;</p> <p>(e) other policy provisions of the District Plan, Bishop's Stortford Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan for Silverleys and Meads Wards and relevant matters, as appropriate.</p>                               |
| MM/5/15 | 5.4.3       | 69                 | <p><b>5.4.3</b> The Council <u>will continue to work with Uttlesford District Council to explore the potential expansion</u> of <del>understands that there is interest in expanding</del> the Employment Area at Goodliffe Park off Stansted Road, <del>which is within Uttlesford District Council.</del> <u>Furthermore, the Council will continue to work with Bishop's Stortford Football Club to explore options for the relocation of the football club. In the event that the club is relocated successfully, land at Woodside, Dunmow Road, Bishop's Stortford is considered suitable for employment uses.</u></p> |

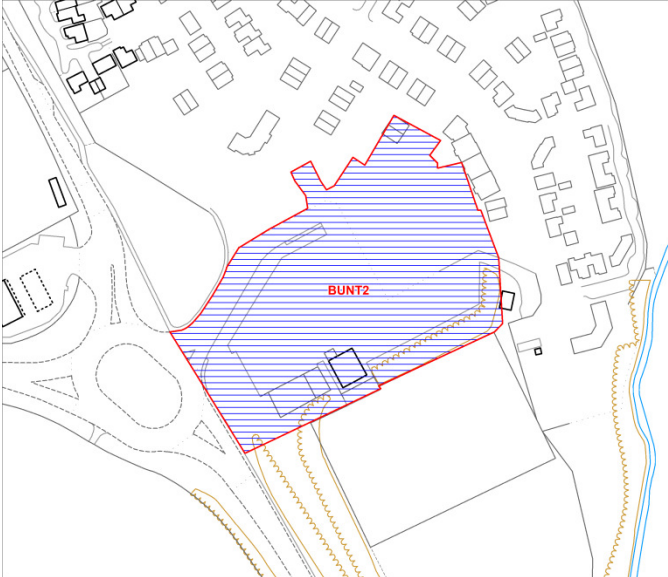
## Chapter 6: Buntingford

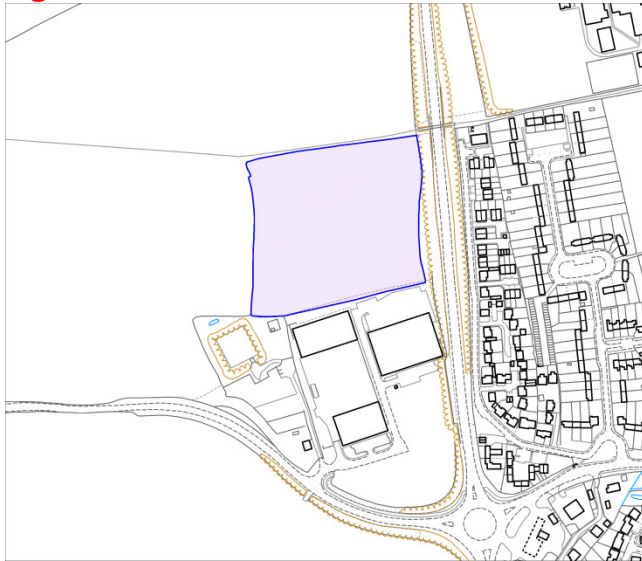
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| MM/6/01 | 6.1.11      | 75                 | <p><b>6.1.11</b> The educational needs of the town at the lowest tier, First Schools, will be met through the expansion of Millfield First and Nursery School to 2 forms of entry and through the provision of a new 2 form of entry First School in the town. Land to the <del>west</del> <u>east</u> of London Road has been allocated for this purpose. In addition, expansion of Layston C of E School may also be required.</p> |

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| MM/6/02 | 6.1.17   | 76                 | <b>6.1.17 Character:</b> Buntingford will preserve its market town character and the quality of the town's historic core will be respected in new development proposals. Development to the north and south of the town will enhance primary routes into the town, providing a visual transition between rural and urban, and development to the east will be appropriately landscaped, respecting the valley landscape of the town. <u>To the south-west the open character of the countryside between Aspenden and Buntingford will be preserved, thereby avoiding coalescence between the two communities.</u>   |
| MM/6/03 | New section 6.2  |                    | <p><b><u>6.2 Neighbourhood Plan</u></b></p> <p><b><u>6.2.1</u></b> The Buntingford Community Area Neighbourhood Plan was 'made' in May 2017. The Plan covers the market town of Buntingford and the surrounding villages of Aspenden, Buckland and Chipping, Cottered, Hormead and Wyddial. The Plan sets out policies on business and employment, environment and sustainability, housing development, infrastructure, leisure and recreation, and transport.</p> <p><b><u>6.2.2</u></b> The Plan forms part of the development plan and as such any proposals within the Neighbourhood Plan area must also accord with the policies set out in the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>  |
| MM/6/04 | 6.2.2 & 6.2.3<br><br>(renumbered as 6.3.2 and 6.3.3 – MC/6/04 and MC/6/05) | 77                 | <p><del><b>6.3.2</b> In recognition of the amount of development that has been approved in the town since 2011, no further site allocations for residential development are proposed as part of the District Plan Strategy. Therefore, the following policy will apply to applications for new development in Buntingford:</del> <u>Whilst no further site allocations for residential development are proposed as part of the District Plan Strategy, in order to reflect the fact that a substantial level of development has been granted planning permission in the town since 2011, these recently permitted sites have been included in Policy BUNT1.</u></p> <p><b>6.3.3</b> It is <u>also</u> expected that a proportion of the overall windfall allowance for the District will be accommodated in Buntingford. These sites will be determined on an individual basis, taking into account the policies of the Plan.</p> |
| MM/6/05 | Figure 6.1:  |                    | Original Key Diagram to be deleted. Replaced with updated Key Diagram.  |

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|         | Key Diagram for Buntingford.                   |                    | <p>New Key Diagram to be inserted:</p>  <p> <span style="color: purple;">★</span> New employment area<br/> <span style="background-color: grey; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px;"></span> Existing built up areas<br/> <span style="background: repeating-linear-gradient(45deg, transparent, transparent 2px, grey 2px, grey 4px); border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px;"></span> Development in progress/Committed development<br/> <span style="background-color: blue; color: white; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">F</span> New First School </p> <p>A10</p> <p>Map is illustrative</p> |
| MM/6/06 | Policy BUNT1 Development in <u>Buntingford</u> | 77                 | <p><del>In accordance with Policy DPS3 (Housing Supply 2011-2033), development proposals will be permitted within the town boundary as defined on the Policies Map</del> <u>Buntingford will accommodate a minimum of 1,074 homes</u>, which will include:</p> <p><u>(a) around 26 homes on land off Longmead;</u></p> <p><u>(b) around 160 homes on land north of Hare Street Road;</u></p> <p><u>(c) around 280 homes on land south of Hare Street Road;</u></p> <p><u>(d) around 56 homes on land off Aspenden Road;</u></p> <p><u>(e) around 316 homes on land to the east of London Road;</u></p>  |

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|         |             |                    | <p><u>(f) around 236 homes on land north of Park Farm Industrial Estate; and</u></p> <p>(g) a proportion of the overall windfall allowance for the District.</p>  |
| MM/6/07 | New 6.3.5   | 77                 | <u>6.3.5 In order to meet this need, land to the east of London Road has been allocated for the provision of a 2FE First School (see Figure 6.2). The site is strategically placed to meet future identified need and will ensure sufficient first school capacity in the town for the future to meet the anticipated demand in the Buntingford area.</u>   |
| MM/6/08 | 6.2.5       | 77                 | <del>6.2.5 Therefore, in order to meet the educational needs of the town, land west of London Road has been allocated for the provision of a 2FE First School.</del>  |
| MM/6/09 | 6.2.6       | 77                 | <del>6.2.6 HCC has indicated that a total site area of 1.4 hectares would be required for the provision of a 2FE First School. However, the whole of the site west of London Road (approximately 3.1 hectares) has been included in the site allocation, to allow more detailed feasibility work to be carried out to determine the most appropriate layout for the site.</del>   |
| MM/6/10 | 6.2.7       | 77                 | <del>6.2.7 Approximately 1 hectare of the site is protected by an 'Open Space, Sport and Recreation' policy designation (CFLR1). This designation covers a football pitch which is used by the local youth football club, Buntingford Cougars FC. This use would either need to be retained on the site, or provided elsewhere in the town, and given the need to provide additional recreation facilities to meet the needs of an increasing population, the dual community use of the school's playing pitch facilities will be required.</del> |
| MM/6/11 | 6.2.8       | 77                 | <del>6.2.8 The site will remain outside the settlement boundary of the town, as defined on the Policies Map, and development of the site for anything other than education use and recreation facilities will not be permitted.</del>   |
| MM/6/12 | Figure 6.2  | 78                 | <p><b>Figure 6.2 Site Location: Land west east of London Road</b></p> <p>Original Site Location Plan to be deleted and replaced with an updated Site Location Plan.</p>   |

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|         |   |                    | <p>New Site Location Plan to be inserted:</p>    |
| MM/6/13 | Policy BUNT2<br>First School<br>Site<br>Allocations | 78-79              | <p>I. Land to the <del>west</del> <u>east</u> of London Road, as shown on the Policies Map, is allocated for the development of a 2 form of entry First School.</p> <p>II. Development of the site is expected to be in accordance with Policy CFLR10 Education and address the following provisions and issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) suitable access arrangements and appropriate local highways mitigation measures;</li> <li>(b) sustainable transport measures including the encouragement of walking and cycling;</li> <li>(c) the extension of the existing footpath running along the western side of London Road;</li> <li>(d) the retention of a playing pitch on the site for dual community use;</li> </ul> |

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|         |  |                    | <p>(e) quality local green infrastructure through the site including opportunities for preserving and enhancing on-site assets; and</p> <p>(f) other policy provisions of the District Plan and relevant matters, as appropriate.</p>   |
| MM/6/14 | 6.3.2<br><br>(renumbered as 6.4.2 – MC/6/13) | 79                 | <p><b>6.4.2</b> The employment strategy for the town is to protect and enhance the existing employment areas in the town through the development of increased employment floorspace within the existing designated areas. <del>2 hectares of employment land has been retained through the redevelopment of the former Sainsbury's Depot site.</del> In addition, 3 hectares of additional employment land has <b>also</b> been allocated to the north of Buntingford Business Park (<a href="#">see Figure 6.3</a>).</p> |
| MM/6/15 | New Figure 6.3                               |                    | <p><b><u>Figure 6.3: Site Location: Land North of Buntingford Business Park</u></b></p>    |
| MM/6/16 | Policy BUNT3 Employment                      | 79                 | <p>I. In accordance with Policy ED1 (Employment), the following locations are designated as Employment Areas:</p>   |

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|         | in Buntingford |                    | <p>(a) Park Farm;</p> <p>(b) Buntingford Business Park;</p> <p>(c) Watermill Industrial Estate (reserved for B1, B2 and small-scale B8 uses);</p> <p><del>(d) London Road Employment Area (reserved for B1(a), B1(c) and/or D1 uses).</del></p> <p>II. In addition, 3 hectares of land located to the north of Buntingford Business Park has been allocated as an extension to the existing Employment Area.</p> |

## Chapter 7: Hertford

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| MM/7/01 | New paragraph 7.1.8                |                    | <u>7.1.8 Design: collaboratively prepared Masterplans for development in Hertford (at sites HERT2, HERT3, HERT4 and HERT5) will form an important part of the delivery of the site allocations. These Masterplans will provide a strong framework for the development, which will also embody the use of design codes. This will ensure the highest quality design and layout of each area and provide a comprehensive approach to the whole development, whilst reflecting different character areas across the sites. The Masterplans will accord with the provisions of Policy DES1 (Masterplanning).</u>         |
| MM/7/02 | 7.1.9 (renumbered 7.1.10-MC/07/02) | 83                 | <b>7.1.10 Transport:</b> the provision of enhanced bus services to support travel to and from new urban extensions to the town will provide links with the two existing railway stations and the central bus station. New development will support improved sustainable travel and will aid delivery of initiatives contained in Hertfordshire's Local Transport Plan 4/ <del>Hertfordshire 2050 Transport Vision</del> , and daughter documents, particularly those schemes detailed in the Hertford and Ware Urban Transport Plan (or in subsequent HCC transport policy documents). Mitigating measures will help |

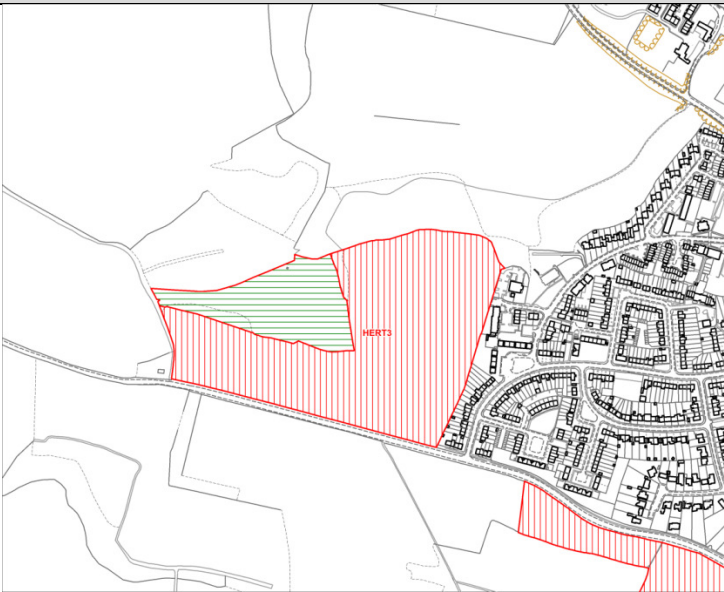


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|         |                                      |                    | ameliorate congestion, particularly on the A414, <u>where a bypass of the town and reassignment of one existing carriageway lane in each direction would enable prioritisation of sustainable transport modes and the ability for Hertford to become a Sustainable Travel Town.</u>  |
| MM/7/03 | Policy HERT1 Development in Hertford | 84/85              | <p><del>I. In accordance with Policy DPS3 (Housing Supply 2011-2033), Hertford will accommodate approximately</del> <u>a minimum of</u> 950 new homes, which will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <u>around</u> 200 homes as part of mixed use development in the Mead Lane area, as set out in Policy HERT2 (Mead Lane Area);</li> <li>b) <u>around</u> 550 homes to the west of the town, <del>in accordance with</del> <u>as set out in</u> Policy HERT3 (West of Hertford);</li> <li>c) <u>around</u> 150 homes to the west of B158 Wadesmill Road, as set out in Policy HERT4 (North of Hertford);</li> <li>d) <u>around</u> 50 homes to the west of Mangrove Road, <del>in accordance with</del> <u>as set out in</u> Policy HERT5 (South of Hertford); and,</li> <li>e) a proportion of the overall windfall allowance for the District.</li> </ul> <p><u>II. Retail floorspace will be delivered primarily within the town centre.</u></p> <p><u>III. 3,000sqm of B1 employment floorspace, or other employment generating uses that would be compatible with the uses on neighbouring land, will be delivered in the Mead Lane Area (HERT2).</u></p> |
| MM/7/04 | 7.2.5                                | 85                 | In order to meet the District's short term housing requirement and to provide for the housing needs of Hertford, development of <u>around</u> 200 dwellings in the Mead Lane area is proposed as part of mixed-use development.  |
| MM/7/05 | Policy HERT2                         | 86-87              | I. Land in the Mead Lane Area, to the east of Marshgate Drive, is allocated to provide   |

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|         | Mead Lane Area |                    | <p>approximately <u>around</u> 200 homes by 2027, as part of mixed-use development.</p> <p><u>II. A Masterplan will be collaboratively prepared, involving site promoters, landowners, East Herts Council, Hertfordshire County Council, Hertford Town Council, and other key stakeholders. This document will further be informed by public participation in the process.</u></p> <p>III. Subject to, and in accordance with, the provisions of the Mead Lane Urban Design Framework, December 2014, the development is expected to address the following provisions and issues:</p> <p>(a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing);</p> <p>(b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);</p> <p>(c) delivery of 3,000sqm B1 employment floorspace, <u>or other employment generating uses that would be compatible with the uses on neighbouring land,</u> which will provide appropriate opportunities to promote self-containment and sustainability and <del>should also act as</del> <u>to assist in providing</u> a buffer between existing employment uses and new residential provision;</p> <p><u>(d) provision of appropriate mitigation measures on boundaries shared with existing employment uses within the overall Employment Area that should both ensure a good quality living environment for new residents and prevent existing or potential uses within the Employment Area being jeopardised;</u></p> <p>(e) quality local green infrastructure throughout the site including maximising opportunities for linking into and improving existing assets and enhancing biodiversity, especially along the river corridor;</p> |

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|         |             |                    | <p>(f) necessary new utilities, including, inter alia: integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home working;</p> <p>(g) sustainable drainage and provision for flood mitigation;</p> <p>(h) access arrangements and appropriate local (with contributions towards wider, strategic) highways mitigation measures, which, inter alia, should include: <u>a segregated emergency access at Mill Road between Railway Street and Claud Hamilton Way; improvements to the Rowley's Road/Mead Lane level crossing for pedestrians and cyclists; and</u> a link between Marshgate Drive and the existing spur road to the east of the site to facilitate pedestrian and cycle access, and which should also complete the circulatory route to allow for the extension of bus routes into the area; <u>In the event that land ownership issues preclude this arrangement, provision should be made within the site for suitable access and turning arrangements to facilitate bus penetration to the north east part of the site;</u></p> <p>(i) the widening of Marshgate Drive to allow for improved vehicular and pedestrian access and car parking/car share scheme to be delivered within a Green Streets approach;</p> <p>(j) encouragement of sustainable transport measures, both through improvements to the existing walking and cycling networks in the locality and through new provision, which should include, inter alia, a 3m pedestrian/cycleway to the south side of Mead Lane in addition to improvements to the towpath and links with the adjoining area and the town centre (in particular addressing links to Hartham Common and Kings Meads) and enhanced passenger transport services;</p> <p>(k) remediation of land contamination resulting from former uses;</p> <p>(l) public open space/s within the site, including the provision of a play area and opportunities for public art interventions and space for wildlife;</p> |

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|         |  |                    | <p>(m) landscaping and planting, both within the site and peripheral, which responds to the existing landscape and complements development, as appropriate;</p> <p><u>(n) development will protect or, where appropriate, enhance heritage assets and their settings, including the Grade II listed Hertford East Station and Signal Box, through appropriate mitigation measures;</u></p> <p>(o) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure;</p> <p>(p) other policy provisions of the District Plan and relevant matters, as appropriate.</p> |
| MM/7/06 | 7.2.7  | 87                 | In order to meet the District's short term housing requirement and to provide for the housing needs of the town, development of <del>approximately</del> <u>around</u> 550 homes is proposed on land to the west of Hertford.  |
| MM/7/07 | Figure 7.3 Site Location:<br>Land West of Hertford<br>(North of Welwyn Road) | 88                 | <p>Revision of site boundary to extend area.</p> <p>Original Site Location Plan to be deleted and replaced with an updated Site Location Plan.</p> <p>New Site Location Plan to be inserted:</p>   |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para                      | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification   |
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|         |                                  |                    |    |
| MM/7/08 | Policy HERT3<br>West of Hertford | 89-92              | <p>I. Land to the west of Hertford is allocated as a residential site, to accommodate <u>a minimum of</u> 550 homes by 2022, with <u>around</u> 300 homes being provided to the north of Welwyn Road and <u>around</u> 250 homes south of Welwyn Road/west of Thieves Lane.</p> <p><u>II. A Masterplan will be collaboratively prepared, involving site promoters, landowners, East Herts Council, Hertfordshire County Council, Hertford Town Council, and other key stakeholders. This document will further be informed by public participation in the process.</u></p> <p>III. The development of <u>around</u> 300 dwellings to the north of Welwyn Road is expected to address the following provisions and issues:</p> <p>(a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing);</p> |

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|         |             |                       | <p>(b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);</p> <p>(c) Self-Build and Custom Build Housing in accordance with Policy HOU8 (Self-Build and Custom Build Housing);</p> <p>(d) demonstration of the extent of the mineral that may be present and the likelihood of prior extraction in an environmentally acceptable way has been fully considered. As a minimum, an assessment of the depth and quality of mineral, together with an appraisal of the consequential viability for prior extraction without prejudicing the delivery of housing within the plan period should be provided;</p> <p>(e) necessary new utilities, including, inter alia: integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home working, and necessary upgrades to the sewerage system;</p> <p>(f) sustainable drainage and provision for flood mitigation;</p> <p>(g) access arrangements and appropriate local (with contributions towards wider, strategic) highways mitigation measures;</p> <p>(h) encouragement of sustainable transport measures, both through improvements to the existing walking, cycling and bridleway networks in the locality and through new provision, which should also provide links with the adjoining area and the town centre (which should include, inter alia, the improvement of pedestrian and cycle access to Perrett Gardens and links from the Sele Farm estate to public footpaths and bridleways in the locality); shared use cycle/pedestrian way alongside Welwyn Road; enhanced passenger transport services (including, inter alia, improved service provision and the provision of new bus stops and shelters on B1000 Welwyn Road);</p> <p>(i) protection of public rights of way and other public access routes running through or on the</p> |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification  |
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|         |             |                    | <p>boundaries of the site;</p> <p>(j) landscaping and planting, both within the site and peripheral, which responds to the existing landscape and complements development, as appropriate, including the provision of a suitable buffer between the development and existing woodland areas <a href="#">and a defined, recognisable boundary to the Green Belt</a>;</p> <p>(k) public open spaces across the site, including the provision of play areas and opportunities for outdoor health and fitness activities, as well as space for wildlife;</p> <p>(l) quality local green infrastructure through the site including opportunities for preserving and enhancing on-site assets, maximising opportunities to link into existing assets and enhance biodiversity including the protection of Local Wildlife Site 59/077; Archers Spring; and other woodland and wildlife interests in the area, including a suitable buffer between woodland and development;</p> <p>(m) taking into account the contents of the 'Panshanger Park and its environs Heritage Impact Assessment, July 2016' and including measures to ensure that any impact on views affecting the Panshanger Country Park and Goldings are successfully mitigated;</p> <p>(n) contributions towards the Panshanger Country Park;</p> <p>(o) social infrastructure including contributions towards education, health services and other community facilities;</p> <p>(p) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure; and</p> <p>(q) other policy provisions of the District Plan and relevant matters, as appropriate.</p> |

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|         |             |                    | <p>IV. The development of <a href="#">around</a> 250 homes to the south of Welwyn Road/west of Thieves Lane is expected to address the following provisions and issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing);</li> <li>(b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);</li> <li>(c) Self-Build and Custom Build Housing in accordance with Policy HOU8 (Self-Build and Custom Build Housing);</li> <li>(d) demonstration of the extent of the mineral that may be present and the likelihood of prior extraction in an environmentally acceptable way has been fully considered. As a minimum, an assessment of the depth and quality of mineral, together with an appraisal of the consequential viability for prior extraction without prejudicing the delivery of housing within the plan period should be provided;</li> <li>(e) necessary new utilities infrastructure including, inter alia: integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home working, and necessary upgrades to the sewerage system;</li> <li>(f) sustainable drainage and provision for flood mitigation;</li> <li>(g) access arrangements and appropriate local (with contributions towards wider, strategic) highways mitigation measures;</li> <li>(h) encouragement of sustainable transport measures, both through improvements to the existing walking, cycling and bridleway networks in the locality and through new provision, which should also provide links with the adjoining area and the town centre; shared use cycle/pedestrian way alongside Welwyn Road; enhanced passenger transport services</li> </ul> |



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|         |             |                    | <p>(including, inter alia, improved service provision and the provision of new bus stops and shelters on B1000 Welwyn Road);</p> <p>(i) protection of all public rights of way and other public access routes running through or on the boundaries of the site;</p> <p>(j) landscaping and planting, both within the site and peripheral, which responds to the existing landscape and complements development, as appropriate, including, inter alia, the provision of a suitable buffer between the development and the existing woodland <a href="#">and a defined, recognisable boundary to the Green Belt</a>;</p> <p>(k) taking into account the contents of the 'Panshanger Park and its environs Heritage Impact Assessment, July 2016' and including measures to ensure that development respects the relationship with this sensitive location. Such measures should include, inter alia, the creation of gateway landscaping to the south of the site, which protects key views into and from within the Panshanger Country Park and ensures that the development is successfully mitigated;</p> <p>(l) contributions towards the Panshanger Country Park;</p> <p>(m) public open spaces across the site, including the provision of play areas and opportunities for outdoor health and fitness activities, as well as space for wildlife;</p> <p>(n) quality local green infrastructure through the site including opportunities for preserving and enhancing on-site assets, maximising opportunities to link into existing assets and enhance biodiversity including the protection of Local Wildlife Site 58/025; Ancient and other woodland and wildlife interests in the area, including a suitable buffer between woodland and development;</p> |

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|         |                                |                    | <p>(o) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure; and</p> <p>(p) other policy provisions of the District Plan and relevant matters, as appropriate.</p>   |
| MM/7/09 | 7.2.9                          | 92                 | In order to meet the District's short and medium term housing requirement and to provide for the housing needs of the town, a development of up to <a href="#">around</a> 150 new homes is proposed to the North of Hertford.   |
| MM/7/10 | 7.2.10                         | 92                 | <del>As the phasing of development will need to ensure that underlying mineral deposits in the locality can be satisfactorily extracted and that such resource is not sterilised, 50 dwellings will be provided by 2022 on the Bengoe Nursery site, with a further 100 dwellings provided by 2027, subject to the prior completion of minerals extraction on the adjoining site, where this would impact on the ability of the development to be delivered.</del>   |
| MM/7/11 | Policy HERT4 North of Hertford | 93-94              | <p>I. Land to the north of Hertford is allocated as a residential development site to accommodate <a href="#">a minimum of</a> 150 homes, with <a href="#">around</a> 50 dwellings being provided to the north of Sacombe Road by 2022; and, subject to the satisfactory previous phased extraction of mineral deposits on the neighbouring site, <a href="#">around</a> 100 homes to the west of B158 Wadesmill Road between 2022 and 2027.</p> <p><u>II. A Masterplan will be collaboratively prepared, involving site promoters, landowners, East Herts Council, Hertfordshire County Council, Hertford Town Council, and other key stakeholders. This document will further be informed by public participation in the process.</u></p> <p>III. The development is expected to address the following provisions and issues:</p> <p>(a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing);</p> <p>(b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);</p> |

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|         |             |                    | <p>(c) demonstration of the extent of the mineral that may be present and the likelihood of prior extraction in an environmentally acceptable way has been fully considered. As a minimum, an assessment of the depth and quality of mineral, together with an appraisal of the consequential viability for prior extraction without prejudicing the delivery of housing within the plan period should be provided;</p> <p>(d) necessary new utilities, including, inter alia: integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home working;</p> <p>(e) necessary upgrades to the sewerage system;</p> <p>(f) sustainable drainage and provision for flood mitigation;</p> <p>(g) access arrangements and appropriate local (with contributions towards wider, strategic) highways mitigation measures;</p> <p>(h) encouragement of sustainable transport measures, both through improvements to the existing walking, cycling and bridleway networks in the locality and through new provision, which should also provide links with the adjoining area and the town centre and enhanced passenger transport services;</p> <p>(i) protection of all public rights of way (including, inter alia, the protection of the restricted byway) and other public access routes running through or on the boundaries of the site;</p> <p>(j) landscaping and planting, both within the site and peripheral, which responds to the existing landscape and complements development, as appropriate and provides a defined, recognisable boundary to the Green Belt;</p> <p>(k) public open spaces across the site, including the provision of play areas and opportunities</p> |

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|         |                                       |                    | <p>for outdoor health and fitness activities, as well as space for wildlife;</p> <p>(l) quality local green infrastructure through the site including opportunities for preserving and enhancing on-site assets, maximising opportunities to link into existing assets and enhance biodiversity;</p> <p>(m) measures to ensure that any impact on wildlife within the site and at the nearby Waterford Heath nature reserve is successfully mitigated;</p> <p>(n) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure; and</p> <p>(o) other policy provisions of the District Plan and relevant matters, as appropriate.</p>  |
| MM/7/12 | 7.2.11<br>(renumbered 7.2.10-MC/7/13) | 92                 | <b>7.2.10</b> In order to contribute towards the District's short term housing requirement and to provide for the housing needs of the town, development of <del>approximately</del> <u>around</u> 50 dwellings is proposed to the South of Hertford.   |
| MM/7/13 | Policy HERT5<br>South of Hertford     | 96                 | <p>I. Land to the south of Hertford is allocated as a residential development site to accommodate <del>approximately</del> <u>around</u> 50 homes to the west of Mangrove Road by 2022.</p> <p>II. A Masterplan will be collaboratively prepared, involving site promoters, landowners, East Herts Council, Hertfordshire County Council, Hertford Town Council, and other key stakeholders. This document will further be informed by public participation in the process.</p> <p>III. The development is expected to address the following provisions and issues:</p> <p>(a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing);</p> <p>(b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);</p> |

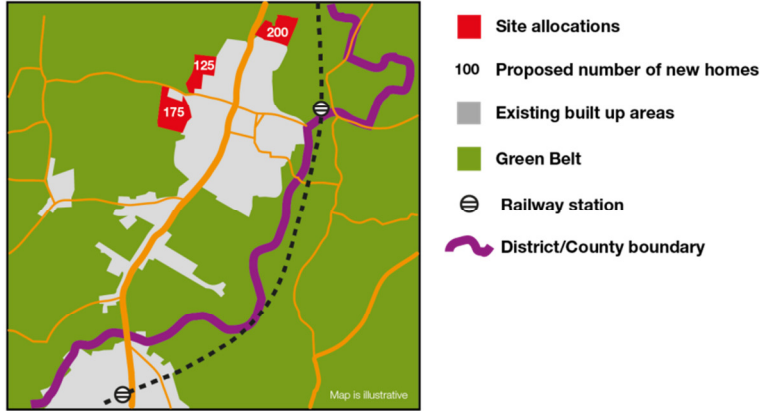
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|         |             |                    | <p>(c) demonstration of the extent of the mineral that may be present and the likelihood of prior extraction in an environmentally acceptable way has been fully considered. As a minimum, an assessment of the depth and quality of mineral, together with an appraisal of the consequential viability for prior extraction without prejudicing the delivery of housing within the plan period should be provided;</p> <p>(d) development that is compatible with, and complements, the character of local heritage assets and designations, including, inter alia, the adjacent Grade I Balls Park and its Grade II Registered Garden;</p> <p>(e) necessary new utilities including, inter alia: integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home working;</p> <p>(f) access arrangements and appropriate local (with contributions towards wider, strategic) highways mitigation measures;</p> <p>(g) encouragement of sustainable transport measures, both through improvements to the existing walking and cycling networks in the locality and through new provision, which should also provide links with the adjoining area and the town centre (including, inter alia, an upgraded pedestrian and cycle way along Mangrove Road to Simon Balle School), and enhanced passenger transport services;</p> <p>(h) landscaping and planting, both within the site and peripheral, which responds to the existing landscape and complements development, as appropriate;</p> <p>(i) public open space within the site, including the provision of a play area and opportunities for outdoor health and fitness activities, as well as space for wildlife;</p> |

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|         |                                     |                    | <p>(j) quality local green infrastructure through the site including opportunities for preserving and enhancing on-site assets, maximising opportunities to link into existing assets and enhance biodiversity. This should include, but not be limited to, the provision of a public amenity greenspace buffer (which will remain in the Green Belt) between the development and Hagsdell Stream to allow for the preservation of that part of the Hertford Green Finger. This shall include the existing treed area at the higher level, the tree belt at the lower level, and the sloped area of land between them leading towards Hagsdell Stream, and should also provide for public pedestrian access from Mangrove Road along with the protection of any public rights of way and other public access routes running through or on the boundaries of the site;</p> <p>(k) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure; and</p> <p>(l) other policy provisions of the District Plan and relevant matters, as appropriate.</p> |
| MM/7/14 | 7.3.2                               | 97                 | <p>Hertford's location in relation to accessing the major road network means that it is an attractive place for businesses to locate; however, the A414 has a propensity towards congestion, especially at peak times, which can affect ease of access to some areas and will require mitigation in line with the provisions of Hertfordshire County Council's <del>emerging 2050 Transport Vision</del> <u>Local Transport Plan 4. It is currently proposed that this will include provision of a Hertford bypass to address identified constraints on the A414 in combination with Sustainable Travel Town initiatives.</u></p>   |
| MM/7/15 | Policy HERT6 Employment in Hertford |                    | <p>I. In accordance with Policy ED1 (Employment), the following locations are designated as Employment Areas:</p> <p>(a) Caxton Hill;</p> <p>(b) Foxholes Business Park;</p> <p>(c) Hartham Lane;</p>   |

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|         |                       |                    | <p>(d) Mead Lane – East of Marshgate Drive (including the provisions of <a href="#">Policy HERT2 Mead Lane Area</a> the Mead Lane Urban Development Framework);</p> <p>(e) Mimram Road;</p> <p>(f) Warehams Lane;</p> <p>(g) Windsor Industrial Estate, Ware Road.</p> <p>II. In addition, in accordance with Policy ED1 (Employment), the following location is designated as an Employment Area reserved primarily for B1 use:</p> <p>(a) Pegs Lane.</p>   |
| MM/7/16 | 7.4.5                 | 98                 | <p>The Strategy, which is underpinned by robust technical evidence and two rounds of public consultation, has been agreed by East Herts Council, Hertfordshire County Council and Hertford Town Council, which will continue to work together to help bring its proposals to fruition. While provisions are included for improvements across Hertford's entire central core, of particular note is the Bircherley Green key site area, which is viewed as being the most important development opportunity site in the town centre. Key use and urban design principles for the mixed use redevelopment of this area, based around a revitalised retail offer, are included in the Strategy. Therefore, where any redevelopment proposals emerge for Bircherley Green <a href="#">or other town centre sites</a>, these should respond positively to the detailed provisions of the Strategy. It is intended that the Strategy will be adopted by East Herts Council as a Supplementary Planning Document in due course.</p> |
| MM/7/17 | Policy HERT7 Hertford | 99                 | <p>Development proposals in Hertford Town Centre will be expected to conform with <a href="#">take account of</a>, and positively contribute to, proposals contained within the Hertford Town Centre Urban Design</p>  |

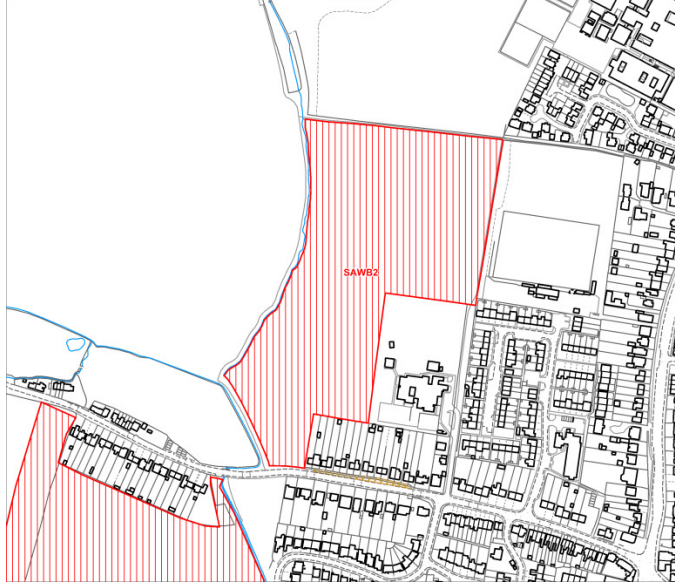
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|         | Town Centre Urban Design Strategy |                    | Strategy, as appropriate.  |

## Chapter 8: Sawbridgeworth

| Ref No. | Policy/Para            | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification  |
|---------|------------------------|--------------------|---|
| MM/8/01 | New 8.1.11             |                    | <u><b>8.1.11 Design:</b> collaboratively prepared Masterplans for development in Sawbridgeworth (at sites SAWB2, SAWB3 and SAWB4) will form an important part of the delivery of the site allocations. These Masterplans will provide a strong framework for the development, which will ensure the highest quality design and layout of each area and provide a comprehensive approach to the development as a whole, whilst reflecting different character areas across the sites. The Masterplans will accord with the provisions of Policy DES1 (Masterplanning).</u> |
| MM/8/02 | Figure 8.1 Key Diagram | 103                | <p>Original Key Diagram to be deleted and replaced with an updated Key Diagram to remove the green space to the west of the site allocation for 175 homes.</p> <p>New Key Diagram to be inserted:</p>    |

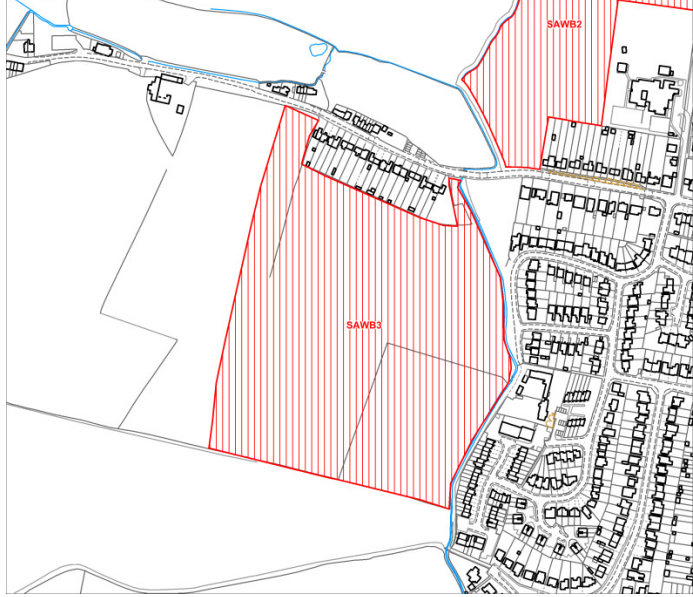


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| MM/8/03 | Policy SAWB1<br>Development in<br>Sawbridgeworth           | 104                | <p><u>I. In accordance with Policy DPS3 (Housing Supply 2011-2033), Sawbridgeworth will accommodate approximately <b>a minimum of</b> 500 new homes, which will include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) <b>around</b> 125 homes to the west of the town on land to the north of West Road, as set out in Policy SAWB2 (Land to the North of West Road);</li> <li>(b) <b>around</b> 175 homes to the west of the town on land to the south of West Road, as set out in Policy SAWB3 (Land to the South of West Road);</li> <li>(c) <b>around</b> 200 homes to the north of the town, as set out in Policy SAWB4 (Land to the North of Sawbridgeworth); and</li> <li>(d) a proportion of the overall windfall allowance for the District.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>II. New retail and employment development will be directed to the town centre to maintain the vitality and viability of the town.</u></b></p> |
| MM/8/04 | 8.2.5  | 104                | <p><b>8.2.5</b> In order to contribute towards the District's short term housing requirement, and to provide for the housing needs of Sawbridgeworth, development of <b>around</b> approximately 125 homes is proposed on land to the north of West Road.</p>   |
| MM/8/05 | Figure 8.2 Site<br>Location: Land<br>North of West<br>Road | 105                | <p>Original Site Location Plan to be deleted and replaced with an updated Site Location Plan to remove the green space to the west of the site allocation for 175 homes (SAWB3).<br/>New Site Location Plan to be inserted:</p>   |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para                                    | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification   |
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|         |  |                    |    |
| MM/8/06 | Policy SAWB2<br>Land to the North of West Road | 105-106            | <p>I. Land to the north of West Road is allocated as a residential development site, to <u>will</u> accommodate approximately <u>a around</u> 125 homes by 2022.</p> <p><u>II. A Masterplan will be collaboratively prepared, involving site promoters, landowners, East Herts Council, Hertfordshire County Council, Sawbridgeworth Town Council, and other key stakeholders. This document will further be informed by public participation in the process.</u></p> <p>III. The development is expected to address the following provisions and issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing);</li> <li>(b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);</li> </ul> |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification   |
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|         |             |                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(c) sustainable transport measures including the encouragement of walking and cycling, in particular to the town centre and railway station, and enhanced passenger transport services;</li> <li>(d) an enhanced public footpath and cycleway from West Road to enable direct pedestrian and cycle access to Mandeville School and Leventhorpe School;</li> <li>(e) the setting aside of 1.2ha of land to facilitate the expansion of Mandeville School to two forms of entry, including the provision of a new access route;</li> <li>(f) off road parking spaces to serve Mandeville School;</li> <li>(g) necessary utilities, including integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home working, and upgrades to the localised sewerage network;</li> <li>(h) sustainable drainage and provision for flood mitigation;</li> <li>(i) access arrangements and local highways mitigation measures, including junction improvements at the West Road/A1184 junction;</li> <li>(j) quality local green infrastructure throughout the site including opportunities for preserving and enhancing on-site assets, maximising opportunities to link into existing assets and enhancing biodiversity;</li> <li>(k) new public amenity space;</li> <li>(l) landscaping and planting, both within the site and peripheral, to complement development, as appropriate;</li> </ul> |

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|         |  |                    | <p>(m) enhanced landscaping along the western boundary of the site to provide a soft edge to the development and define the new Green Belt boundary;</p> <p>(n) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure;</p> <p>(o) other policy provisions of the District Plan and relevant matters, as appropriate.</p>   |
| MM/8/07 | 8.2.9  | 106                | In order to contribute towards the District's short term housing requirement and to provide for the housing needs of Sawbridgeworth, development of around <del>approximately</del> <u>around</u> 175 homes is proposed on land to the south of West Road.   |
| MM/8/08 | 8.2.10   | 106                | <b>8.2.10</b> As with land to the north of West Road (SAWB2), the site provides an opportunity to deliver a range of housing types and tenures in a location that benefits from excellent access to town centre amenities. <del>A substantial amount of high quality public green space will be delivered, particularly on the western section of the site which will provide a buffer between new development and the countryside beyond.</del> |
| MM/8/09 | Figure 8.3 Site Location: Land South of West Road. | 107                | Original Site Location Plan to be deleted and replaced with an updated Site Location Plan to remove the green hatched area to the west of the site allocation.<br>New Site Location Plan to be inserted:   |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para                                    | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification   |
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|         |  |                    |    |
| MM/8/10 | Policy SAWB3<br>Land to the South of West Road | 107-108            | <p>I. Land to the south of West Road is <del>allocated as a residential development site</del>, to <u>will</u> accommodate <del>approximately</del> <u>around</u> 175 homes by 2022.</p> <p><u>II. A Masterplan will be collaboratively prepared, involving site promoters, landowners, East Herts Council, Hertfordshire County Council, Sawbridgeworth Town Council, and other key stakeholders. This document will further be informed by public participation in the process.</u></p> <p>III. The development is expected to address the following provisions and issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing);</li> <li>(b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);</li> </ul> |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification  |
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|         |             |                    | <p>(c) quality local green infrastructure through the site including opportunities for preserving and enhancing on-site assets (such as Sawbridgeworth Brook), maximising opportunities to link into existing assets and enhance biodiversity;</p> <p>(d) necessary utilities, including integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home working, and upgrades to the localised sewerage network;</p> <p>(e) sustainable drainage and provision for flood mitigation;</p> <p>(f) access arrangements and local highways mitigation measures, including junction improvements at the West Road/A1184 junction;</p> <p>(g) sustainable transport measures including the encouragement of walking and cycling, in particular to the town centre and railway station, and enhanced passenger transport services;</p> <p>(h) the extension of the existing footpath running along the southern side of West Road to serve the new development;</p> <p><del>(i) quality local green infrastructure throughout the site including opportunities for preserving and enhancing on-site assets, maximising opportunities to link into existing assets and enhancing biodiversity;</del></p> <p>(i) new public amenity space;</p> <p>(j) landscaping and planting, both within the site and peripheral, to complement development, as appropriate;</p> |

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|         |   |                    | <p>(k) provision of an appropriate structural landscape belt and public open space along the western and southern boundaries of the site to provide a soft edge to the development and define the new Green Belt boundary;</p> <p>(l) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure;</p> <p>(m) other policy provisions of the District Plan and relevant matters, as appropriate.</p>  |
| MM/8/11 | 8.2.12  | 108                | In order to contribute towards the District's longer term housing requirement and to provide for the housing needs of Sawbridgeworth, development of approximately <u>around</u> 200 homes is proposed on land to the north of Sawbridgeworth.  |
| MM/8/12 | Policy SAWB4<br>Land to the North of Sawbridgeworth | 109-110            | <p>I. Land to the north of Sawbridgeworth is allocated as a residential development site, to <u>will</u> accommodate approximately <u>around</u> 200 homes by 2027.</p> <p><u>II. A Masterplan will be collaboratively prepared, involving site promoters, landowners, East Herts Council, Hertfordshire County Council, Sawbridgeworth Town Council, and other key stakeholders. This document will further be informed by public participation in the process.</u></p> <p>III. The development is expected to address the following provisions and issues:</p> <p>(a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing);</p> <p>(b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);</p> <p>(c) Self-Build and Custom Build Housing in accordance with Policy HOU8 (Self-Build and Custom Build Housing);</p> <p>(d) necessary utilities, including integrated communications to facilitate home working, and upgrades to the localised sewerage network;</p> |


| Ref No. | Policy/Para                   | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification   |
|---------|-------------------------------|--------------------|--|
|         |                               |                    | <p>(e) sustainable drainage and provision for flood mitigation;</p> <p>(f) access arrangements and local highways mitigation measures;</p> <p>(g) sustainable transport measures including the encouragement of walking and cycling, in particular to the town centre and railway station, and enhanced passenger transport services;</p> <p>(h) quality local green infrastructure throughout the site including opportunities for preserving and enhancing on-site assets, maximising opportunities to link into existing assets and enhancing biodiversity;</p> <p>(i) new public amenity space;</p> <p>(j) landscaping and planting, both within the site and peripheral, to complement development, as appropriate;</p> <p>(k) provision of an appropriate structural landscape belt and public open space along the eastern boundary of the site to provide a soft edge to the development and define the new Green Belt boundary;</p> <p>(l) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure;</p> <p>(m) other policy provisions of the District Plan and relevant matters, as appropriate.</p> |
| MM/8/13 | 8.5.1 & 8.5.2<br>Policy SAWB5 | 111                | <del>8.5.1 A site is allocated to the north of Leventhorpe School in order to help address the existing identified shortfall in sports pitch provision in Sawbridgeworth. Development proposals will be considered in accordance with Policy CFLR1 (Open Space, Sport and Recreation).</del>   |



| Ref No. | Policy/Para            | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification   |
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|         | Sports Pitch Provision |                    | <p><b>8.5.1</b> New development in Sawbridgeworth will increase demand for local services and community facilities including healthcare and education. It is important that developments in Sawbridgeworth enhance existing, and provide new community facilities in order to ensure existing and new communities can access vital services without the need to travel to neighbouring settlements. In this respect, development proposals will be considered in accordance with Policies CFLR7 (Community Facilities), CFLR8 (Loss of Community Facilities), CFLR9 (Health and Wellbeing) and CFLR10 (Education).</p> <p><b><del>Policy SAWB5 Sports Pitch Provision</del></b><br/> <del>A site of 14 hectares is allocated to the north of Leventhorpe School as shown on the Policies Map for sports pitch provision.</del></p> |

## Chapter 9: Ware

| Ref No. | Policy/Para                      | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification   |
|---------|----------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| MM/9/01 | 9.1.9                            | 115                | <p><b>Design:</b> a collaboratively prepared Masterplan for the development of the North and East of Ware (WARE2) will form an important part of the delivery of the site allocation. This Masterplan, incorporating Garden City design principles, will provide a strong framework for the development, which will also embody the use of design codes. This will ensure the highest quality design and layout of the area and provide a comprehensive and unified approach to the whole development, whilst reflecting different character areas across the site. <u>The Masterplan will accord with the provisions of Policy DES1 Masterplanning.</u></p> |
| MM/9/02 | Figure 9.1: Key Diagram for Ware | 117                | <p>Original Key Diagram to be deleted and replaced with an updated Key Diagram in response to issue raised by Ptarmigan Planning (1051701) to allow for flexibility in bringing forward an additional 500 dwellings, beyond the initial 1,000 dwellings, should suitable mitigation measures to identified road network constraints be agreed by Hertfordshire County Council, either within the Plan period or beyond. Change to Key:</p>   |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para                      | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification  |
|---------|----------------------------------|--------------------|---|
|         |                                  |                    | <p>Site allocation (with a further 500 homes beyond 2033)</p>  <p> <span style="color: red;">■</span> Site allocation<br/> <span style="color: blue;">S</span> New secondary school<br/> <span style="color: blue;">P</span> New primary school(s)<br/> <span style="color: purple;">★</span> New employment area<br/> <span style="color: yellow;">●</span> New neighbourhood centre<br/> <span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">⊖</span> Railway station<br/> <span style="background-color: lightgrey;">■</span> Existing built up areas<br/> <span style="background-color: lightgreen;">■</span> Green Belt </p> <p><small>Map is illustrative</small></p> |
| MM/9/03 | Policy WARE1 Development in Ware | 118                | <p>I. <del>In accordance with Policy DPS3 (Housing Supply 2011-2033), Ware will accommodate at least 1,000 homes, which will include:</del></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a) <u>at least</u> 1,000 homes to the North and East of Ware, <u>as set out in Policy WARE2</u>; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b) a proportion of the overall windfall allowance for the District.</p> <p><u>II. 600sqm retail floorspace will be delivered, primarily to the North and East of Ware, as set out in Policy WARE2, and within the town centre.</u></p> <p><u>III. 3ha of B1 employment floorspace will be delivered to the North and East of Ware, as set out in Policy WARE2.</u></p>   |
| MM/9/04 | 9.2.5                            | 118                | <p>In order to contribute towards the District's medium to long-term housing requirement, and to provide for the housing needs of Ware, a development of at least 1,000 homes is identified to the North and East of Ware to be delivered by 2033, with the intention to provide for a further 500</p>  |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para                                 | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification   |
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|         |   |                    | <p>dwelling beyond this plan period, should satisfactory mitigation to identified highway constraints in both the local, and wider strategic, road networks prove achievable and deliverable.</p>  |
| MM/9/05 | Policy WARE2<br>Land North and East of Ware | 119                | <p>I. Land to the North and East of Ware is allocated as a mixed-use development site, to accommodate approximately <b>at least</b> 1,000 new homes by 2033.</p> <p>II. In the longer term, and in the event that suitable mitigation measures to identified constraints on both the local and wider strategic road networks can be identified and agreed by Hertfordshire County Council as Transport Authority, a further 500 dwellings will also be delivered in this location.</p> <p>III. <del>Prior to the submission of any planning application/s</del> A Masterplan setting out the quantum and distribution of land uses; access; sustainable high quality design and layout principles; necessary infrastructure; the relationship between the site and other nearby settlements; landscape and heritage assets; and other relevant matters, will be collaboratively prepared involving site promoters, landowners, East Herts Council, Hertfordshire County Council, town and parish councils and key stakeholders. This document will further be informed by public participation in the process.</p> <p>IV. The site will incorporate Garden City principles and be planned comprehensively to create a new sustainable community which connects well with and complements the existing town and its existing historic centre.</p> <p>V. The development is expected to address the following provisions and issues:</p> <p>(a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing);</p> <p>(b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);</p> |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification   |
|---------|-------------|--------------------|--|
|         |             |                    | <p>(c) Self-Build and Custom Build Housing in accordance with Policy HOU8 (Self-Build and Custom Build Housing);</p> <p>(d) a care home/flexi-care or sheltered properties in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU6 (Specialist Housing for Older and Vulnerable People);</p> <p>(e) provision of a site for Travelling Showpeople, in accordance with Policy HOU9 (Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople) which should deliver 4 serviced plots within the plan period (each of sufficient size to allow for the provision of accommodation and equipment plus storage/maintenance), to be provided within a larger area that should be safeguarded to allow for future expansion to a total of 8 plots, as evidence of need dictates;</p> <p>(f) demonstration of the extent of the mineral that may be present and the likelihood of prior extraction in an environmentally acceptable way has been fully considered. As a minimum, an assessment of the depth and quality of mineral, together with an appraisal of the consequential viability for prior extraction without prejudicing the delivery of housing within the plan period should be provided;</p> <p>(g) quality local green infrastructure throughout the site including opportunities for preserving and enhancing on-site assets, maximising opportunities to link into existing assets and enhancing biodiversity (including, inter alia, the protection of wildlife sites 46/004 and 60/001 and the Historic Parks and Gardens at Fanhams Hall and Poles Park, Hanbury Manor);</p> <p>(h) necessary new utilities, including, inter alia: integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home working, and a new foul sewer to link the development from the north of Ware to existing infrastructure to the east of the town and any necessary pumping station/s;</p> |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification   |
|---------|-------------|--------------------|--|
|         |             |                    | <p>(i) satisfactory water supply, including acceptable water pressure for occupants;</p> <p>(j) sustainable drainage and provision for flood mitigation;</p> <p>(k) access arrangements and local highways and wider strategic mitigation measures which, inter alia, should include a link road between the Widbury Hill area and the A10/A1170 to both serve the development and mitigate congestion elsewhere in the town, and further should contribute to addressing impacts in the town centre and on the A10 between Ware and Hertford and the A414 in Hertford;</p> <p>(l) encouragement of sustainable transport measures, both through improvements to the existing walking, cycling and bridleway networks in the locality and through new provision, which should also provide links with the adjoining area and the town centre (which should also include a direct public footpath and cycleway from the High Oak Road area to enable direct pedestrian and cycle access to Wodson Park and the A1170), together with enhanced passenger transport services (particularly in respect of bus provision and access to the town centre and railway station);</p> <p>(m) <u>land for up to three forms of entry</u> primary school/s <u>provision</u> (including early years provision) <del>commensurate with the level of development to serve both the development and appropriate surrounding catchment area/s.</del> <u>The school/s should provide for the dual use of facilities for community purposes;</u></p> <p>(n) <u>land for up to eight forms of entry</u> secondary school provision <del>commensurate with the level of development within a site suitable for the provision of at least six forms of entry to serve the development and the wider Hertford and Ware Schools Planning Area.</del> <u>The school should provide for the dual use of facilities for community purposes;</u></p> |

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|         |             |                    | <p>(o) a neighbourhood centre in an accessible location, providing local retail and community uses, including healthcare facilities to meet the day-to-day retail and health needs of new residents;</p> <p>(p) employment area/s (of around 3ha), within visible and accessible location/s close to the neighbourhood centre, which provides appropriate opportunities to promote self-containment and sustainability;</p> <p>(q) indoor and outdoor sports facilities (which may be shared use) to include, inter alia, junior football and mini soccer pitches;</p> <p>(r) a variety of public open spaces across the site, including the provision of play areas, <u>allotments</u>, and opportunities for outdoor health and fitness activities, as well as space for wildlife;</p> <p>(s) consideration of need for cemetery provision;</p> <p>(t) landscaping and planting, both within the site and peripheral, which responds to the existing landscape and complements development, as appropriate, <u>and a defined and recognisable boundary to the Green Belt</u>;</p> <p>(u) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure <u>in accordance with Policy DEL1 (infrastructure and Service Delivery)</u>;</p> <p>(v) other policy provisions of the District Plan and relevant matters, as appropriate.</p> <p>VI. In order to ensure that the site is planned and delivered comprehensively, any application for development on part of the site will be assessed against its contribution to the Masterplan, and will ensure that such development would not prejudice the implementation of the site</p> |

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|         |             |                    | allocation as a whole.     |

## Chapter 10: Villages

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para                            | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification   |
|----------|--|--------------------|--|
| MM/10/01 | New Section 10.2 (moved from 10.4)     |                    | <p><b><u>10.2 Neighbourhood Plans</u></b></p> <p><b><u>10.2.1</u></b> Neighbourhood planning is a key part of the Government's localism agenda. It aims to give local communities greater power to shape their neighbourhood by taking a more active role in the development of planning policies at a local level.</p> <p><b><u>10.2.2</u></b> A Neighbourhood Plan allows communities to create both a vision and planning policies for the use and development of land in their village. For example, communities can identify where new homes should be built, what they should look like and identify local infrastructure needs.</p> <p><b><u>10.2.3</u></b> The District Council wants to give Parish Councils the opportunity to empower local people to take a proactive role in shaping the future of the areas in which they live, and give local people greater ownership of the plans and policies that affect their local area. In accordance with Policy VILL1 (Group 1 Villages), Parish Councils will therefore be encouraged to prepare Neighbourhood Plans, in accordance with the provisions of the District Plan, to allocate land for development or to introduce additional policy requirements aimed at ensuring that development contributes toward local distinctiveness or other community objectives. Other Parish Councils may also wish to consider producing a Neighbourhood Plan to shape development in their villages.</p> |
| MM/10/02 | 10.2.1 (renumbered as 10.3.1-MC/10/04) | 127                | <b>10.3.1</b> In accordance with Policy DPS3 (Housing Supply 2011-2033) the villages <u>Group 1 Villages</u> will together accommodate at least 500 new homes, between 2017-2033.  |
| MM/10/03 | 10.2.3                                 | 128                | <b>10.3.3</b> Having regard to the need to promote sustainable patterns of development, and to ensure  |

| Ref No.                                    | Policy/Para                     | District Plan Page   | Proposed Main Modification  |              |                     |                      |                      |           |     |     |    |                       |  |            |           |         |     |     |    |             |       |     |    |                      |       |       |     |  |  |            |           |         |       |     |    |                        |  |            |           |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------------|---|--------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------|-----|-----|----|-----------------------|--|------------|-----------|---------|-----|-----|----|-------------|-------|-----|----|----------------------|-------|-------|-----|--|--|------------|-----------|---------|-------|-----|----|------------------------|--|------------|-----------|
|  | (renumbered as 10.3.3-MC/10/06) |                      | delivery of the overall housing requirement for the villages, Group 1 Villages located within the Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt (Braughing, Hunsdon, Much Hadham, Standon & Puckeridge and Walkern) will need to accommodate at least a 10% increase in housing stock (based on the 2011 Census) over the 16-year period between 1st April 2017 and 31st March 2033. This is a level of housing growth that is considered fair, achievable and sustainable for each of the settlements concerned and that will make a meaningful contribution towards alleviating future housing demands, addressing local housing needs and supporting the village economy. Table 10.1 shows the minimum number of homes that each village will need to accommodate. However, development in excess of the minimum number indicated, may be considered appropriate, depending on site availability, site suitability and upon the capacity of infrastructure to meet the additional demand that arises. |              |                     |                      |                      |           |     |     |    |                       |  |            |           |         |     |     |    |             |       |     |    |                      |       |       |     |  |  |            |           |         |       |     |    |                        |  |            |           |
| MM/10/04                                   | Table 10.1                      | 128                  | <p><b>Table 10.1 10% growth in new homes at Group 1 Villages located within the Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt, based on 2011 Census figures</b></p> <table> <tr> <th>Village Name</th><th>Resident Population</th><th>Number of Households</th><th>10% growth 2017-2033</th></tr> <tr> <td>Braughing</td><td>835</td><td>347</td><td>35</td></tr> <tr> <td><u>Hertford Heath</u></td><td></td><td><u>836</u></td><td><u>84</u></td></tr> <tr> <td>Hunsdon</td><td>885</td><td>367</td><td>37</td></tr> <tr> <td>Much Hadham</td><td>1,259</td><td>535</td><td>54</td></tr> <tr> <td>Standon &amp; Puckeridge</td><td>3,535</td><td>1,456</td><td>146</td></tr> <tr> <td><u>Stanstead Abbots &amp; St Margarets</u></td><td></td><td><u>938</u></td><td><u>94</u></td></tr> <tr> <td>Walkern</td><td>1,354</td><td>551</td><td>55</td></tr> <tr> <td><u>Watton-at-Stone</u></td><td></td><td><u>917</u></td><td><u>92</u></td></tr> </table>  | Village Name | Resident Population | Number of Households | 10% growth 2017-2033 | Braughing | 835 | 347 | 35 | <u>Hertford Heath</u> |  | <u>836</u> | <u>84</u> | Hunsdon | 885 | 367 | 37 | Much Hadham | 1,259 | 535 | 54 | Standon & Puckeridge | 3,535 | 1,456 | 146 | <u>Stanstead Abbots &amp; St Margarets</u> |  | <u>938</u> | <u>94</u> | Walkern | 1,354 | 551 | 55 | <u>Watton-at-Stone</u> |  | <u>917</u> | <u>92</u> |
| Village Name                               | Resident Population             | Number of Households | 10% growth 2017-2033  |              |                     |                      |                      |           |     |     |    |                       |  |            |           |         |     |     |    |             |       |     |    |                      |       |       |     |  |  |            |           |         |       |     |    |                        |  |            |           |
| Braughing                                  | 835                             | 347                  | 35  |              |                     |                      |                      |           |     |     |    |                       |  |            |           |         |     |     |    |             |       |     |    |                      |       |       |     |  |  |            |           |         |       |     |    |                        |  |            |           |
| <u>Hertford Heath</u>                      |                                 | <u>836</u>           | <u>84</u>   |              |                     |                      |                      |           |     |     |    |                       |  |            |           |         |     |     |    |             |       |     |    |                      |       |       |     |  |  |            |           |         |       |     |    |                        |  |            |           |
| Hunsdon                                    | 885                             | 367                  | 37  |              |                     |                      |                      |           |     |     |    |                       |  |            |           |         |     |     |    |             |       |     |    |                      |       |       |     |  |  |            |           |         |       |     |    |                        |  |            |           |
| Much Hadham                                | 1,259                           | 535                  | 54  |              |                     |                      |                      |           |     |     |    |                       |  |            |           |         |     |     |    |             |       |     |    |                      |       |       |     |  |  |            |           |         |       |     |    |                        |  |            |           |
| Standon & Puckeridge                       | 3,535                           | 1,456                | 146   |              |                     |                      |                      |           |     |     |    |                       |  |            |           |         |     |     |    |             |       |     |    |                      |       |       |     |  |  |            |           |         |       |     |    |                        |  |            |           |
| <u>Stanstead Abbots &amp; St Margarets</u> |                                 | <u>938</u>           | <u>94</u>   |              |                     |                      |                      |           |     |     |    |                       |  |            |           |         |     |     |    |             |       |     |    |                      |       |       |     |  |  |            |           |         |       |     |    |                        |  |            |           |
| Walkern                                    | 1,354                           | 551                  | 55  |              |                     |                      |                      |           |     |     |    |                       |  |            |           |         |     |     |    |             |       |     |    |                      |       |       |     |  |  |            |           |         |       |     |    |                        |  |            |           |
| <u>Watton-at-Stone</u>                     |                                 | <u>917</u>           | <u>92</u>   |              |                     |                      |                      |           |     |     |    |                       |  |            |           |         |     |     |    |             |       |     |    |                      |       |       |     |  |  |            |           |         |       |     |    |                        |  |            |           |



| Ref No.  | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification  |
|----------|-------------|--------------------|---|
| MM/10/05 | 10.2.4      | 128                | <del><b>10.2.4</b> Housing growth in these villages will be achieved through the identification of sites within and, where necessary in locations in the Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt, on the periphery of the main built-up area of the village which together are sufficient to achieve at least 10% growth.</del>  |
| MM/10/06 | 10.2.5      | 129                | <del><b>10.2.5</b> The villages of Hertford Heath, Stanstead Abbots &amp; St Margarets, and Watton-at-Stone are also identified as Group1 Villages. These villages are inset from the Green Belt and therefore development beyond the existing built up area of the village can only come forward by amendment of the Green Belt boundary.</del>  |
| MM/10/07 | 10.2.6      | 129                | <del><b>10.2.6</b> As these villages are considered to be sustainable locations for development, they will be encouraged to consider whether it is appropriate to amend their Green Belt boundary through the formulation of a Neighbourhood Plan, to accommodate additional development especially where it contributes to wider sustainability objectives and the delivery of community benefits.</del>   |
| MM/10/08 | 10.2.7      | 129                | <del><b>10.2.7</b> Parish Councils will be encouraged to produce a Neighbourhood Plan to develop a shared vision for their village and to deliver the sustainable development they need (including housing, employment and leisure, recreation and community facilities). Neighbourhood Plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies in this Plan and should not be used to promote a lower level of housing development than is set out in Policy DPS3 (Housing Supply 2011-2033) and Policy VILL1 below.</del> |
| MM/10/09 | New 10.3.4  |                    | <b><u>10.3.4</u></b> Parish Councils will be encouraged to produce a Neighbourhood Plan to develop a shared vision for their village and to deliver the sustainable development they need (including housing, employment and leisure, recreation and community facilities). Neighbourhood Plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies in this Plan.   |
| MM/10/10 | New 10.3.5  |                    | <b><u>10.3.5</u></b> In order to accommodate at least a 10% increase in housing stock, village development boundaries in Group 1 Villages located in the Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt may need to be amended through Neighbourhood Plans.   |
| MM/10/11 | New 10.3.6  |                    | <b><u>10.3.6</u></b> The villages of Hertford Heath, Stanstead Abbots & St Margarets, and Watton-at-Stone are inset from the Green Belt. These villages will be encouraged to consider accommodating development in their Neighbourhood Plans, especially where it contributes to wider sustainability objectives and the delivery of community benefits. Where such proposals would involve changes  |

| Ref No.                         | Policy/Para                      | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification   |                         |           |                |         |             |                      |                                 |         |                 |
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|                                 |                                  |                    | <u>to Green Belt boundaries, the District Council will consider making these amendments either through the next Review of the District Plan or through a separate Site Allocations Development Plan Document.</u>  |                         |           |                |         |             |                      |                                 |         |                 |
| MM/10/12                        | New 10.3.7                       |                    | <u><b>10.3.7</b> The District Council will monitor the progress of Neighbourhood Plans in its Authority Monitoring Report. Where Parish Councils in Group 1 Villages have not submitted a Draft Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 16) by 31st March 2021, the District Council will consider whether it is necessary to identify sites for development through a Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD).</u>  |                         |           |                |         |             |                      |                                 |         |                 |
| MM/10/13                        | Policy VILL1<br>Group 1 Villages | 129-130            | <p>I. The following villages are identified as Group 1 Villages:</p> <table><tr><td><b>Group 1 Villages</b></td></tr><tr><td>Braughing</td></tr><tr><td>Hertford Heath</td></tr><tr><td>Hunsdon</td></tr><tr><td>Much Hadham</td></tr><tr><td>Standon &amp; Puckeridge</td></tr><tr><td>Stanstead Abbots &amp; St Margarets</td></tr><tr><td>Walkern</td></tr><tr><td>Watton-at-Stone</td></tr></table> <p>II. Within the Group 1 Villages of Braughing, Hunsdon, Much Hadham, Standon &amp; Puckeridge, and Walkern, as defined on the Policies Map, development for housing, employment, leisure, recreation and community facilities will be permitted subject to <del>(VI)</del><b>(VII)</b> below and all other relevant policies in this Plan. These villages will need to accommodate at least a 10% increase</p> | <b>Group 1 Villages</b> | Braughing | Hertford Heath | Hunsdon | Much Hadham | Standon & Puckeridge | Stanstead Abbots & St Margarets | Walkern | Watton-at-Stone |
| <b>Group 1 Villages</b>         |                                  |                    |  |                         |           |                |         |             |                      |                                 |         |                 |
| Braughing                       |                                  |                    |  |                         |           |                |         |             |                      |                                 |         |                 |
| Hertford Heath                  |                                  |                    |  |                         |           |                |         |             |                      |                                 |         |                 |
| Hunsdon                         |                                  |                    |  |                         |           |                |         |             |                      |                                 |         |                 |
| Much Hadham                     |                                  |                    |  |                         |           |                |         |             |                      |                                 |         |                 |
| Standon & Puckeridge            |                                  |                    |  |                         |           |                |         |             |                      |                                 |         |                 |
| Stanstead Abbots & St Margarets |                                  |                    |  |                         |           |                |         |             |                      |                                 |         |                 |
| Walkern                         |                                  |                    |  |                         |           |                |         |             |                      |                                 |         |                 |
| Watton-at-Stone                 |                                  |                    |  |                         |           |                |         |             |                      |                                 |         |                 |

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|         |             |                    | <p>in housing stock (based on the 2011 Census) over the 16-year period between 1st April 2017 and 31st March 2033.</p> <p>III. Within the Group 1 Villages of Hertford Heath, Stanstead Abbots &amp; St Margarets, and Watton-at-Stone, as defined on the Policies Map, development for housing, employment, leisure, recreation and community facilities will be permitted subject to <del>(V)</del><u>(VII)</u> below and all other relevant policies in this Plan. These villages will be encouraged to consider whether it is appropriate to <del>amend their Green Belt boundary</del> through the formulation of a Neighbourhood Plan to accommodate additional development especially where it contributes to wider sustainability objectives and the delivery of community benefits. <u>Where such proposals would involve changes to Green Belt boundaries, the District Council will consider making these amendments either through the next Review of the District Plan or through a separate Site Allocations Development Plan Document if necessary.</u></p> <p>IV. Parish Councils are encouraged to prepare Neighbourhood Plans to allocate land for development or to introduce additional policy requirements aimed at ensuring that development contributes toward local distinctiveness or other community objectives.</p> <p>V. <del>Where monitoring shows a shortfall in the number of homes coming forward through Neighbourhood Planning, then the District Council will review the District Plan in accordance with Policy VILL4 (Neighbourhood Plans).</del> <u>The District Council will monitor the progress of Neighbourhood Plans in its Authority Monitoring Report. Where Parish Councils have not submitted a Draft Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 16) by 31st March 2021, the District Council will consider whether it is necessary to identify sites for development through a Site Allocations Development Plan Document if necessary.</u></p> <p>VI. Prior to a Parish Council preparing a Neighbourhood Plan, development in the villages listed above will be limited to the built up area as defined on the Policies Map.</p> |

| Ref No.                 | Policy/Para                              | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification   |                         |  |        |             |
|-------------------------|--|--------------------|--|-------------------------|--|--------|-------------|
|                         |  |                    | <p>VII. All development should:</p> <p>(a) relate well to the village in terms of location, layout and connectivity;</p> <p>(b) be of a scale appropriate to the size of the village having regard to the potential cumulative impact of development in the locality;</p> <p>(c) be well designed and in keeping with the character of the village;</p> <p>(d) not represent the loss of a significant open space or gap important to the form and/or setting of the village;</p> <p>(e) not represent an extension of ribbon development or an addition to an isolated group of buildings;</p> <p>(f) not unacceptably block important views or vistas and/or detract from the openness of the countryside;</p> <p>(g) not be significantly detrimental to the amenity of neighbouring occupiers.</p> |                         |  |        |             |
| MM/10/14                | 10.2.10<br>(renumbered 10.3.10-MC/10/09) | 131                | <p><b>10.3.10</b> No specific housing target has been identified for these <u>Group 2</u> villages. Where housing development does take place this will contribute towards the <del>overall housing requirement for the villages, of at least 500 dwellings</del> <u>Council's windfall allowance</u>.</p>   |                         |  |        |             |
| MM/10/15                | Policy VILL 2<br>Group 2 Villages        | 131-132            | <p>I. The following villages are identified as Group 2 Villages:</p> <table><tr><td><b>Group 2 Villages</b></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Anstey</td><td>Hare Street</td></tr></table>   | <b>Group 2 Villages</b> |  | Anstey | Hare Street |
| <b>Group 2 Villages</b> |  |                    |  |                         |  |        |             |
| Anstey                  | Hare Street                              |                    |  |                         |  |        |             |

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|----------------|------------------------|--------------------|--|--|-------|-----------------|---------|------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|--------------------|-----------|---------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|----------|-------|----------|------------------------|------------|---------|----------------|----------|--------------|----------|---------------|---------|-------------|--|
|                |                        |                    |  | <table><tr><td>Aston</td><td>Hertingfordbury</td></tr><tr><td>Bayford</td><td>High Cross</td></tr><tr><td>Benington</td><td>High Wych</td></tr><tr><td>Birch Green</td><td>Little Berkhamsted</td></tr><tr><td>Bramfield</td><td>Little Hadham</td></tr><tr><td>Brickendon</td><td>Spellbrook</td></tr><tr><td>Colliers End</td><td>Stapleford</td></tr><tr><td>Cottered</td><td>Tewin</td></tr><tr><td>Dane End</td><td>Thundridge &amp; Wadesmill</td></tr><tr><td>Datchworth</td><td>Tonwell</td></tr><tr><td>Furneux Pelham</td><td>Wareside</td></tr><tr><td>Great Amwell</td><td>Westmill</td></tr><tr><td>Great Hormead</td><td>Widford</td></tr><tr><td>Hadham Ford</td><td></td></tr></table> | Aston | Hertingfordbury | Bayford | High Cross | Benington | High Wych | Birch Green | Little Berkhamsted | Bramfield | Little Hadham | Brickendon | Spellbrook | Colliers End | Stapleford | Cottered | Tewin | Dane End | Thundridge & Wadesmill | Datchworth | Tonwell | Furneux Pelham | Wareside | Great Amwell | Westmill | Great Hormead | Widford | Hadham Ford |  |
| Aston          | Hertingfordbury        |                    |  |  |       |                 |         |            |           |           |             |                    |           |               |            |            |              |            |          |       |          |                        |            |         |                |          |              |          |               |         |             |  |
| Bayford        | High Cross             |                    |  |  |       |                 |         |            |           |           |             |                    |           |               |            |            |              |            |          |       |          |                        |            |         |                |          |              |          |               |         |             |  |
| Benington      | High Wych              |                    |  |  |       |                 |         |            |           |           |             |                    |           |               |            |            |              |            |          |       |          |                        |            |         |                |          |              |          |               |         |             |  |
| Birch Green    | Little Berkhamsted     |                    |  |  |       |                 |         |            |           |           |             |                    |           |               |            |            |              |            |          |       |          |                        |            |         |                |          |              |          |               |         |             |  |
| Bramfield      | Little Hadham          |                    |  |  |       |                 |         |            |           |           |             |                    |           |               |            |            |              |            |          |       |          |                        |            |         |                |          |              |          |               |         |             |  |
| Brickendon     | Spellbrook             |                    |  |  |       |                 |         |            |           |           |             |                    |           |               |            |            |              |            |          |       |          |                        |            |         |                |          |              |          |               |         |             |  |
| Colliers End   | Stapleford             |                    |  |  |       |                 |         |            |           |           |             |                    |           |               |            |            |              |            |          |       |          |                        |            |         |                |          |              |          |               |         |             |  |
| Cottered       | Tewin                  |                    |  |  |       |                 |         |            |           |           |             |                    |           |               |            |            |              |            |          |       |          |                        |            |         |                |          |              |          |               |         |             |  |
| Dane End       | Thundridge & Wadesmill |                    |  |  |       |                 |         |            |           |           |             |                    |           |               |            |            |              |            |          |       |          |                        |            |         |                |          |              |          |               |         |             |  |
| Datchworth     | Tonwell                |                    |  |  |       |                 |         |            |           |           |             |                    |           |               |            |            |              |            |          |       |          |                        |            |         |                |          |              |          |               |         |             |  |
| Furneux Pelham | Wareside               |                    |  |  |       |                 |         |            |           |           |             |                    |           |               |            |            |              |            |          |       |          |                        |            |         |                |          |              |          |               |         |             |  |
| Great Amwell   | Westmill               |                    |  |  |       |                 |         |            |           |           |             |                    |           |               |            |            |              |            |          |       |          |                        |            |         |                |          |              |          |               |         |             |  |
| Great Hormead  | Widford                |                    |  |  |       |                 |         |            |           |           |             |                    |           |               |            |            |              |            |          |       |          |                        |            |         |                |          |              |          |               |         |             |  |
| Hadham Ford    |                        |                    |  |  |       |                 |         |            |           |           |             |                    |           |               |            |            |              |            |          |       |          |                        |            |         |                |          |              |          |               |         |             |  |
|                |                        |                    | <p>II. Within Group 2 Villages, as defined on the Policies Map, limited infill development, together with small-scale employment, leisure, recreation and community facilities will be permitted subject to (IV) below and all other relevant policies in this Plan.</p> <p>III. In addition, small-scale development identified in an adopted Neighbourhood Plan will be permitted.</p> <p>IV. Prior to a Parish Council preparing a Neighbourhood Plan, development in the villages listed</p> |  |       |                 |         |            |           |           |             |                    |           |               |            |            |              |            |          |       |          |                        |            |         |                |          |              |          |               |         |             |  |

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|          |   |                    | <p>above will be limited to the built up area as defined on the Policies Map.</p> <p>V. All development should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) relate well to the village in terms of location, layout and connectivity;</li> <li>(b) be of a scale appropriate to the size of the village having regard to the potential cumulative impact of development in the locality;</li> <li>(c) be well designed and in keeping with the character of the village;</li> <li>(d) not represent the loss of a significant open space or gap important to the form and/or setting of the village;</li> <li>(e) not represent an extension of ribbon development or an addition to an isolated group of buildings;</li> <li>(f) not unacceptably block important views or vistas and/or detract from the openness of the countryside;</li> <li>(g) not be significantly detrimental to the amenity of neighbouring occupiers.</li> </ul> |
| MM/10/16 | 10.2.11<br>(renumbered<br>10.3.11-<br>MC/10/10) | 133                | <p><b>10.3.11</b> Group 3 Villages are generally amongst the smallest in East Herts. These villages have a poor range of services and facilities and it is often necessary for local residents to travel outside the village for most of their daily needs. These villages generally lack a primary school or local convenience shop and may not have a permanent post office or a village hall or meeting place. However, whilst Group 3 Villages are viewed as the least sustainable locations for development in the District, limited infill development identified in an adopted Neighbourhood Plan will be permitted, in addition to development that is considered to be appropriate in the Green Belt and</p>   |

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|          |                                  |                    | Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt.  |
| MM10/17  | Policy VILL3<br>Group 3 Villages | 133                | <p>I. Those villages/<del>settlements</del> not identified as either Group 1 or Group 2 Villages are identified as Group 3 Villages.</p> <p>II. Within Group 3 Villages, limited infill development identified in an adopted Neighbourhood Plan will be permitted, <del>in addition to development that is considered to be appropriate in the Green Belt and Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt.</del></p> <p>III. All development should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Relate well to the village in terms of location, layout and connectivity;</li> <li>b) Be of a scale appropriate to the size of the village having regard to the potential cumulative impact of development in the locality;</li> <li>c) Be well designed and in keeping with the character of the village;</li> <li>d) Not represent the loss of a significant open space or gap important to the form and/or setting of the village;</li> <li>e) Not represent an extension of ribbon development or an addition to an isolated group of buildings;</li> <li>f) Not unacceptably block important views or vistas and/or detract from the openness of the countryside;</li> <li>g) Not be significantly detrimental to the amenity of neighbouring occupiers.</li> </ul> |
| MM/10/18 | 10.3.2                           | 134                | <b>10.4.2</b> It is anticipated however, that through Neighbourhood Plans, village development   |

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|          | (renumbered 10.4.2-MC/10/15)        |                    | boundaries in Group 1 Villages located in the Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt may need to be amended to accommodate at least a 10% increase in housing stock in accordance with Policy VILL1. In addition, village development boundaries in Group 2 Villages <u>in the Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt</u> may also be amended through the formulation of a Neighbourhood Plan to identify sites to accommodate small-scale development proposals. <u>Group 2 Villages located within (washed over by) the Green Belt will not be permitted to amend their village development boundary through the Neighbourhood Planning process.</u>  |
| MM/10/19 | 10.3.3 (renumbered 10.4.3-MC/10/16) | 134                | <b>10.4.3</b> Where Group 1 Villages are inset from the Green Belt, Parish Councils will be encouraged to consider whether it is appropriate to amend their Green Belt boundary (which defines the village development boundary) through the formulation of a Neighbourhood Plan to accommodate additional development. <u>Where such proposals would involve changes to Green Belt boundaries, the District Council will consider making these amendments either through the next Review of the District Plan or through a separate Site Allocations Development Plan Document if necessary.</u><br><del>Group 2 Villages located within the Green Belt will not be permitted to amend their village development boundary through the Neighbourhood Planning process.</del>  |
| MM/10/20 | Section 10.4                        | 134                | <b>10.4 Neighbourhood Plans</b><br><br><del><b>10.4.1</b> Neighbourhood planning is a key part of the Government's localism agenda. It aims to give local communities greater power to shape their neighbourhood by taking a more active role in the development of planning policies at a local level.</del><br><br><del><b>10.4.2</b> A Neighbourhood Plan allows communities to create both a vision and planning policies for the use and development of land in their village. For example, communities can identify where new homes should be built, what they should look like and identify local infrastructure needs.</del><br><br><del><b>10.4.3</b> The District Council wants to give Parish Councils the opportunity to empower local people to take a proactive role in shaping the future of the areas in which they live, and give local people greater ownership of the plans and policies that affect their local area. In accordance with Policy</del> |



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|          |                                  |                    | <p>VILL1 (Group 1 Villages), Parish Councils will therefore be encouraged to prepare Neighbourhood Plans to allocate land for development or to introduce additional policy requirements aimed at ensuring that development contributes toward local distinctiveness or other community objectives. Other Parish Councils may also wish to consider producing a Neighbourhood Plan to shape development in their villages.</p> <p><b>10.4.4</b> However, given that Neighbourhood Planning is an optional tier of planning, it is important that a monitoring framework is in place to determine whether the necessary amount of development is coming forward. If a shortfall in delivery is identified, this will trigger a requirement for the District Council to ensure delivery by allocating sites for housing through an early review of the District Plan.</p>  |
| MM/10/21 | Policy VILL4 Neighbourhood Plans | 134-135            | <p><b>Policy VILL4 Neighbourhood Plans</b></p> <p>I. <del>Parish Councils are encouraged to prepare Neighbourhood Plans to deliver at least 500 homes in the villages between 2017-2033.</del></p> <p>II. <del>The District Council will expect at least 250 homes to be delivered in the villages in the period 2017-2022. Where monitoring shows a shortfall in the number of homes coming forward through Neighbourhood Planning during this period, a requirement for the District Council to identify specific sites for housing through a review of the District Plan will be triggered.</del></p> <p>III. <del>On the basis that at least 250 homes are delivered in the period 2017-2022 then the District Council will continue to monitor the situation in the period 2022-2027 and if a shortfall in delivery is identified during this timeframe, then, as with (II) above, a requirement for the District Council to identify specific sites for housing through a review of the District Plan will be triggered.</del></p> |

## Chapter 11: The Gilston Area

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| MM/11/01 | 11.1.4           | 138                | A Concept Framework is being prepared jointly <u>prepared</u> by the landowners, and the Council, in consultation with <u>and the</u> local communities <u>community</u> , which <u>will identify identifies</u> design principles, <u>potential</u> land uses, infrastructure requirements and phasing, <u>and will be used as a benchmark in reviewing proposals for development.</u>   |
| MM/11/02 | New Section 11.2 |                    | <p><b><u>11.2 Harlow and Gilston Garden Town</u></b></p> <p><u>11.2.1 East Herts Council, Harlow Council and Epping Forest District Council are working in partnership together with Hertfordshire County Council, Essex County Council, Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, South East Local Enterprise Partnership, land owners and promoters to bring forward transformational growth in the Harlow area.</u></p> <p><u>11.2.2 On 2 January 2017, the Government announced its support for the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town. The Councils share a bold vision and set of objectives, recognising that areas in and around Harlow present a number of opportunities to deliver growth of considerable scale and significance. Such growth is key, not only to meet growing pressures of housing and infrastructure need locally, but also to delivering broader regeneration and change for Harlow.</u></p> <p><u>11.2.3 The Councils are committed to delivering sustainable growth to support the economic ambitions of the London Stansted Cambridge Corridor (LSCC) through the delivery of housing, supported by good access to social, leisure, community, health facilities, education and jobs, that meet the needs of local people and support sustainable economic growth, whilst ensuring it remains an attractive place for people to live and locate to.</u></p> <p><u>11.2.4 The Garden Town will comprise various new developments in the wider Harlow area, within the three local authority areas. The Gilston Area forms a key part of this ambitious project. As such, the proposals for the Gilston Area should complement, and have regard to, ongoing work relating to the Garden Town.</u></p> |
| MM/11/03 | 11.2.2           | 138                | <b>11.3.2 Housing:</b> development in this location will provide a mixture of house sizes and tenures   |

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|          | (renumbered 11.3.2 – MC/11/03)        |                    | across seven distinct villages, including affordable housing and homes for older people. <del>Provision will also be made for</del> <u>The site will also provide for the accommodation needs of</u> Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople <u>and make provision for self-build and/or custom-build opportunities.</u>   |
| MM/11/04 | 11.2.3 (renumbered 11.3.3 – MC/11/04) | 138                | <b>11.3.3 Education:</b> the site will deliver <del>two new secondary schools and five primary schools</del> <u>land for twenty forms of entry for both primary and secondary education</u> in order to fully cater for the needs arising from the development. Early Years Education will also be provided for.  |
| MM/11/05 | 11.2.5 (renumbered 11.3.5 – MC/11/06) | 139                | <b>11.3.5 Community Facilities:</b> the Gilston Area will provide new community facilities based around a network of village centres. The facilities will include community meeting spaces, libraries and sport and recreation facilities. A range of local shops will also be provided, along with <del>two</del> healthcare centres which will accommodate both family doctors and other health services such as dentists, pharmacies, physiotherapy and outpatient services. Consideration will also be given to the potential of the site to facilitate the re-location of the Princess Alexandra Hospital. |
| MM/11/06 | 11.2.6 (renumbered 11.3.6 – MC/11/07) | 139                | <b>11.3.6 Employment:</b> the development will provide local employment, including small scale office space. <u>This will be in the form of either a business park of 5ha or distributed across the village centres having regard to Garden City principles.</u> Residents will also be able to access more substantial employment opportunities within Harlow, including the Enterprise Zone. The proximity of the site to Harlow Town station will also enable sustainable access to employment opportunities further afield, including <u>Stansted Airport</u> , Cambridge, Bishop's Stortford and London.   |
| MM/11/07 | 11.2.7 (renumbered 11.3.7 – MC/11/08) | 139                | <b>11.3.7 Open Space:</b> The site allocation covers a large geographical area. However, only the south and south eastern sections of the site will be developed. In addition to development, this part of the site will deliver new green spaces including sports pitches, parks and recreation areas. Within the north and north western sections of the site, a substantial amount of public open space <del>in the form of managed parklands will be provided</del> <u>as part of wider managed parklands including</u>   |

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|          |  |                    | <u>continuing farming will be provided.</u> This area will therefore remain undeveloped, with the exception of a small number of buildings associated with its recreational use. A community land trust, or other governance mechanism as appropriate, will be established in order to deliver local ownership and management of these assets. This should take place early in the overall development programme. In addition, the environment of the Stort Valley will be enhanced through the provision of new green infrastructure links, <u>and woodland areas to the north of the site will be enhanced by planting and management schemes.</u>   |
| MM/11/08 | 11.2.9<br>(renumbered<br>11.3.9 –<br>MC/11/10)   | 139                | <b>11.3.9 Heritage:</b> The site contains a number of heritage assets, including listed buildings and Scheduled Monuments. <u>The development will be designed in order to ensure that these assets and their settings are conserved and, where appropriate, enhanced within the context of the overall development, through appropriate mitigation measures, having regard to the Heritage Impact Assessment (Montagu Evans, October 2017).</u> Gilston Park <u>(the designed landscape)</u> , a locally important historic asset, is also located within the Gilston Area, <del>although it does not form part of the site allocation. The development will be designed in order to ensure that these assets are retained, and their setting protected within the context of the overall development.</del> <u>Development will be designed to respect this asset.</u> |
| MM/11/09 | 11.2.10<br>(renumbered<br>11.3.10 –<br>MC/11/11) | 139                | <b>11.3.10 Ecology and Environment:</b> The development will retain and protect important hedgerows, <del>County Wildlife sites</del> <u>Local Wildlife Sites</u> and ancient woodlands. New habitats will be created in order to achieve an overall net gain in biodiversity. A Sustainable Drainage (SuD's) network will be integrated to provide additional planting and biodiversity and to facilitate drainage and water retention <u>having regard to the objectives of the River Stort Catchment Management Plan.</u>   |
| MM/11/10 | Policy GA1<br>The Gilston Area                   | 141-144            | I. In accordance with Policy DPS3 (Housing Supply 2011-2033), land at the Gilston Area is allocated for development to accommodate 10,000 homes, to be delivered within this Plan period and beyond. It is anticipated that approximately <u>at least</u> 3,000 homes <del>could</del> <u>will</u> be delivered by 2033.   |

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|         |             |                    | <p>II. A Concept Framework <del>will be</del> <u>is being</u> jointly prepared by the landowners, <del>and the Council</del> <u>and the local community</u>, <del>in consultation with local communities, which</del> <u>The Concept Framework will identify</u> <u>identifies</u> design principles, potential land uses, infrastructure requirements and phasing, <u>and will be used as a benchmark in reviewing proposals for development</u>. Prior to the submission of any planning application(s) further <del>detailed</del> design work <u>through the pre-application engagement process</u> will be required in order to agree, among other things, the quantum and distribution of land uses, access and layout principles.</p> <p><u>III. The Gilston Area will provide for 10,000 homes across distinct villages, each based on Garden City principles respecting the following:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>strong vision, leadership and community engagement;</u></li> <li><u>land value capture to deliver the social and physical infrastructure for the benefit of the community;</u></li> <li><u>long-term community ownership of land and stewardship of assets;</u></li> <li><u>mixed-tenure homes and housing types including those that are genuinely affordable;</u></li> <li><u>a wide range of local jobs within easy commuting distance of homes;</u></li> <li><u>beautifully and imaginatively designed homes with access to open space, combining the best of town and country to create healthy communities, and including opportunities to grow food;</u></li> <li><u>development that enhances the natural environment, providing a comprehensive green infrastructure network and net biodiversity gains, and that uses energy-positive technology to ensure climate resilience;</u></li> </ul> |

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|         |             |                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>strong cultural, recreational and shopping facilities in walkable, vibrant, sociable communities; and</u></li> <li>• <u>integrated and accessible sustainable transport systems, with walking, cycling and public transport designed to be the most attractive forms of local transport for new residents to travel within the Gilston Area and to key local destinations.</u></li> </ul> <p><u>IV. A community engagement strategy will be prepared, working with the two local parishes, which will include consideration of managing the effects on local residents, and opportunities for them to participate in the emerging new community. Engagement with the local communities and other relevant stakeholders shall take place through the planning application process and through the development of village Masterplans.</u></p> <p>V. The development is expected to address the following provisions and issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing);</li> <li>b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);</li> <li>c) a care home/ flexi-care or sheltered properties in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU6 (Homes for Older and Vulnerable People);</li> <li>d) Self-Build and Custom Build Housing in accordance with Policy HOU8 (Self-Build and Custom Build Housing);</li> <li>e) <u>the</u> provision of a serviced site for Gypsies and Travellers, in accordance with Policy HOU9 (Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople) which should deliver 15 pitches</li> </ul> |

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|         |             |                    | <p>for longer term needs beyond the Plan period;</p> <p>f) <u>the</u> provision of a serviced site for Travelling Showpeople in accordance with Policy HOU9 (Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople) which should deliver 8 plots for longer term needs beyond the Plan period; (each of sufficient size to allow for the provision of accommodation and equipment plus storage/maintenance);</p> <p>g) quality local green infrastructure throughout the site including opportunities for preserving and enhancing on-site assets, maximising opportunities to link into existing assets and enhancing biodiversity. <del>Including</del> <u>This will include</u> the protection of <del>County</del> <u>Local</u> Wildlife Sites and other assets of environmental value;</p> <p>h) <u>the provision of</u> significant managed public open space and parklands, and a limited number of buildings associated with that use, on the northern section of the site as identified in Figure 11.2, the ownership of which will be transferred to a community trust or other mechanism that ensures long term <u>stewardship and</u> governance <u>for the benefit of the community</u>;</p> <p>i) a variety of public green spaces across the site, including the provision of play areas and opportunities for outdoor health and fitness activities, as well as space for wildlife;</p> <p>j) access arrangements and local highways measures and commensurate financial contributions to addressing impacts on the wider strategic highways network, including <u>the provision of additional crossings to the River Stort</u> <del>a new Junction 7a on the M11</del>;</p> <p>k) <del>education facilities, including Early Years facilities, 15fe of primary school provision and 14fe of secondary school provision;</del> <u>land for twenty forms of entry for both primary and secondary education, including Early Years facilities, subject to more detailed modelling. All schools should provide for the dual use of facilities for community purposes;</u></p> |

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|         |             |                    | <p>l) sustainable transport measures which encourage walking, <del>and</del> cycling <u>and the use of public transport</u> including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the provision of cycleways and footways that provide links throughout the site and into Harlow;</li> <li>enhancement of existing bridleways and footpaths;</li> <li>enhanced passenger transport services including the creation of a sustainable transport route through the site which will link into a sustainable transport corridor which links the Gilston Area to <del>possible development to the south of the town, within Epping Forest District, via the town centre</del> <u>the urban area of Harlow; and,</u></li> <li><u>the setting of objectives and targets for the use of sustainable transport modes.</u></li> </ul> <p>m) consideration of the potential of the site to facilitate the delivery of a re-located Princess Alexandra Hospital;</p> <p>n) the use of appropriate landscape buffers in order to protect the individual character and integrity of Eastwick and Gilston villages within the context of the development;</p> <p>o) <u>the</u> protection and enhancement of heritage assets and their settings, both on-site and in the wider area through appropriate mitigation measures, <u>having regard to the Heritage Impact Assessment. Gilston Church and the Johnston Monument (both grade I listed), the moated site Scheduled Monuments at Eastwick, the Mount Scheduled Monument, and Gilston Park house (grade II*) are of particular significance and sensitivity and any planning application should seek to ensure that these assets and their settings are conserved and, where appropriate, enhanced, through careful design; landscaping; open space; buffer</u></p> |



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|         |             |                    | <p><u>zones; protection of key views; and, better management and interpretation of assets, where appropriate;</u></p> <p>p) neighbourhood centres in accessible locations, providing local retail and community uses, including healthcare facilities to meet the day-to-day retail and health needs of new residents;</p> <p>q) <del>small scale office space to meet local needs</del> <u>employment area/s (of around 5ha), within visible and accessible location/s, which provides appropriate opportunities to promote self-containment and sustainability;</u></p> <p><u>r) consideration of opportunities for local supply chains as well as opportunities for local employment and training including apprenticeships and improving skills base for local people;</u></p> <p>s) indoor and outdoor sports facilities (which may be shared use) <del>to include junior football and mini soccer pitches</del> <u>taking account of the Council's evidence on sports and open space needs;</u></p> <p>t) consideration of need for cemetery provision;</p> <p>u) landscaping and planting, both within the site and peripheral, which responds to the existing landscape and complements development, as appropriate, <u>and a defined, recognisable boundary to the Green Belt;</u></p> <p>v) <u>assisting</u> the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure;</p> <p>w) necessary new utilities, including integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate</p> |

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|         |             |                    | <p>home working;</p> <p>x) satisfactory water supply, including acceptable water pressure for occupants;</p> <p>y) sustainable drainage and provision for flood mitigation;</p> <p>z) other policy provisions of the District Plan and relevant matters, as appropriate.</p> <p><u>VI. Any application for development will include an indicative phasing plan for the delivery of infrastructure and utilities across the villages.</u></p> <p><u>VII. The delivery of the Gilston Area will include a mechanism for:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>securing the long term stewardship, protection and maintenance of the parkland, open spaces, play areas and community assets;</u></li> <li><u>managing the construction process to address potential impacts on existing and future communities;</u></li> <li><u>encouraging a successful and active community, including an innovative approach to create the conditions for local resident participation in the design and stewardship of their new communities.</u></li> </ul> <p><u>VIII. Proposals for the Gilston Area should complement, and have regard to, ongoing work in relation to the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town.</u></p> <p><del>IV. In order to ensure that the site is planned and delivered comprehensively, any application for development on part of the site will be assessed against its contribution to the aims of the Concept Framework, and any other more detailed design work, and will not prejudice the</del></p> |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para                                    | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification   |
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|          |  |                    | implementation of the site as a whole.   |
| MM/11/11 | 11.3.2<br>(renumbered<br>11.4.2 –<br>MC/11/15) | 144                | <b>11.4.2</b> Additional crossing options are also being reviewed, both to the east and the west of the existing crossing. New crossings both to the east and west are feasible, but deliver different benefits. The eastern crossing is the option preferred by Essex County Council, <del>largely because of the way in which it</del> <u>as it provides relief to junctions along the western end of the A414 Edinburgh Way in Harlow, and</u> enhances access to the Enterprise Zone and links through, potentially, to the proposed new motorway Junction 7a. Any application proposals will need to address environmental factors such as visual impact, ecology and flooding.   |
| MM/11/12 | 11.3.4<br>(renumbered<br>11.4.4 –<br>MC/11/17) | 144                | <b>11.4.4</b> Widening of the existing River Stort Crossing will help facilitate the provision of a sustainable transport corridor which will connect the Gilston Area <del>with potential new development to the south of Harlow in Epping Forest District, via the town centre</del> <u>to the urban area of Harlow.</u>   |
| MM/11/13 | Policy GA2<br>The River<br>Stort<br>Crossings  | 144-145            | <p>I. The Council will work with key stakeholders including Hertfordshire County Council, Essex County Council, Harlow Council, Hertfordshire LEP, and others as appropriate, to facilitate the delivery of the following transport improvements to crossings of the River Stort:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A widening of the existing A414 crossing to enable a dualling of the northbound and southbound carriageways and provision of a new footway/cycleway, which will form part of a north-south sustainable transport corridor through Harlow; and</li> <li>• A new vehicular, cycle and pedestrian crossing either to the east of the existing crossing (connecting the A414 to the River Way), or to the west of the existing crossing (connecting the A414 to Elizabeth Way).</li> </ul> <p><u>II. Development proposals for both Stort Crossings should protect and, where appropriate, enhance heritage assets and their settings through appropriate mitigation measures, having regard to the Heritage Impact Assessment.</u></p> |

## Chapter 12: East of Stevenage

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para                                    | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification  |
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| MM/12/01 | 12.1.3<br>(renumbered<br>12.1.2 –<br>MC/12/02) | 148                | <del>12.1.2 As a result, a</del> <b>A</b> site of approximately 37 hectares of land to the east of Gresley Way, Stevenage <del>has been identified as being suitable and</del> is therefore allocated for development in the East Herts District Plan, to deliver approximately <b>at least</b> 600 homes within the first <del>five</del> <b>six</b> years of the Plan period. The site will be referred to as Gresley Park.   |
| MM/12/02 | 12.2.9   | 150                | <u>A collaboratively prepared Masterplan will form an important part of the delivery of this site allocation. The Masterplan will provide a strong framework for the development, which may also embody the use of design codes.</u> The <del>M</del> masterplan will set out a hierarchy of roads differentiating between the central tree-lined avenue, secondary streets and estate roads. The <del>M</del> masterplanned approach will <b>be landscape-led to</b> ensure good quality place-making and the highest quality design and layout across the development resulting in a distinctive character. An attractive network of connecting paths and cycleways which connect in to the existing Stevenage cycle network will be integral to the character of Gresley Park along with visible and physical connections that provide access to the Beane Valley without prejudicing the strength of the outer boundaries of the site. This will also enable a range of journeys to be made by foot and cycle providing opportunities for health and leisure activities. <u>The Masterplan will accord with the provisions of Policy DES1 (Masterplanning).</u> |
| MM/12/03 | Policy EOS1<br>East of<br>Stevenage            | 151-153            | <p>I. <del>In accordance with Policy DPS3 (Housing Supply 2011-2033),</del> land <b>Land</b> at Gresley Park is allocated for development to accommodate approximately <b>around</b> 600 new homes by <b>2022 2023</b>.</p> <p>II. <del>Prior to the submission of any planning application/s a</del> <b>A landscape-led</b> Masterplan setting out the quantum and distribution of land uses; access; sustainable high quality design and layout principles; necessary infrastructure; the relationship between the site and other nearby settlements; landscape and heritage assets; and other relevant matters, will be collaboratively prepared, involving site promoters, landowners, East Herts Council, <u>Stevenage Borough</u></p>   |

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|         |             |                    | <p><u>Council</u>, town and parish councils and key stakeholders. This document will further be informed by public participation in the process.</p> <p>III. The development is expected to address the following provisions and issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing);</li> <li>(b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);</li> <li>(c) a care home/ flexi-care or sheltered properties in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU6 (Specialist Housing for Older and Vulnerable People);</li> <li>(d) Self-Build and Custom Build Housing in accordance with Policy HOU8 (Self-Build and Custom Build Housing);</li> <li>(e) provision of a serviced site for Travelling Showpeople which should deliver five plots (each of sufficient size to allow for the provision of accommodation and equipment plus storage/maintenance) in accordance with Policy HOU9 (Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople);</li> <li>(f) education facilities, including land for a two-form entry primary school with an Early Years facility <u>and financial contribution towards secondary education within the Stevenage Education Planning Area;</u></li> <li>(g) a neighbourhood centre in an accessible location, providing local retail and community uses including a healthcare facility;</li> <li>(h) access arrangements and highways and wider strategic mitigation measures, including improvements to the A602/Gresley Way junction and other local roads as necessary, <u>taking account of the Stevenage Mobility Strategy;</u></li> <li>(i) sustainable transport measures which encourage walking and cycling through the site, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the provision of cycleways and footways that provide links into Stevenage including existing cycle networks <u>and the provision of a high quality cycle route along Gresley Way between Six Hills Way and Fairlands Way, with links to Six Hills Way;</u></li> <li>• enhancement of existing bridleways and footpaths connecting the site to the Beane Valley to the east of the site;</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

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|          |                              |                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>enhanced passenger transport services including the creation of a sustainable transport route through the site;</li> <li>(j) responds to the existing landform to define individual character areas, incorporating existing landscaping within the new streets, paths and spaces, enhances the outer boundary of the site; <u>retains and enhances, where required, the existing hedgerows within and around the site, punctuating where access into the site is required;</u> and creates a net gain to biodiversity through additional planting;</li> <li>(k) incorporates sustainable drainage and provision for flood mitigation;</li> <li>(l) a variety of public open spaces across the site, including the provision of play areas and opportunities for outdoor health and fitness activities, as well as space for wildlife;</li> <li>(m) necessary utilities, including integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home-working, and upgrades to the localised sewerage network;</li> <li>(n) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure;</li> <li>(o) other policy provisions of the District Plan and relevant matters, as appropriate.</li> </ul> <p>IV. In order to ensure that the site is planned and delivered comprehensively, any application for development on part of the site will be assessed against its contribution to the masterplan, and will ensure that such development would not prejudice the implementation of the site allocation as a whole.</p> |
| MM/12/04 | Figure 12.3 Strategy Diagram | 154                | <p>Original Strategy Diagram to be deleted. Replaced with updated Strategy Diagram.</p> <p>Amendment to Key: Possible enhancement of road network <u>Rights of Way network.</u></p> <p>New Strategy Diagram to be inserted:</p>   |

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## Chapter 13: East of Welwyn Garden City

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| MM/13/01 | Policy EWEL1<br>Land East of Welwyn | 160-162            | I. Land at Birchall Garden Suburb is allocated for development in both the Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan (SDS2) and the East Herts District Plan (EWEL1), to accommodate approximately 2,550 new homes over the plan period, of which 1,200 will be in Welwyn Hatfield Borough and |

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|         | Garden City |                    | <p>1,350 in East Herts District.</p> <p>II. East Herts District Council and Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council will continue to work together to ensure that the new suburb is delivered in a comprehensive manner across the local authority boundaries. Mechanisms will need to be established to ensure the effective delivery of infrastructure required to support the development.</p> <p>III. A joint masterplan setting out the quantum and distribution of land uses, <u>key views to protect heritage assets</u>, access, sustainable design and layout principles will be prepared by Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council and East Herts District Council, working with the landowner and other key stakeholders. The Masterplan, which will be informed by the Strategy Diagram shown in Figure 13.4 <u>13.3</u> below, will <u>in</u>form the basis of a Supplementary Planning Document which will provide further guidance on site specific matters. <u>The SPD will provide additional detail with regard to design and layout principles (including any design code), the approach to character areas and site density, treatment of ecological and heritage assets, the approach to remediation, access and sustainable transport measures, the location of a Gypsy and Traveller site, phasing and delivery of infrastructure, mineral extraction and built development.</u> Any application for development should be preceded by, and <u>be</u> consistent with, the Masterplan.</p> <p>IV. The site will be planned comprehensively to create a new sustainable community incorporating Garden City principles. <u>Land adjacent to the existing edge of Welwyn Garden City will be formal in layout reflecting the character of the Garden City and Garden City principles. Further from the town, lower density development of a more semi-rural character that responds to the locale and landscape will be more appropriate.</u></p> <p>V. The developer must demonstrate the extent of the mineral <del>that may be</del> present and the likelihood of prior extraction in an environmentally acceptable way has been fully considered. As a minimum, an assessment of the depth and quality of mineral, together with</p> |



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|         |             |                    | <p>an appraisal of the consequential viability for prior extraction without prejudicing the delivery of housing within the plan period should be provided.</p> <p><u>VI. The developer will submit a detailed remediation strategy designed to secure a permanently safe environment for the human population and local wildlife and, following remediation, will submit sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the site is not capable of being determined as contaminated land under Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.</u></p> <p>VII. In accordance with the relevant Local/District Plan policies the site will provide <u>for</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) a wide mix of housing types, sizes and tenures, including affordable housing; housing for older people; and serviced plots of land to contribute towards meeting evidenced demand for self-build and custom housebuilding;</li> <li>(b) <del>A Gypsy and Traveller site of an area sufficient to accommodate a total of 15 pitches</del> <u>a serviced site for Gypsies and Travellers, which should deliver a total of 15 pitches</u> (4 pitches for East Herts' and 11 pitches for Welwyn Hatfield's needs) to contribute towards the needs of both authorities, <u>the location of which should be determined through the Masterplanning process, taking into account the latest Accommodation Needs evidence of both authorities;</u></li> <li>(c) a neighbourhood centre in the East Herts part of the development and a small neighbourhood centre in the Welwyn Hatfield part of the development, each in an accessible location <u>of a size and scale</u> to meet the day-to-day retail needs of new residents;</li> <li>(d) an employment area in a visible and accessible location in accordance with an up-to-date assessment of need; this area would incorporate the Holdings in Welwyn Hatfield, together with land off Birchall Lane (currently allocated as a Waste Site (ref. AS008) in the</li> </ul> |

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|         |             |                    | <p>Hertfordshire Waste Site Allocations Document) subject to there being no adverse impact on neighbouring residential amenity;</p> <p>(e) community facilities, including healthcare (in the East Herts part of the development) and leisure facilities;</p> <p>(f) education facilities, including <u>land for a two</u> <del>one</del> 2 form entry primary school with Early Years Provision in Welwyn Hatfield and <del>an all-through school</del> <u>land</u> in East Herts <u>for comprising a 2 form entry</u> <del>a</del> primary school <u>of up to three forms of entry</u> with Early Years Provision and a secondary school of up to <del>8</del> <u>eight</u> forms of entry. <del>All Schools</del> <u>schools</u> should provide for the dual use of facilities for community purposes;</p> <p>(g) sustainable transport measures <u>that prioritise and encourage walking, cycling and the use of new and existing passenger transport networks. A sustainable transport strategy should support the application, which will set out the location of new routes and improved connections and will detail what measures will be in place to encourage patronage of passenger transport services from the outset of occupation</u> <del>including the improvement of pedestrian links, cycle paths, passenger transport and community transport initiatives;</del></p> <p>(h) suitable access arrangements and any necessary wider strategic and local highway mitigation measures, including addressing impacts on the A414 in Hertford, the B195 and the A1(M);</p> <p>(i) formal and informal open spaces for leisure and recreation, including play areas, sports fields, allotments and community orchards. Spaces will contribute to wider ecological networks including a strategic green infrastructure corridor from St Albans through to Hertford. As such, spaces should:</p> |

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|         |             |                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be accessible to both new and existing communities;</li> <li>• provide north-south and east-west connections, providing upgraded routes for walkers and cyclists, including the Lea Valley Path and Cole Green Way;</li> <li>• provide safe routes for wildlife, protecting and enhancing wildlife assets;</li> <li>• balance the needs of recreation and nature, providing animal infrastructure and undisturbed areas.</li> </ul> <p>(j) <u>conservation and, where appropriate, Protection and enhancement of heritage assets and their settings, including Panshanger Registered Park and Garden, Hatfield House, Hatfield House Registered Park and Garden, Birchall Farm and Holwellhyde Farmhouse, both on-site and in the wider area, through careful masterplanning and appropriate mitigation measures, having regard to the findings of the Heritage Impact Assessment. A buffer of open land will be required adjacent to Panshanger Park, Birchall Farm and Holwellhyde Farmhouse.</u></p> <p>(k) <u>landscape and planting in order to complement wider green corridor and ecological network objectives, the site will protect and enhance areas of ecological importance through a landscape-led green infrastructure strategy. This strategy will create a network of linked habitats across the site which will, provide links to green infrastructure outside the site, facilitate the migration and movement of species, create buffers alongside existing ecological features, provide for recreational access in a way that protects sensitive habitats, and will contribute to achieving net gains to biodiversity across the site. An appropriate land management strategy will also be required.</u></p> <p>(l) <u>a landscaped green infrastructure buffer adjacent to the A414 and Burnside will be required to provide visual screening, and to ensure that homes and other land uses are</u></p> |

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|          |  |                    | <p><u>not adversely affected by the impacts of noise and air pollution. The buffer will comprise appropriate design features to provide noise and air quality mitigation, flood attenuation, the creation of new habitats and public rights of way. This buffer will also provide visual screening of development from the A414 and mitigate the harm to heritage assets. Appropriate evidence will be required to inform the design of this buffer;</u></p> <p>(m) necessary utilities, including integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home-working; and</p> <p>(n) sustainable drainage and provision for flood mitigation.</p> <p>VIII. In order to ensure that the site is planned and delivered comprehensively, any application for development on part of the site will be assessed against its contribution to the masterplan, and will not prejudice the implementation of the site as a whole.</p> |
| MM/13/02 | Figure 13.2 (renumbered 13.3) Strategy Diagram | 163                | <p>Original Strategy Diagram to be deleted. Replaced with updated Strategy Diagram to reflect amendments made relating to the historic environment.</p> <p>New Strategy Diagram to be inserted:</p>  |

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## Chapter 14: Housing

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|----------|-----------------------|--------------------|---|
| MM/14/01 | 14.2.3 and Table 14.1 | 167                | The SHMA (2015) sets out the mix of market and affordable housing need in the District by dwelling type and size over the period 2011-2033. |

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|--------------------------|---|--------------------|---|---|--|--|--|----------------|--|--------|---|------|-----------|-----|----|-------------|-----|----|-------|------------|-------|-----|------------|-------|-----|------------|-------|-----|-------------|-----|----|----------------------|--|--------|---|---|--|---|---|--------------------|--|--------|---|------|-----------|-----|-----|-------------|-----|-----|-------|------------|-------|-----|------------|-------|-----|-------------|-----|----|--------------------------|--|-------|--|
|                          |   |                    | <p><b>Table 14.1 Market and Affordable Housing Mix 2011-2033 (Figures may not sum due to rounding)</b></p> <table> <tr> <td colspan="4">-</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Market Housing</td><td>Number</td><td>%</td></tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Flat</td><td>1 bedroom</td><td>710</td><td>6%</td></tr> <tr> <td>2+ bedrooms</td><td>810</td><td>7%</td></tr> <tr> <td rowspan="4">House</td><td>2 bedrooms</td><td>1,510</td><td>12%</td></tr> <tr> <td>3 bedrooms</td><td>5,640</td><td>46%</td></tr> <tr> <td>4 bedrooms</td><td>2,740</td><td>23%</td></tr> <tr> <td>5+ bedrooms</td><td>770</td><td>6%</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Total Market Housing</td><td>12,200</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Affordable Housing</td><td>Number</td><td>%</td></tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Flat</td><td>1 bedroom</td><td>820</td><td>19%</td></tr> <tr> <td>2+ bedrooms</td><td>470</td><td>11%</td></tr> <tr> <td rowspan="3">House</td><td>2 bedrooms</td><td>1,210</td><td>29%</td></tr> <tr> <td>3 bedrooms</td><td>1,410</td><td>34%</td></tr> <tr> <td>4+ bedrooms</td><td>310</td><td>7%</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Total Affordable Housing</td><td>4,200</td><td></td></tr> </table> | - |  |  |  | Market Housing |  | Number | % | Flat | 1 bedroom | 710 | 6% | 2+ bedrooms | 810 | 7% | House | 2 bedrooms | 1,510 | 12% | 3 bedrooms | 5,640 | 46% | 4 bedrooms | 2,740 | 23% | 5+ bedrooms | 770 | 6% | Total Market Housing |  | 12,200 | - | - |  | - | - | Affordable Housing |  | Number | % | Flat | 1 bedroom | 820 | 19% | 2+ bedrooms | 470 | 11% | House | 2 bedrooms | 1,210 | 29% | 3 bedrooms | 1,410 | 34% | 4+ bedrooms | 310 | 7% | Total Affordable Housing |  | 4,200 |  |
| -                        |   |                    |   |   |  |  |  |                |  |        |   |      |           |     |    |             |     |    |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                      |  |        |   |   |  |   |   |                    |  |        |   |      |           |     |     |             |     |     |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                          |  |       |  |
| Market Housing           |   | Number             | %   |   |  |  |  |                |  |        |   |      |           |     |    |             |     |    |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                      |  |        |   |   |  |   |   |                    |  |        |   |      |           |     |     |             |     |     |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                          |  |       |  |
| Flat                     | 1 bedroom                                 | 710                | 6%  |   |  |  |  |                |  |        |   |      |           |     |    |             |     |    |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                      |  |        |   |   |  |   |   |                    |  |        |   |      |           |     |     |             |     |     |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                          |  |       |  |
|                          | 2+ bedrooms                               | 810                | 7%  |   |  |  |  |                |  |        |   |      |           |     |    |             |     |    |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                      |  |        |   |   |  |   |   |                    |  |        |   |      |           |     |     |             |     |     |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                          |  |       |  |
| House                    | 2 bedrooms                                | 1,510              | 12%   |   |  |  |  |                |  |        |   |      |           |     |    |             |     |    |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                      |  |        |   |   |  |   |   |                    |  |        |   |      |           |     |     |             |     |     |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                          |  |       |  |
|                          | 3 bedrooms                                | 5,640              | 46%   |   |  |  |  |                |  |        |   |      |           |     |    |             |     |    |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                      |  |        |   |   |  |   |   |                    |  |        |   |      |           |     |     |             |     |     |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                          |  |       |  |
|                          | 4 bedrooms                                | 2,740              | 23%   |   |  |  |  |                |  |        |   |      |           |     |    |             |     |    |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                      |  |        |   |   |  |   |   |                    |  |        |   |      |           |     |     |             |     |     |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                          |  |       |  |
|                          | 5+ bedrooms                               | 770                | 6%  |   |  |  |  |                |  |        |   |      |           |     |    |             |     |    |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                      |  |        |   |   |  |   |   |                    |  |        |   |      |           |     |     |             |     |     |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                          |  |       |  |
| Total Market Housing     |   | 12,200             | -   |   |  |  |  |                |  |        |   |      |           |     |    |             |     |    |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                      |  |        |   |   |  |   |   |                    |  |        |   |      |           |     |     |             |     |     |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                          |  |       |  |
| -                        |   | -                  | -   |   |  |  |  |                |  |        |   |      |           |     |    |             |     |    |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                      |  |        |   |   |  |   |   |                    |  |        |   |      |           |     |     |             |     |     |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                          |  |       |  |
| Affordable Housing       |   | Number             | %   |   |  |  |  |                |  |        |   |      |           |     |    |             |     |    |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                      |  |        |   |   |  |   |   |                    |  |        |   |      |           |     |     |             |     |     |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                          |  |       |  |
| Flat                     | 1 bedroom                                 | 820                | 19%   |   |  |  |  |                |  |        |   |      |           |     |    |             |     |    |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                      |  |        |   |   |  |   |   |                    |  |        |   |      |           |     |     |             |     |     |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                          |  |       |  |
|                          | 2+ bedrooms                               | 470                | 11%   |   |  |  |  |                |  |        |   |      |           |     |    |             |     |    |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                      |  |        |   |   |  |   |   |                    |  |        |   |      |           |     |     |             |     |     |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                          |  |       |  |
| House                    | 2 bedrooms                                | 1,210              | 29%   |   |  |  |  |                |  |        |   |      |           |     |    |             |     |    |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                      |  |        |   |   |  |   |   |                    |  |        |   |      |           |     |     |             |     |     |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                          |  |       |  |
|                          | 3 bedrooms                                | 1,410              | 34%   |   |  |  |  |                |  |        |   |      |           |     |    |             |     |    |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                      |  |        |   |   |  |   |   |                    |  |        |   |      |           |     |     |             |     |     |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                          |  |       |  |
|                          | 4+ bedrooms                               | 310                | 7%  |   |  |  |  |                |  |        |   |      |           |     |    |             |     |    |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                      |  |        |   |   |  |   |   |                    |  |        |   |      |           |     |     |             |     |     |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                          |  |       |  |
| Total Affordable Housing |   | 4,200              |   |   |  |  |  |                |  |        |   |      |           |     |    |             |     |    |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                      |  |        |   |   |  |   |   |                    |  |        |   |      |           |     |     |             |     |     |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                          |  |       |  |
| MM/14/02                 | Policy HOU1<br>Type and Mix<br>of Housing | 168                | <p>I. On new housing developments of 5 or more gross additional dwellings, an appropriate mix of housing tenures, types and sizes will be expected in order to create mixed and balanced communities appropriate to local character and taking account of the latest Strategic Housing</p>  |   |  |  |  |                |  |        |   |      |           |     |    |             |     |    |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                      |  |        |   |   |  |   |   |                    |  |        |   |      |           |     |     |             |     |     |       |            |       |     |            |       |     |             |     |    |                          |  |       |  |

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|          |                       |                    | <p>Market Assessment and any additional up-to-date evidence, <u>including the latest East Herts Housing and Health Strategy; local demographic context and trends; local housing need and demand; and site issues and design considerations.</u></p> <p>II. Affordable Housing should be provided in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing).</p> <p>III. Where appropriate, provision of specialist housing will be encouraged for older people and vulnerable groups in accordance with Policy HOU6 (Specialist Housing for Older and Vulnerable People).</p> <p>IV. Provision of accessible and adaptable dwellings to meet the changing needs of occupants over their lifetime should be provided in accordance with Policy HOU7 (Accessible and Adaptable Homes).</p> <p>V. Self-Build Housing in accordance with Policy HOU8 (Self-Build and Custom Build Housing).</p> <p>VI. Where appropriate, provision of specialist accommodation will be expected for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople and Non-Nomadic Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, in accordance with Policies HOU9 (Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople) and HOU10 (New Park Home Sites for Non-Nomadic Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople).</p> |
| MM/14/03 | 14.4.3 and Table 14.2 | 170-171            | <p>There is a significant need for additional affordable housing within East Herts as set out in the latest Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 2015. The table below sets out the current unmet need for affordable housing in the District, together with the projected future affordable need for the <del>22-year</del> period 2011-<u>2016</u>-2033:</p> <p><b>Table 14.2 Affordable Housing Need</b></p> <div></div>  |

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|------------|-------------|--------------------|--|-------------|--------------------------------------|
|            |             |                    |  |             | Affordable Housing Need (Households) |
|            |             |                    | Unmet need for affordable housing in 2011-2016   |             |                                      |
|            |             |                    | Total unmet need for affordable housing  |             | 1,6321,698                           |
|            |             |                    | Supply of housing vacated  |             | 471494                               |
|            |             |                    | Current affordable housing need  |             | 1,1611,204                           |
|            |             |                    | Future need for affordable housing 2011-2033   |             | 2,9672,481                           |
|            |             |                    | Total need for affordable housing 2011-2033  |             | 4,1283,685                           |
|            |             |                    | Average annual need for affordable housing   |             | 217                                  |
|            |             |                    | % of overall housing need  |             | 31%32%                               |
| MM14/04    | 14.4.5      | 171                | Planning Practice Guidance states that affordable housing contributions should not be sought from sites proposing development of 10 units or less and where the dwellings would have a combined gross internal floor space of 1,000 square metres or less. Therefore, the affordable housing requirement has not been set at 31-32% in recognition of the fact that not all developments will contribute to the provision of affordable housing. |             |                                      |
| MM/14/05   | Table 14.3  | 172                | Table 14.3 Affordable Housing Mix (Figures may not sum due to rounding)  |             |                                      |
|            |             |                    |  |             |                                      |
|            |             |                    | Affordable Rent  |             | Number                               |
|            |             |                    | Flat   | 1 bedroom   | 720660                               |
|            |             |                    |  | 2+ bedrooms | 400360                               |
|            |             |                    | House  | 2 bedrooms  | 1,020930                             |
| 3 bedrooms | 1,130970    |                    |  |             |                                      |



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|          |                                |                    |  | 4+ bedrooms | <del>270</del> 250     |
|          |                                |                    | Subtotal   |             | <del>3,500</del> 3,170 |
|          |                                |                    | % of affordable housing  |             | 84%                    |
|          |                                |                    |  |             |                        |
|          |                                |                    | <b>Intermediate Affordable Housing</b>   |             | Number                 |
|          |                                |                    | Flat   | 1 bedroom   | <del>100</del> 80      |
|          |                                |                    |  | 2+ bedrooms | <del>70</del> 70       |
|          |                                |                    | House  | 2 bedrooms  | <del>190</del> 180     |
|          |                                |                    |  | 3 bedrooms  | <del>280</del> 240     |
|          |                                |                    |  | 4+ bedrooms | <del>40</del> 40       |
|          |                                |                    | Subtotal   |             | <del>700</del> 610     |
|          |                                |                    | % of affordable housing  |             | 16%                    |
| MM/14/06 | Policy HOU3 Affordable Housing | 175                | <p>I. Affordable housing provision will be expected on all development sites that propose development that falls within Class C3 (Dwelling Houses) as follows:</p> <p>(a) up to 35% on sites proposing 10 or fewer gross additional dwellings, and where the dwellings would have a combined gross floor space greater than 1,000 square metres;</p> <p>(b) up to 35% on sites proposing 11 to 14 gross additional dwellings;</p> <p>(c) up to 40% on sites proposing 15 or more gross additional dwellings.</p> <p>II. Affordable Housing provision will be expected to incorporate a mix of tenures taking account of the Council's most up to date evidence on housing need. The Council will negotiate the</p> |             |                        |

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|          |                        |                    | <p>tenure mix to be provided on a site, having regard to the affordable housing products defined within the National Planning Policy Framework, through the planning application process.</p> <p>III. Lower provision may be permitted if it is demonstrated that the 35% and 40%, as appropriate referred to in I (a), (b) and (c) above, cannot be achieved due to viability reasons or where it would prejudice the need to secure other infrastructure priorities. Applicants seeking to justify a lower percentage level of affordable housing to that referred to in I (a), (b) and (c) above, will be required to provide a financial viability assessment as part of the planning application. Where agreement is not reached, external independent consultants, agreed by both the Council and applicant, will be appointed by the developer, to undertake further independent viability assessment. The applicant will be required to meet the costs of this independent assessment.</p> <p>IV. Affordable Housing should normally be provided on site, apart from in exceptional circumstances when agreed with the Council. Applicants will be required to provide justification as part of the planning application setting out the need for off-site provision or financial contributions in lieu to be made.</p> <p>V. The affordable housing units should be integrated into the open market housing development using appropriate design methods, i.e. tenure blind, and 'pepper-potted' across the site in clusters appropriate to the size and scale of the development.</p> <p>VI. To secure the benefits of affordable housing for first and subsequent occupiers affordable rented and intermediate housing will be retained as affordable by means of an appropriate legal agreement or condition with the Council, or the subsidy will be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision.</p> |
| MM/14/07 | Policy HOU8 Self-Build | 182                | I. To support prospective self-builders, on sites of more than 200 dwellings, developers will be expected to supply <del>5%</del> <u>at least 1%</u> of dwelling plots for sale to self-builders, having regard to   |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para   | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification  |                        |  |                      |   |  |   |                        |  |                       |  |
|--|---|--------------------|---|------------------------|--|----------------------|---|--|---|------------------------|--|-----------------------|--|
|  | Housing   |                    | <p>the need identified on the Council’s Self-Build and Custom Build Register.</p> <p>II. The Council will support locally proposed self-build projects identified within a Neighbourhood Plan wherever possible.</p> <p>III. Planning permissions should include conditions requiring self-build developments to be completed within 3 years of a self-builder purchasing a plot.</p> <p>IV. Where plots have been made available and marketed appropriately for at least 12 months and have not sold out, the plot(s) may either remain on the open market as self-build or be built out by the developer.</p>   |                        |  |                      |   |  |   |                        |  |                       |  |
| MM/14/08   | Policy HOU9<br>Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople   | 185                | <p>I. To meet identified <u>local</u> need, pitches for Gypsies and Travellers and plots for Travelling Showpeople will be provided within the District at the following locations:</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">Gypsies and Travellers</th></tr><tr><td>The Stables, Bayford</td><td>3 additional pitches (2 to be provided in the period up to 2022; and 1 between 2022 and 2027) within the allocated site area.</td></tr><tr><td>Birchall Garden Suburb, East of Welwyn Garden City (EWEL1)</td><td>4 pitches (2 to be provided between 2022 and 2027; and 2 to allow for longer-term accommodation needs) for East Herts within an area sufficient to accommodate a total of 15 pitches (11 for Welwyn Hatfield) to meet the accommodation needs of both East Herts and Welwyn Hatfield and/or for future expansion, as evidence of need dictates.</td></tr><tr><td>The Gilston Area (GA1)</td><td>To allow for longer-term accommodation needs, an area of suitable land should be safeguarded that would allow for future provision of a total of 15 pitches, to be delivered towards the end of the Plan period and/or beyond, as evidence of need dictates.</td></tr><tr><th colspan="2">Travelling Showpeople</th></tr></table> | Gypsies and Travellers |  | The Stables, Bayford | 3 additional pitches (2 to be provided in the period up to 2022; and 1 between 2022 and 2027) within the allocated site area. | Birchall Garden Suburb, East of Welwyn Garden City (EWEL1) | 4 pitches (2 to be provided between 2022 and 2027; and 2 to allow for longer-term accommodation needs) for East Herts within an area sufficient to accommodate a total of 15 pitches (11 for Welwyn Hatfield) to meet the accommodation needs of both East Herts and Welwyn Hatfield and/or for future expansion, as evidence of need dictates. | The Gilston Area (GA1) | To allow for longer-term accommodation needs, an area of suitable land should be safeguarded that would allow for future provision of a total of 15 pitches, to be delivered towards the end of the Plan period and/or beyond, as evidence of need dictates. | Travelling Showpeople |  |
| Gypsies and Travellers                                     |   |                    |   |                        |  |                      |   |  |   |                        |  |                       |  |
| The Stables, Bayford                                       | 3 additional pitches (2 to be provided in the period up to 2022; and 1 between 2022 and 2027) within the allocated site area.   |                    |   |                        |  |                      |   |  |   |                        |  |                       |  |
| Birchall Garden Suburb, East of Welwyn Garden City (EWEL1) | 4 pitches (2 to be provided between 2022 and 2027; and 2 to allow for longer-term accommodation needs) for East Herts within an area sufficient to accommodate a total of 15 pitches (11 for Welwyn Hatfield) to meet the accommodation needs of both East Herts and Welwyn Hatfield and/or for future expansion, as evidence of need dictates. |                    |   |                        |  |                      |   |  |   |                        |  |                       |  |
| The Gilston Area (GA1)                                     | To allow for longer-term accommodation needs, an area of suitable land should be safeguarded that would allow for future provision of a total of 15 pitches, to be delivered towards the end of the Plan period and/or beyond, as evidence of need dictates.  |                    |   |                        |  |                      |   |  |   |                        |  |                       |  |
| Travelling Showpeople                                      |   |                    |   |                        |  |                      |   |  |   |                        |  |                       |  |

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|         |             |                    | Gresley Park, East of Stevenage (EOS1)  | 5 plots (each of sufficient size to allow for the provision of accommodation and equipment plus storage/maintenance).  |
|         |             |                    | North and East of Ware (WARE2)  | 4 plots (each of sufficient size to allow for the provision of accommodation and equipment plus storage/maintenance) within the first phase of development to be provided within a larger area that should be safeguarded to allow for future expansion to a total of 8 plots, as evidence of need dictates.   |
|         |             |                    | The Gilston Area (GA1)  | To allow for longer-term accommodation needs, an area of suitable land should be safeguarded that would allow for future provision of a total of 8 plots (each of sufficient size to allow for the provision of accommodation and equipment plus storage/maintenance), to be delivered towards the end of the Plan period and/or beyond, as evidence of need dictates. |
|         |             |                    | II. In order to identify exact locations within the areas allocated to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople listed above, and to assess suitability where planning applications are submitted for non-allocated sites, the following criteria should be satisfied:<br><br>(a) the site is in a sustainable location in terms of accessibility to existing local services;<br><br>(b) the site is suitable in terms of vehicular access to the highway, parking, turning, road safety and servicing arrangements and has access to essential services such as water supply, sewerage, drainage, and waste disposal;<br><br>(c) proposals make adequate provision for on-site facilities for storage, play, residential amenity and sufficient on-site utility services for the number of pitches or plots proposed;<br><br>(d) the proposal is well related to the size and location of the site and respects the scale of the |  |

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|         |             |                       | <p>nearest settled community;</p> <p>(e) the site can be integrated into the local area to allow for successful co-existence between the site and the settled community;</p> <p>(f) proposals provide for satisfactory residential amenity both within the site and with neighbouring occupiers and thereby do not detrimentally affect the amenity of local residents by reason of on-site business activities, noise, disturbance, or loss of privacy;</p> <p>(g) proposals ensure that the occupation and use of the site would not cause undue harm to the visual amenity and character of the area and should be capable of being assimilated into the surrounding landscape without significant adverse effect;</p> <p>(h) the site is not affected by environmental hazards that may affect the residents' health or welfare or be located in an area of high risk of flooding, including functional floodplains;</p> <p>(i) within nationally recognised designations, proposals would not compromise the objectives of the designation.</p> <p>III. Proposals for sites accommodating Travelling Showpeople should additionally allow for a mixed use yard with areas for residential provision and the storage and maintenance of equipment. All other proposals for mixed residential and business activities will be assessed on a site specific basis, taking the above criteria into account.</p> <p>IV. New traveller sites (whether temporary or permanent) in the Green Belt are inappropriate development and will not be approved except in very special circumstances.</p> <p>V. Any development granted under this policy will be subject to a condition limiting occupation to Gypsies and Travellers or Travelling Showpeople, as appropriate.</p> |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para  | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification  |
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|          |  |                    | VI. Existing authorised sites for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople will be safeguarded from development which would preclude their continued occupation by these groups, unless acceptable replacement accommodation can be provided or the site is no longer required to meet an identified need.  |
| MM/14/09 | Policy HOU10<br>New Park Home Sites for Non-Nomadic Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople | 187                | <p>I. Any applications for planning permission for <u>Non-Nomadic</u> Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople park homes must be in accordance with the NPPF and PPTS and the following criteria should be satisfied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the site is in a sustainable location in terms of accessibility to existing local services;</li> <li>(b) the site is suitable in terms of vehicular access to the highway, parking, turning, road safety and servicing arrangements and has access to essential services such as water supply, sewerage, drainage, and waste disposal;</li> <li>(c) proposals make adequate provision for on-site facilities for storage, play, residential amenity and sufficient on-site utility services for the number of park homes proposed;</li> <li>(d) the proposal is well related to the size and location of the site and respects the scale of the nearest settled community;</li> <li>(e) the site can be integrated into the local area to allow for successful co-existence between the site and the settled community;</li> <li>(f) proposals provide for satisfactory residential amenity both within the site and with neighbouring occupiers and thereby do not detrimentally affect the amenity of local residents by reason of on-site business activities, noise, disturbance, or loss of privacy;</li> <li>(g) proposals ensure that the occupation and use of the site would not cause undue harm to</li> </ul> |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para                                | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification   |
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|          |  |                    | <p>the visual amenity and character of the area and should be capable of being assimilated into the surrounding landscape without significant adverse effect;</p> <p>(h) the site is not affected by environmental hazards that may affect the residents' health or welfare or be located in an area of high risk of flooding, including functional floodplains;</p> <p>(i) within nationally recognised designations, proposals would not compromise the objectives of the designation.</p> <p>II. New traveller sites (whether temporary or permanent) in the Green Belt are inappropriate development and will not be approved except in very special circumstances.</p>  |
| MM/14/10 | Section 14.12                              | 188                | <p><b><del>14.12 Replacement Buildings in the Green Belt and the Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt</del></b></p> <p><b><del>14.12.1</del></b> The replacement of buildings on a one-to-one basis can be a means of securing more functional buildings to meet present and future needs. The Council is committed to maintaining the character and appearance of the District. Proposals for a replacement building should be in the same use and not be materially larger than the one it replaces.</p> <p><b><del>14.12.2</del></b> The Council may control the further extension of replacement buildings by the removal of permitted development rights.</p> <p><b><del>14.12.3</del></b> The replacement of a building in the Green Belt or the Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt will be permitted provided the new building is in the same use and is not materially larger than the one it replaces in accordance with Policy GBR1 (Green Belt) and Policy GBR2 (Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt).</p> |
| MM/14/11 | Policy HOU11 Extensions and Alterations to | 189-190            | <p>Proposals for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• extensions and alterations to dwellings;</li> </ul>   |

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|         | Dwellings, Residential Outbuildings and Works Within Residential Curtilages |                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>residential outbuildings or extensions to existing outbuildings; and</li> <li>works within residential curtilages,</li> </ul> <p>will be considered in accordance with Policies GBR1 (Green Belt) and GBR2 (Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt), and against the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) be of a size, scale, mass, form, siting, design and materials of construction that are appropriate to the character, appearance and setting of the existing dwelling and/or the surrounding area, and extensions should generally appear as a subservient addition to the dwelling;</li> <li>(b) side extensions at first floor level or above should ensure appropriate space is left between the flank wall of the extension and the common curtilage with a neighbouring property (as a general rule a space of 1 metre will be the minimum acceptable), to safeguard the character and appearance of the street scene and prevent a visually damaging 'terracing' effect;</li> <li>(c) flat roofed extensions, except those on the ground floor, will be refused as visually undesirable other than in those exceptional circumstances where the character of the original dwelling allows a flat-roofed design to be appropriately incorporated, or it represents a sustainable or innovative design approach;</li> <li>(d) roof dormers may be acceptable if appropriate to the design and character of the dwelling and its surroundings. Dormers should generally be of limited extent and modest proportions, so as not to dominate the existing roof form.</li> </ul> |



## Chapter 15: Economic Development

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para              | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification   |
|----------|--------------------------|--------------------|--|
| MM/15/01 | Policy ED1<br>Employment | 197-198            | <p>I. Within designated Employment Areas (as defined on the Policies Map), land is <del>reserved</del> <b>allocated</b> for industry, comprising Use Classes B1 (Business), B2 (General Industrial) and where well related to the primary road network, B8 (Storage and Distribution).</p> <p>II. The provision of new employment uses will be supported in principle, where they are in a suitable location where access can be achieved by a choice of sustainable transport and do not conflict with other policies within this Plan. New employment floorspace should be of a flexible design, able to respond to the changing needs of small and growing enterprises, be energy efficient in construction and operation (in accordance with the Council's Design and Landscape, and Climate Change policies in Chapters 17 and 22) and have fully integrated communications technology, in line with Policy ED3 Communications Infrastructure.</p> <p>III. Development which would cause the loss of an existing designated Employment Area, or a site/premises which is currently, or was last, in employment use (Classes B1, B2, B8 or related Sui Generis), will only be permitted where all the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The retention of the site or premises for Use Classes B1, B2 and B8 has been fully explored without success. This should also consider whether improvements to the existing site/premises would make it more attractive to alternative B1, B2 or B8 uses. The applicant will be expected to undertake discussions with officers as to the potential for and suitability of alternative uses. Evidence of a period of marketing of at least 12 months must be provided. For a non-designated employment area, a proportionate approach should be taken;</li> <li>(b) The retention of the B1, B2 or B8 use is unable to be facilitated by the partial conversion to a non-employment generating use; and</li> <li>(c) The proposal does not prejudice the continued viability of existing Employment Areas and neighbouring uses and existing operational employment sites and neighbouring uses.</li> </ul> |

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|---------|-------------|--------------------|--|
|         |             |                    | IV. The Mill Site in Bishop's Stortford will remain as a designated Employment Area until such time that the land is presented as being available for redevelopment. The site will then be subject to the provisions of Policy BISH10 and should be brought forward for redevelopment as part of a comprehensive masterplan. |

## Chapter 16: Retail and Town Centres

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para   | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification   |
|----------|---|--------------------|--|
| MM/16/01 | Policy RTC5<br>District Centres,<br>Neighbourhood Centres,<br>Local Parades<br>and Individual Shops | 213                | <p>I. Within District Centres, Neighbourhood Centres and Local Parades, development or change of use to main town centre uses will be supported in principle, <del>unless this results in more than 50% of units in Non-A1 Use in a continuous frontage</del> to secure the vitality and viability of the district or neighbourhood centre or local parade.</p> <p>II. Proposals that result in the loss of individual shops in A1 Use will be resisted and will be considered in accordance with Policy CFLR8 (Loss of Community Facilities).</p> |

## Chapter 17: Design and Landscape

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification   |
|----------|-------------|--------------------|--|
| MM/17/01 | 17.4.1      | 218                | Development proposals can often be controversial, therefore it is important that appropriate appraisals are undertaken to inform the site planning, layout and design process, and that local communities and stakeholders are engaged throughout. The District Council expects a high standard of design in new development <u>and as such will require that all 'significant' applications undertake a Masterplanning process. The significance of a development will be measured not only on its scale, but on the potential impact on the community and local character of the place into which it is to be introduced, and the ability to bring forward benefits to the community. Generally,</u> |

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|          |  |                    | <u>a threshold of fifty homes or more will apply. However, in some cases, a smaller scale of development may be considered to have a significant effect. The Masterplanning process enables issues to be addressed collaboratively at an early stage, enabling applications to progress to detailed or hybrid stages more quickly, therefore speeding up the decision-making process and ultimately the delivery of development. The detail to be considered through this process will be commensurate to the specific proposal.</u> To achieve this, applicants should ensure:  |
| MM/17/02 | New Policy DES1 Masterplanning   | 219                | <p><b><u>Policy DES1 Masterplanning</u></b></p> <p><u>I. All 'significant' development proposals will be required to prepare a Masterplan setting out the quantum and distribution of land uses; access; sustainable high quality design and layout principles; necessary infrastructure; the relationship between the site and other adjacent and nearby land uses; landscape and heritage assets; and other relevant matters.</u></p> <p><u>II. The Masterplan will be collaboratively prepared, involving site promoters, land owners, East Herts Council, town and parish councils and other relevant key stakeholders. The Masterplan will be further informed by public participation.</u></p> <p><u>III. In order to ensure that sites are planned and delivered comprehensively, any application for development on part of the site will be assessed against its contribution to the Masterplan as a whole.</u></p> |
| MM/17/03 | Policy DES1 Landscape Character (renumbered as Policy DES2 – MC/17/05) | 223                | <p><b>Policy DES2 Landscape Character</b></p> <p>I. Development proposals must demonstrate how they conserve, enhance or strengthen the character and distinctive features of the district's landscape. For major applications, or applications where there is a potential adverse impact on landscape character, a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment and/or Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment should be provided to ensure that impacts, mitigation and enhancement opportunities are appropriately addressed.</p>   |

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|          |  |                    | <p>II. <del>In exceptional circumstances, where damage to landscape character is unavoidable and justified by other material considerations, appropriate mitigation measures will be sought.</del> <u>Appropriate mitigation measures will be taken into account when considering the effect of development on landscape character/ landscaping.</u></p> <p>III. <del>Where an area is identified in the Council's latest Landscape Character Assessment SPD this will be used to inform consideration of development proposals.</del> <u>Where relevant, development proposals will have regard to the District Council's currently adopted Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Planning Document.</u></p>           |
| MM/17/04 | Policy DES2 Landscaping (renumbered as Policy DES3 – MC/17/09)           | 223                | <p><b>Policy DES3 Landscaping</b></p> <p>I. Development proposals must demonstrate how they will retain, protect and enhance existing landscape features which are of amenity and/or biodiversity value, <u>in order to ensure that there is no net loss of such features.</u></p> <p>II. <del>In exceptional circumstances, where</del> <u>Where</u> losses are unavoidable and justified by other material considerations, compensatory planting or habitat creation will be sought within or outside the development site. <u>Replacement planting schemes should comprise mature, native species appropriate to the local conditions and landscape character, supported by a monitoring and replacement programme.</u></p> |
| MM/17/05 | Policy DES3 Design of Development (renumbered as Policy DES4 – MC/17/11) | 225-226            | <p><b>Policy DES4 Design of Development</b></p> <p>I. All development proposals, including extensions to existing buildings, must be of a high standard of design and layout to reflect and promote local distinctiveness. Proposals will be expected to:</p> <p>(a) Make the best possible use of the available land by respecting or improving upon the character of the site and the surrounding area, in terms of its scale, height, massing (volume, shape), orientation, siting, layout, density, building materials (colour, texture),</p>  |

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|         |             |                    | <p>landscaping, environmental assets, and design features, having due regard to the design opportunities and constraints of a site;</p> <p>(b) Incorporate homes, buildings and neighbourhoods that are flexible to future adaptation, including the changing needs of occupants and users, and changes in wider employment and social trends;</p> <p>(c) Avoid significant detrimental impacts on the amenity of occupiers of neighbouring properties and land, and ensure that their environments are not harmed by noise and disturbance or by inadequate daylight, privacy or overshadowing;</p> <p>(d) <del>Encourage</del> <b>Incorporate</b> high quality innovative design, new technologies and construction techniques, including zero or low carbon energy and water efficient, design and sustainable construction methods. <u>Proposals for residential and commercial development should seek to make appropriate provision for high speed broadband connectivity, ensuring that Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) is provided;</u></p> <p>(e) Make provision for the storage of bins and ancillary household equipment. Garages and driveways should be capable of accommodating family sized vehicles. Dwelling design and layout should make provision for electric vehicle charging points in safe and accessible locations;</p> <p>(f) All new residential developments should meet the requirements of Policy HOU7, and ensure all internal rooms are of an appropriate size and dimension so that the intended function of each room can be satisfactorily achieved. All dwellings shall be identified by their square meterage.</p> |

## Chapter 18: Transport

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| MM/18/01 | 18.2.1                            | 232                | 6. Reducing congestion and carbon-dioxide emissions <u>to improve air quality and health benefits for the district's residents and visitors (see also Policy EQ4 Air Quality).</u>   |
| MM/18/02 | Policy TRA1 Sustainable Transport | 232                | <p>l. To achieve accessibility improvements and promotion of sustainable transport in the district, development proposals should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Primarily be located in places which enable sustainable journeys to be made to key services and facilities to help aid carbon emission reduction;</li> <li>(b) <del>Comply</del> <u>Where relevant, take account of</u> with the provisions of the Local Transport Plan and/or Hertfordshire 2050 Transport Vision;</li> <li>(c) Ensure that a range of sustainable transport options are available to occupants or users, which may involve the improvement of pedestrian links, cycle paths, passenger transport network (including bus and/or rail facilities) and community transport initiatives. These improvements could include the creation of new routes, services and facilities or extensions to existing infrastructure and which may incorporate off-site mitigation, as appropriate. In suitable cases the provision of footways and cycle paths alongside navigable waterways may be sought, along with new moorings, where appropriate. The implementation of car sharing schemes should also be considered;</li> <li>(d) Ensure that site layouts prioritise the provision of modes of transport other than the car (particularly walking, cycling and, where appropriate, passenger transport) which, where feasible, should provide easy and direct access to key services and facilities;</li> <li>(e) In the construction of major schemes, allow for the early implementation of sustainable travel infrastructure or initiatives that influence behaviour to enable green travel patterns to become established from the outset of occupation;</li> </ul> |

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|          |  |                    | <p>(f) Protect existing rights of way, cycling and equestrian routes (including both designated and non-designated routes and, where there is evidence of regular public usage, informal provision) and, should diversion prove unavoidable, provide suitable, appealing replacement routes to equal or enhanced standards; and</p> <p>(g) Ensure that provision for the long-term maintenance of any of the above measures (c) (d) and (f) that are implemented is assured.</p> <p>II. Where appropriate, contributions may be required towards the facilitation of strategic transportation schemes identified in the Local Transport Plan and/or Hertfordshire 2050 Transport Vision and other related strategies.</p> <p><u>III. In order to minimise the impact of travel on local air quality in accordance with Policy EQ4 (Air Quality), where major developments involve the introduction of new bus routes or significant changes to existing routes, service providers should work with Hertfordshire County Council's Transport, Access and Safety Unit to secure optimal solutions.</u></p> |
| MM/18/03 | Policy TRA3<br>Vehicle Parking Provision | 234                | <p>I. Vehicle parking provision associated with development proposals will be assessed on a site-specific basis <del>in accordance with</del> <u>and should take into account</u> the provisions of the District Council's currently adopted Supplementary Planning Document 'Vehicle Parking Provision at New Development'.</p> <p>II. Provision of sufficient secure, covered and waterproof cycle and, where appropriate, powered two-wheeler storage facilities should be made for users of developments for new residential, educational, health, leisure, retail, employment and business purposes (to be determined on a site-specific basis). These should be positioned in easily observed and accessible locations.</p> <p>III. Car parking should be integrated as a key element of design in development layouts to ensure</p>   |

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|         |             |                    | <p>good quality, safe, secure and attractive environments.</p> <p>IV. Where a private car park for non-domestic use is proposed, the Council will assess whether it should also be available for shared public use having particular regard to the needs of the primary user.</p> <p>V. <u>For proposals involving residential development:</u> <del>Where</del> public car parks (including those for Park and Ride facilities) <del>are proposed</del>, or, where car parks are to be provided associated with major development involving educational, health, leisure, retail, employment and business uses, provision should be made for charging points for low and zero carbon vehicles <del>(to be determined</del> <u>which will be assessed</u> on a site-specific basis) <u>taking into account the provisions of the District Council's currently adopted Supplementary Planning Document 'Vehicle Parking Provision at New Development'.</u></p> |

## Chapter 19: Community Facilities, Leisure and Recreation

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| MM/19/01 | Policy CFLR1<br>Open Space,<br>Sport and<br>Recreation | 240 - 241          | <p>I. Residential developments will be expected to provide open spaces, indoor and outdoor sport and recreation facilities to provide for the needs arising from the development. Provision of Accessible Natural Greenspace (ANG) will be expected to meet Natural England's ANG Standards. Local areas for play, informal and formal open spaces should be provided for on-site, while contributions towards off-site provision or the enhancement of existing facilities may be more appropriate for other types of provision. Facilities should be provided in accordance with the Council's latest evidence and in consultation with Sport England and the Council's Leisure and Environment Team. Where provision is made on-site as part of a development, applicants should detail how it will be maintained in the long term.</p> <p>II. Commercial developments will be expected to provide adequate amenity space in addition to</p> |



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|         |             |                    | <p>landscape and setting features.</p> <p>III. Proposals for new open space, indoor and outdoor sport and recreation facilities which meet identified needs will be encouraged in suitable locations, served by a choice of sustainable travel options. The proposal and all ancillary facilities such as changing rooms and car parking should be fit for purpose and of an appropriate scale and design. Measures should be taken to integrate such facilities into the landscape, <u>including the creation of features which provide providing</u> net benefits to biodiversity.</p> <p>IV. Proposals should aim to provide for the dual or multiple-use of facilities for wider community access. The use of Community Use Agreements will be expected where appropriate.</p> <p>V. Proposals that retain or enhance the provision, quality and accessibility of existing open space, or indoor or outdoor sport and recreation facilities will be supported in principle, where they do not conflict with other policies within this Plan.</p> <p>VI. Proposals that result in the loss or reduction of open space, indoor or outdoor sport and recreation facilities, including playing fields, (as defined on the Policies Map), will be refused unless:</p> <p>(a) An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown that the facility is no longer needed in its current form; or</p> <p>(b) The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by enhanced provision in terms of quantity and <u>or</u> quality in a suitable location prior to the commencement of development <u>(in the case of school playing fields, the timing of delivery will be negotiated on a case by case basis in accordance with Policy CFLR10)</u>; or</p> <p>(c) The development is for an alternative open space, sport and recreation facility, the need</p> |

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|          |  |                    | for which clearly outweigh the loss.   |
| MM/19/02 | Policy CFLR2<br>Local Green Space      | 242                | <del>Development will not be allowed within Local Green Spaces, as defined on the Policies Map, other than in very special circumstances.</del> <u>Development will be permitted only if it is consistent with the function, character and use of the Local Green Space to which it relates.</u>   |
| MM/19/03 | Policy CFLR4<br>Water Based Recreation | 243                | Proposals for water-based recreation will be supported in principle, where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The proposal does not have a significant adverse impact on the nature conservation interest, the character, or appearance of the environment;</li> <li>(b) The proposal <del>does not conflict with</del> <u>takes account of</u> the relevant River Catchment Management Plan; and</li> <li>(c) The proposal does not have an adverse impact on any flood alleviation works and does not impede the Environment Agency's access requirements to watercourses.</li> </ul>   |
| MM/19/04 | Policy CFLR6<br>Equine Development     | 245-246            | I. Proposals for <del>small-scale</del> equine development ( <del>up to 10 stables</del> ), whether domestic or commercial, will be permitted when the following criteria are met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The proposal is sited or landscaped to minimise visual intrusion;</li> <li>(b) Where new buildings are proposed, applicants must demonstrate that existing structures cannot be re-used;</li> <li>(c) The siting, scale and design of the proposal is in keeping with the character of the area, with adequate pasture to support horses. Particular regard will be had to the cumulative effect of proposals on local landscape or biodiversity interests;</li> </ul> |

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|          |                                   |                    | <p>(d) The amenity of nearby residential properties is not adversely affected, for example, in relation to floodlighting, noise and disturbance;</p> <p>(e) The proposal would not (by itself or cumulatively) have a significant adverse impact in terms of traffic generation;</p> <p>(f) The proposal does not result in harm to the ecological network, including partial or complete loss or degradation of Local Wildlife Sites or priority habitats;</p> <p>(g) The proposal does not conflict with other policies within this Plan.</p> <p>I. Where commercial equestrian development is proposed in the Green Belt, the requirement to demonstrate 'very special circumstances' will apply in accordance with the NPPF.</p> <p>II. Proposals that result in the loss of equestrian facilities should be accompanied by an Equestrian Needs Assessment which demonstrates that the facilities are no longer needed.</p> |
| MM/19/05 | 19.8.1                            | 246                | Community facilities provide for the health and wellbeing, social, educational, recreational, leisure and cultural needs of the community. Community facilities include, but are not limited to: art galleries; cinemas; community centres; crèches/nurseries; healthcare facilities; <u>household waste recycling centres</u> ; museums and libraries; music and concert halls; places of worship; schools; post offices; public houses; village halls; local/village shops. Such facilities act as the focus of community activity and contribute towards community cohesion. Community facilities are provided by a wide variety of agencies including local authorities, other public service providers, churches and the voluntary and business sectors and can sometimes be provided on single multi-use sites.   |
| MM/19/06 | Policy CFLR7 Community Facilities | 247-248            | I. The provision of adequate and appropriately located community facilities will be sought in conjunction with new development.   |

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|         |             |                    | <p>II. Developers will be expected to provide either on-site provision, or where appropriate, a financial contribution towards either off-site provision, or the enhancement of existing off-site facilities. Where provision is made on-site as part of a development, applicants should detail how it will be maintained in the long term.</p> <p>III. Proposals for new and enhanced uses, buildings or land for public or community use will be supported in principle where they do not conflict with other policies within this Plan. Such proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Should be in suitable locations, served by a choice of sustainable travel options;</li> <li>(b) Should be of an appropriate scale to meet needs and be of a flexible design to enable multiple uses throughout the day;</li> <li>(c) Should take measures to integrate such facilities into the landscape, <u>including the creation of features which provide</u> providing net benefits to biodiversity; and</li> <li>(d) Should be constructed in tandem with the development to ensure they are available for the new and existing community from the start of occupation.</li> </ul> <p>IV. Proposals should aim to provide for the dual or multiple use of facilities for wider community activities. The use of Community Use Agreements will be sought where appropriate.</p> <p><del>V. Limited extensions/alterations to existing community facilities in the Green Belt and Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt may be supported in principle, where they do not conflict with other policies within this Plan.</del></p> <p><u>V. As part of proposed strategic development, consideration will be given to the need to provide new Household Waste Recycling Centres in suitable locations, taking account of neighbouring land</u></p> |

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|         |             |                    | <u>uses.</u>               |

## Chapter 20: Natural Environment

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| MM/20/01 | Policy NE1 International, National and Locally Designated Nature Conservation Sites | 257-258            | <p><b>Policy NE1 International, National and Locally Designated Nature Conservation Sites</b></p> <p>I. Development proposals, land use or activity (either individually or in combination with other developments) which are likely to have a detrimental impact which adversely affects the integrity of a <u>designated</u> site, will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that there are <del>reasons</del> <u>material considerations</u> which clearly outweigh the need to safeguard the nature conservation value of the site, and any broader impacts on the international, national, or local network of nature conservation assets.</p> <p><u>II.</u> Evidence will be required in the form of up-to-date ecological surveys undertaken by a competent ecologist prior to the submission of an application. <u>The type of evidence required will be commensurate to the scale and location of the development and the likely impact on biodiversity, the legal protection or other status of a site.</u> Where insufficient data is provided, permission will be refused.</p> <p>III. Where a site of International or National designation for nature conservation importance is adversely affected by the proposals, permission will <del>be refused unless</del> <u>only be permitted where</u> the District Council is satisfied that:</p> <p>(a) There are imperative reasons of overriding public interest, which could be of a social or economic nature, sufficient to override the harm to the site; <u>or</u></p> <p>(b) There are imperative reasons of overriding public interest relating to human health, public safety or benefits of primary importance to the environment; <u>and in either case</u></p> |

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|          |  |                    | <p>(c) <u>There are no satisfactory alternatives to the proposal.</u></p> <p>IV. Proposals should avoid impacts on sites of nature conservation value and wherever possible, alternative options which reduce or eliminate such impacts should be pursued. Where adverse impacts are unavoidable, measures to mitigate the impact <del>should be considered</del> <u>will be sought, commensurate to the importance of the site in terms of its status in the hierarchy and the contribution it makes to wider ecological networks.</u></p> <p>V. Where adequate mitigation measures are not possible, compensatory measures may be appropriate. Such compensatory schemes should seek to achieve a net gain for nature and the Council will consider the use of conditions and/or planning obligations to secure appropriate mitigation/compensation <u>commensurate to the type and scale of development.</u> Compensatory measures can be situated on or off the development site. <u>The availability of compensatory measures will be a material consideration in the determination of development proposals.</u></p> <p>VI. Ecological impacts will be quantified by utilising <u>and taking into account a locally approved Biodiversity Metric where appropriate.</u> <del>the Biodiversity Impact Assessment Calculator (BIAC).</del> Development must demonstrate a net gain in ecological units. Ecological information must be supplied in accordance with BS 42020 2013.</p> |
| MM/20/02 | Policy NE2<br>Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (Non-Designated) | 258                | <p><b>Policy NE2 Sites <u>or Features</u> of Nature Conservation interest (Non-Designated)</b></p> <p>I. All proposals should achieve a net gain in biodiversity <u>where it is feasible and proportionate to do so</u>, as measured by using <u>and taking into account a locally approved Biodiversity Metric</u> <del>the BIAC</del>, and avoid harm to, or the loss of features that contribute to the local and wider ecological network.</p>  |

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|          |                                    |                    | <p>II. Proposals will be expected to apply the mitigation hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensation, <u>as set out in the NPPE</u>, and integrate ecologically beneficial planting and landscaping into the overall design.</p>  |
| MM/20/03 | Policy NE3<br>Species and Habitats | 261-262            | <p>I. Development should always seek to enhance biodiversity and to create opportunities for wildlife. Proposals must demonstrate how the development improves the biodiversity value of the site and surrounding environment. Evidence will be required in the form of up-to-date ecological surveys undertaken by a competent ecologist prior to the submission of an application. The Biodiversity value of a site pre and post development will be determined by applying <u>a locally approved Biodiversity Metric where appropriate</u> <del>the BIA</del>. Submitted information must be consistent with BS 42020 2013. Where insufficient data is provided, permission will be refused.</p> <p>II. Proposals should detail how physical features will be maintained in the long term.</p> <p>III. Development which would result in the loss or significant damage to trees, hedgerows or ancient woodland sites will not be permitted. The Council will seek their reinforcement by additional planting of native species where appropriate. Protective buffers of complementary habitat will be expected to adjoin these features, sufficient to protect against root damage and improvement of their long term condition. A minimum buffer zone of 10m (or greater if required) is considered appropriate.</p> <p>IV. Proposals will be expected to protect and enhance locally important biodiversity sites and other notable ecological features of conservation value.</p> <p>V. Proposals should avoid impacting on Species and Habitats of Principle Importance as published under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (or as subsequently amended).</p> <p>VI. Where <u>adverse impacts are unavoidable</u>, <del>exceptional circumstances exist that outweighs any</del></p> |

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|         |             |                    | <p><del>harm or damage to a species or habitat</del> appropriate mitigation and compensation measures must be employed, <u>commensurate to the importance, the legal protection or other status of the species or habitat</u>. The District Council will impose conditions / planning obligations which seek to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Facilitate the survival of existing populations as well as encouraging the establishment of new populations;</li> <li>(b) Reduce disturbance to a minimum;</li> <li>(c) Provide adequate alternative habitats to sustain at least the current levels of populations.</li> </ul> <p><del>VII. Development adjoining rivers or streams must provide a minimum of a 10m buffer of complimentary habitat between the built environment and the watercourse. Details must be supplied of ongoing ecologically beneficial management of buffer habitats. Where possible, opportunities should be taken to restore degraded aquatic environments to a more semi natural condition.</del></p> <p><u>VII. Development adjoining rivers or streams will be required to preserve or enhance the water environment in accordance with Policy WAT3.</u></p> <p>VIII. Integrated bird and bat boxes will be expected in all development bordering public green space and beneficial habitat.</p> |

## Chapter 21: Heritage Assets

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| MM/21/01 | Policy HA1  | 267                | I. Development proposals should preserve and <u>where appropriate</u> enhance the historic |



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|          | Designated Heritage Assets    |                    | <p>environment of East Herts.</p> <p>II. <del>Development proposals that would harm the significance of a designated heritage asset will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that the harm or loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss.</del> <u>Development proposals that would lead to substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset will not be permitted unless it can demonstrated that the harm or loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss. Less than substantial harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal.</u></p> <p>III. Where there is evidence of neglect of, or damage to, a heritage asset, the deteriorated state of the heritage asset will not be taken into account in any decision.</p> <p>IV. The Council will, as part of a positive strategy, pursue opportunities for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment recognising its role and contribution in achieving sustainable development.</p> |
| MM/21/02 | Policy HA4 Conservation Areas | 270                | <p>I. New development, extensions and alterations to existing buildings in Conservation Areas will be permitted provided that they preserve or enhance the special interest, character <del>or</del> <u>and</u> appearance of the area. Development proposals outside a Conservation Area which affect its setting will be considered likewise. Proposals will be expected to:</p> <p>(a) respect established building lines, layouts and patterns;</p> <p>(b) use materials and adopt design details which reinforce local character and are traditional to the area;</p> <p>(c) be of a scale, proportion, form, height, design and overall character that accords with and complements the surrounding area;</p>   |

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|          |                             |                    | <p>(d) in the case of alterations and extensions, be complementary and sympathetic to the parent building; and</p> <p>(e) <del>Conform</del> <u>have regard</u> to any 'Conservation Area Character Appraisals' prepared by the District Council and safeguard all aspects which contribute to the area's special interest and significance, including important views and green spaces.</p> <p>(f) where development proposals <del>derive from</del> <u>relate to</u> Conservation Area Management Proposals the duty to preserve <del>and</del> <u>or</u> enhance will be applied. Development proposals, including minor development under an Article 4 direction, will be expected to 'preserve' surviving architectural features identified as being significant to the character or appearance of the area or, where previously lost, to 'enhance' that character and appearance through the authentic restoration of those lost features.</p> <p>II. Permission for the demolition of buildings or structures within a Conservation Area will only be granted if it makes no positive contribution to the character of the Conservation Area and the replacement is of good design and satisfies the above requirements of this policy.</p> |
| MM/21/03 | Policy HA7 Listed Buildings | 273                | <p>I. The Council will actively seek opportunities to sustain and enhance the significance of Listed Buildings and ensure that they are in viable uses consistent with their conservation.</p> <p>II. In considering applications the Council will ensure that proposals involving the alteration, extension, or change of use of a Listed Building will only be permitted where:</p> <p>(a) The proposal would not have any adverse effect on the architectural and historic character or appearance of the interior or exterior of the building or its setting; and</p> <p>(b) The proposal respects the scale, design, materials and finishes of the existing building(s),</p>   |

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|          |   |                    | and preserves its historic fabric.<br><br>III. Proposals that affect the setting of a Listed Building will only be permitted where the setting of the building is preserved <del>and enhanced</del> .  |
| MM/21/04 | Policy HA8<br>Historic Parks<br>and Gardens | 275                | I. Development proposals <del>that materially harm</del> <u>should protect</u> the special historic character, appearance or setting of those sites listed on the Historic England 'Register of Historic Parks and Gardens' <del>will not be permitted</del> . The same level of protection will be afforded to other locally important sites.<br><br>II. Where appropriate, the District Council will actively encourage proposals for the repair, restoration and management of historic parks and gardens.  |
| MM/21/05 | Policy HA9<br>Enabling<br>Development       | 276                | I. Proposals for enabling development will be assessed <del>in accordance with</del> <u>having regard to</u> Historic England's latest <del>guide</del> <u>guidance</u> on 'Enabling Development and the Conservation of Significant Places' <u>enabling development</u> .<br><br><del>II. Enabling development which would secure the future of a significant place, but would be contrary to other planning policy objectives, should be unacceptable unless:</del><br><br><del>(a) The benefits of a proposal for enabling development, which would secure the future conservation of a significant place, outweigh any public harm or loss consequent upon conflicts with and the departure from other District Plan policies;</del><br><br><del>(b) The proposal does not materially detract from the archaeological, architectural, historic, artistic, landscape or nature conservation of the site or its setting;</del><br><br><del>(c) The proposal avoids detrimental fragmentation of management of the place;</del> |

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|         |             |                    | <p><del>(d) The proposal is necessary to resolve problems arising from the inherent needs of the place;</del></p> <p><del>(e) Sufficient subsidy is not available from any other source; and</del></p> <p><del>(f) It is clearly demonstrated that the proposal is the minimum necessary to ensure the future of the site.</del></p> |

## Chapter 22: Climate Change

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| MM/22/01 | Policy CC2<br>Climate Change Mitigation | 280                | <p>I. All new developments should demonstrate how carbon dioxide emissions will be minimised across the development site, taking account of all levels of the energy hierarchy. Achieving standards above and beyond the requirements of Building Regulations is encouraged.</p> <p>II. Carbon reduction should be met on-site unless it can be demonstrated that this is not feasible or viable. In such cases effective offsetting measures to reduce on-site carbon emissions will be accepted as allowable solutions.</p> <p>III. The energy embodied in construction materials should be reduced through re-use and recycling, <u>where possible</u>, of existing materials and the use of sustainable materials and local sourcing.</p> |

## Chapter 23: Water

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| MM/23/01 | Policy WAT3<br>Water Quality and the Water Environment | 287                | <p>I. Development proposals will be required to preserve <del>and</del> <b>or</b> enhance the water environment, ensuring improvements in surface water quality and the ecological value of watercourses and their margins and the protection of groundwater.</p> <p>II. Unless there is clear justification for not doing so, an undeveloped buffer strip at least 8 metres wide should be maintained alongside all main rivers, and an appropriate buffer strip should be maintained at ordinary watercourses. Any development proposals should include an appropriate management scheme for buffer strips.</p> <p>III. Opportunities for removal of culverts, river restoration and naturalisation should be considered as part of any development adjacent to a watercourse. Additional culverting and development of river corridors will be resisted.</p> |
| MM/23/02 | Policy WAT6<br>Wastewater Infrastructure               | 292                | <p>I. Development proposals must ensure that adequate wastewater infrastructure capacity is available in <del>tandem with</del> <b>advance of the occupation of</b> development.</p> <p>II. Upgrade and expansion of existing, or provision of new, waste water treatment infrastructure will be supported provided that:</p> <p>(a) It utilises best available techniques, and provided that</p> <p>(b) It does not have an adverse effect on the integrity of Special Protection Areas, Ramsar Sites and Special Areas of Conservation either alone or in combination with other projects and plans, and</p> <p>(c) A strategy to meet relevant national and European environmental standards can be demonstrated.</p>  |

## Chapter 24: Environmental Quality

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para            | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification   |
|----------|------------------------|--------------------|--|
| MM/24/01 | Policy EQ4 Air Quality | 298-299            | <p><del>I. Development and land uses should minimise potential impacts on local air quality both during construction and operation including the operation of heating, cooling and extraction units. Applications should be supported by Air Pollution Assessment in line with the Council's Air Quality Planning Guidance Document.</del></p> <p><del>II. Development within designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs), or development which may have an impact on these areas, must have regard to the Council's latest strategy and action plan for the reduction of pollutants in the defined catchment, maintaining acceptable levels of air quality. Evidence of mitigation measures will be required.</del></p> <p><del>III. New developments should make provision for electric vehicle charging points in safe and accessible locations in accordance with Policy DES3 Design of Development.</del></p> <p><del>IV. In order to minimise the impact of travel on local air quality, where major developments involve the introduction of new bus routes or significant changes to existing routes, service providers will be required, in agreement with Hertfordshire County Council's Transport, Access and Safety Unit, to ensure that the vehicles serving these locations will either be of 'hybrid' type or meet the latest 'Euro' emissions regulations.</del></p> <p><u>I. The effect of development upon air quality is a material consideration. All applications should take account of the Council's Air Quality Planning Guidance Document, which details when an air quality assessment is required.</u></p> <p><u>II. All development should take account of the Council's latest Air Quality Action Plan, local Air Quality Strategies, Local Transport Plans, as well as national air quality guidance.</u></p> <p><u>III. All developments should include measures to minimise air quality impact at the design stage and should incorporate best practice in the design, construction and operation of all</u></p> |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para  | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification   |
|----------|--|--------------------|--|
|          |  |                    | <p><u>developments.</u></p> <p><u>IV. Where development (on its own or cumulatively) will have a negative impact on local air quality during either construction or operation, mitigation measures will be sought that will remove over-riding impacts, such as an air quality neutral or negative development. Evidence of mitigation measures will be required upfront.</u></p> <p><u>V. Where on-site mitigation is not sufficient, appropriate off-site mitigation measures may be required. Where adequate mitigation cannot be provided, development will not normally be permitted.</u></p> <p><u>VI. Developments must not:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>• lead to a breach or worsening of a breach of UK or EU limit values;</u></li> <li><u>• lead to a breach or worsening of a breach of an Air Quality objective or cause the declaration of an Air Quality Management Area or;</u></li> <li><u>• prejudice the implementation of any Air Quality Action Plan or local air quality strategy.</u></li> </ul> |
| MM/24/02 | New Section 24.6<br>New Paragraphs 24.6.1 and 24.6.2 |                    | <p><b><u>24.6 Waste and Recycling</u></b></p> <p><u>24.6.1 The Hertfordshire Waste Local Plan is prepared by Hertfordshire County Council. It details policies involving the management of refuse or waste materials other than mineral waste. The Plan contains a hierarchy of disposal, focussing on encouraging waste minimisation, re-use, recycling and the use of waste as fuel. As such, it considers the disposal of waste by landfill as a last resort and endorses the proximity principle; whereby waste should be dealt with as near to the source as possible.</u></p> <p><u>24.6.2 The Hertfordshire Waste Local Plan forms part of the Development Plan for East Herts. As such, applications will be determined having regard to the Waste Local Plan.</u></p>   |
| MM/24/03 | New Section 24.7                                     |                    | <p><b><u>24.7 Minerals</u></b></p> <p><u>24.7.1 The Minerals Local Plan is prepared by Hertfordshire County Council. It sets out how proposals for the extraction and working of minerals are managed. There is a need to ensure that</u></p>  |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para                      | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification   |
|---------|----------------------------------|--------------------|--|
|         | New Paragraphs 24.7.1 and 24.7.2 |                    | <p><u>potential and known mineral reserves are safeguarded from development which may 'sterilise' or prejudice the opportunity to extract them now or in the future. Where a proposed development has the potential to affect mineral reserves, appropriate consultation with the County Council must take place. As such, the Minerals Local Plan defines areas known as Minerals Safeguarding Areas and Consultation Areas.</u></p> <p><u>24.7.2 The Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan forms part of the Development Plan for East Herts. As such, applications will be determined having regard to the Minerals Local Plan.</u></p> |

## Chapter 25: Delivery and Monitoring

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para                             | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification   |
|----------|---|--------------------|--|
| MM/25/01 | New 25.2.4                              |                    | <p><u>25.2.4 Where monitoring undertaken through the IDP demonstrates that any key infrastructure scheme/s (including, for example, a bypass for Hertford or second Stort crossing related to development in the Gilston Area) would not be delivered in a timely manner, this will trigger the need for the consideration of alternative infrastructure provision to facilitate delivery of development, or a review or partial review of the District Plan in accordance with Policy DEL1.</u></p>   |
| MM/25/02 | Policy DEL1 Infrastructure and Delivery | 302                | <p>I. The District Council will work in partnership with providers of infrastructure and services to facilitate the timely provision of infrastructure necessary to support sustainable development. In support of this work the Council will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Maintain an up-to date Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) to identify the timing, type and number of infrastructure projects required to support the objectives and policies of the strategy as well as the main funding mechanisms and lead agencies responsible for their delivery;</li> <li>b) Use the District Plan and IDP to bid for funding necessary to support development, working in partnership with the Local Economic Partnership (LEP), Hertfordshire Infrastructure Planning Partnership (HIPP), the Local Transport Body (LTB), the Local</li> </ul> |



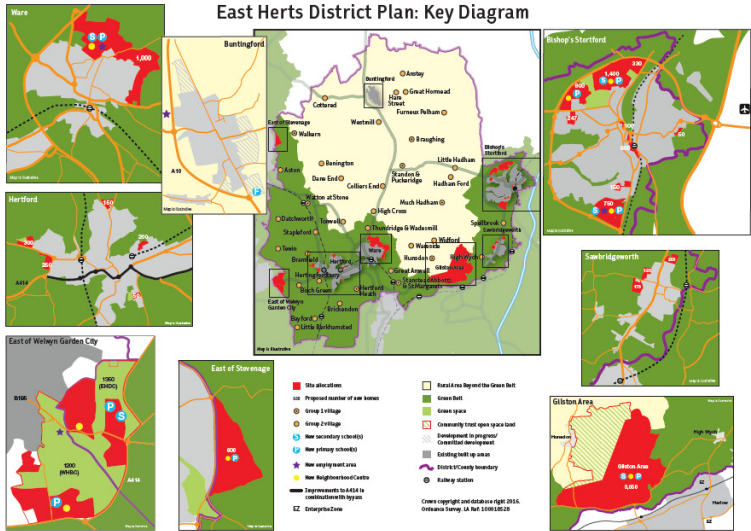
| Ref No.  | Policy/Para       | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification   |
|----------|-------------------|--------------------|--|
|          |                   |                    | <p>Nature Partnership (LNP), and other bodies as appropriate;</p> <p>c) Monitor capacity in infrastructure and services through annual updates of the IDP and future infrastructure needs assessments;</p> <p>d) <del>Review</del> <u>Consider alternative infrastructure provision, or a review or partial review of</u> the District Plan if evidence in the IDP indicates a changed outlook for the realistic prospects for delivery of infrastructure to support development.</p> <p>II. For individual development proposals, developers will be required to:</p> <p>a) Demonstrate, at the planning application stage, that adequate infrastructure capacity can be provided both on and off site to enable the delivery of sustainable development within the site, the locality and the wider area, as appropriate. Where proposals cannot demonstrate the deliverability of supporting infrastructure, they will be refused;</p> <p>b) Ensure that development is phased to coincide with the delivery of additional infrastructure or service capacity as set out in the IDP;</p> <p>c) Ensure that infrastructure assets and services are delivered to adoptable standards. Suitable long-term management arrangements must be put in place with a view to secure adoption by the appropriate authority in the longer term.</p> |
| MM/25/03 | 25.4.1 and 25.4.2 | 304                | <p>Regular monitoring of actual development outcomes against the plan is an essential part of ensuring that the plan is effective. Monitoring can indicate areas where interventions may be needed to achieve the objectives of the plan, and may also demonstrate the need for a review <u>or partial review</u> of the plan. <del>Where necessary site specific monitoring may be undertaken. The indicators contained within Policies DEL3 and DEL4 will be monitored on an annual basis through the Authority Monitoring Report, alongside a range of other contextual indicators.</del></p>   |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para                          | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification  |
|----------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|---|
|          |                                      |                    | 25.4.2 A Monitoring Framework has been prepared as part of the District Plan. Monitoring will be proportionate to the needs of an effective plan, and will be targeted at those areas where it can add value to the development process. The proposed Framework is located at Appendix C. Progress made against each of the indicators contained in the Monitoring Framework will be reported on an annual basis as part of the Authority Monitoring Report.  |
| MM/25/04 | New Policy DEL3 Monitoring Framework |                    | <p><b><u>Policy DEL3 Monitoring Framework</u></b></p> <p><u>I. The NPPF requires plans to be flexible and responsive to change. If delivery of housing in any given monitoring year falls below 110% of the annual requirement, the Council will consider implementing all or some of the following measures to bring forward development:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Working with developers and infrastructure providers to remove obstacles to the delivery of sites;</u></li> <li><u>Seeking alternative sources of funding if problems with infrastructure provision is delaying development of key strategic sites;</u></li> <li><u>Consideration of the potential to increase density on allocated sites;</u></li> <li><u>Consideration of the ability to deliver strategic sites earlier in the Plan period; and</u></li> <li><u>Working with other authorities under the Duty to Co-operate to address any unmet needs.</u></li> </ul> <p><u>II. Where total delivery of housing is less than 75% of the annual requirement for three consecutive monitoring years, this will trigger the need for the consideration of a review or partial review of the District Plan.</u></p> <p><u>III. The target for Affordable Housing is calculated annually based on average completions over the preceding three-year period. Where delivery is less than 75% of the annual target for three consecutive monitoring years, the Council will consider all or some of the following measures:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Consideration of the potential to increase density on allocated sites;</u></li> <li><u>Consideration of the ability to deliver strategic sites earlier in the Plan period; and</u></li> </ul> |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para                                       | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification   |
|----------|---|--------------------|--|
|          |   |                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Working with other authorities under the Duty to Co-operate to address any unmet needs.</u></li> </ul> <p><u>IV. Where delivery of pitches and plots to meet currently identified accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople does not accord with the provisions of HOU9, the Council will work with site owners and developers to expedite delivery and ensure that need is met in the specified locations.</u></p>  |
| MM/25/05 | New 25.4.2  |                    | <u>Given the size and complexity of the Gilston Area development, and the fact that it is expected to make a significant contribution towards housing needs within the Plan period, it is considered important to closely monitor its implementation on an annual basis in accordance with Policy DEL4.</u>  |
| MM/25/06 | New Policy DEL4<br>Monitoring of the Gilston Area |                    | <p><b><u>Policy DEL4 Monitoring of the Gilston Area</u></b></p> <p>I. <u>In order to ensure timely delivery of the Gilston Area, the Council will draw up an action plan setting out key milestones for the delivery of the site, including masterplanning, phasing of infrastructure and submission of planning applications, and monitor its progress on an annual basis.</u></p> <p>II. <u>The annual rate of housing completions at the Gilston Area will be considered as part of District wide monitoring, in accordance with the provisions of Policy DEL3.</u></p> |

## Appendices

| Ref No. | Policy/Para                                      | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification   |
|---------|--|--------------------|--|
| MM/A/01 | East Herts District Plan: Appendix A Key Diagram | 306                | Consequential changes to diagram to reflect Main Modifications proposed in Settlement Key Diagrams at Bishop's Stortford, Buntingford and Sawbridgeworth.<br>New Key Diagram to be inserted: |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para   | District Plan Page | Proposed Main Modification   |
|---------|---|--------------------|--|
|         |   |                    |  <p>East Herts District Plan: Key Diagram</p>      |
| MM/A/02 | East Herts District Plan: Appendix B Strategy Worksheet   | 308                | Amendments to housing trajectory to reflect the updated position on delivery. New Strategy Worksheet shown below.                    |
| MM/A/03 | East Herts District Plan: Appendix C Monitoring Framework | 312                | Appendix will be deleted as this will be superseded by the provisions of Policies DEL3 and DEL4 and the Authority Monitoring Report. |
| MM/A/04 | East Herts District Plan: Appendix D Glossary             | 319                | Appendix D to be renumbered Appendix C, following deletion of the Monitoring Framework.  |

# 10 Year Shortfall (2017)

## New Appendix B: Strategy Worksheet

|                          |  | 2011-2017    | 2017-2022    | 2022-2027    | 2027-2033    | 2011-2033     |
|--------------------------|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Other                    | Windfall Allowance   | 0            | 300          | 375          | 450          | 1,125         |
| Other                    | Completions - as at 31/03/2017                             | 3,244        | 0            | 0            | 0            | 3,244         |
| Other                    | Commitments - as at 31/08/2017                             | 0            | 3,680        | 1,221        | 0            | 4,901         |
| Other                    | Villages   | 0            | 391          | 109          | 0            | 500           |
| SLAA                     | SLAA Sites - large sites over 10 dwellings                 | 0            | 43           | 0            | 0            | 43            |
| Allocation: <b>BISH7</b> | The Goods Yard, Bishop's Stortford                         | 0            | 480          | 120          | 0            | 600           |
| Allocation: <b>BISH8</b> | The Causeway/Old River Lane, Bishop's Stortford            | 0            | 0            | 100          | 0            | 100           |
| Allocation: <b>BISH6</b> | Bishop's Stortford High School Site, London Road           | 0            | 0            | 150          | 0            | 150           |
| Allocation: <b>BISH5</b> | Bishop's Stortford South                                   | 0            | 200          | 500          | 50           | 750           |
| Allocation: <b>BISH9</b> | East of Manor Links, Bishop's Stortford                    | 0            | 50           | 0            | 0            | 50            |
| Allocation: <b>HERT2</b> | Mead Lane Area, Hertford                                   | 0            | 50           | 150          | 0            | 200           |
| Allocation: <b>HERT4</b> | North of Hertford  | 0            | 50           | 100          | 0            | 150           |
| Allocation: <b>HERT5</b> | South of Hertford  | 0            | 50           | 0            | 0            | 50            |
| Allocation: <b>HERT3</b> | West of Hertford   | 0            | 415          | 135          | 0            | 550           |
| Allocation: <b>SAWB2</b> | Land to the North of West Road, Sawbridgeworth             | 0            | 125          | 0            | 0            | 125           |
| Allocation: <b>SAWB3</b> | Land to the South of West Road, Sawbridgeworth             | 0            | 175          | 0            | 0            | 175           |
| Allocation: <b>SAWB4</b> | Land to the North of Sawbridgeworth                        | 0            | 200          | 0            | 0            | 200           |
| Allocation: <b>EOS1</b>  | East of Stevenage  | 0            | 500          | 100          | 0            | 600           |
| Allocation: <b>WARE2</b> | Land North and East of Ware                                | 0            | 100          | 800          | 100          | 1,000         |
| Allocation: <b>GA1</b>   | The Gilston Area   | 0            | 0            | 1,250        | 1,800        | 3,050         |
| Allocation: <b>EWEL1</b> | Land East of Welwyn Garden City                            | 0            | 220          | 530          | 600          | 1,350         |
|                          | <b>TOTAL SUPPLY</b>  | <b>3,244</b> | <b>7,029</b> | <b>5,640</b> | <b>3,000</b> | <b>18,913</b> |
|                          | Objectively Assessed Housing Need (839 dwellings per year) | <b>5,034</b> | <b>4,195</b> | <b>4,195</b> | <b>5,034</b> | <b>18,458</b> |
|                          | Shortfall addressed over 10 years                          |              | 895          | 895          | 0            |               |
|                          | OAHN plus shortfall  |              | 5,090        | 5,090        | 5,034        |               |
|                          | 20% buffer moved forward from 2022-2033 to 2017-2022       |              | 1,018        | -509         | -509         |               |
|                          | <b>TOTAL REQUIREMENT</b>                                   |              | <b>6,108</b> | <b>4,581</b> | <b>4,525</b> |               |

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## East Herts District Plan Minor Changes Tables

## Chapter 1: Introduction

| Ref No.                        | Policy/Para   | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change                                     |
|--------------------------------|---|--------------------|--|---|
| <b>Chapter 1: Introduction</b> |   |                    |  |   |
| MC/1/01                        | 1.3.1   | 9                  | The preparation of the District Plan has been informed by an extensive evidence base which is available to view on the Council's website at:<br><br><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/technicalstudies">www.eastherts.gov.uk/technicalstudies</a><br><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase">www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase</a>   | Council update to web link                            |
| MC/1/02                        | Policy INT1 III (a)<br><br>Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development | 11                 | III. Where there are no policies relevant to the application or relevant policies are out of date at the time of making the decision then the Council will grant permission unless material considerations indicate otherwise taking into account whether:<br><br>(a) Any adverse impacts of granting permission would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework taken as a whole; <b>or</b><br><br>(b) Specific policies in the National Planning Policy Framework indicate that development should be restricted. | Correction identified by CPRE Hertfordshire (1050776) |

## Chapter 2: Vision and Strategic Objectives

| Ref No.   | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change   |
|---|-------------|--------------------|---|---|
| <b>Chapter 2: Vision and Strategic Objectives</b> |             |                    |   |   |
| MC/2/01   | 2.2.7       | 15                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 <del>sites of</del> international nature conservation <del>designations</del></li> <li>• 1 National Nature Reserve at Broxbourne-<del>Hoddesdon</del>park Woods</li> <li>• 1 Local Nature Reserve at Waterford Heath</li> <li>• <del>14</del> 15 Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust Reserves</li> <li>• <del>16</del> sites of Special Scientific Interest</li> <li>• <del>544</del> 543 non-statutory Wildlife Sites</li> <li>• Several chalk streams which support special wildlife habitats and species</li> <li>• <del>Over 40</del> 45 Scheduled Monuments</li> <li>• Nearly 3,100 Listed Buildings</li> <li>• 42 Conservation Areas</li> <li>• 550 Areas of Archaeological Significance</li> <li>• <del>15</del> 16 Registered Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest</li> <li>• <del>59</del> 58 Locally Listed Historic Parks and Gardens</li> </ul> | <p>Council corrections and updates at the request of HCC - Ecology (782964) and Historic England (1049766)</p> <p>Council update based on 2017 Wildlife Sites Ratification Report</p> |
| MC/2/02   | 2.3.5       | 16                 | <p><b>Infrastructure and Services</b> – It is important that the infrastructure and services needed to support new development are provided. This includes transport infrastructure, education and health provision, utilities such as water, wastewater and energy and improved broadband provision. The challenge is to ensure that these services and facilities are delivered alongside growth.</p>   | Modification in response to issue raised by HCC - Public Health (1058613)   |



| Ref No. | Policy/Para        | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change   |
|---------|--------------------|--------------------|--|---|
| MC/2/03 | East Herts In 2033 | 17                 | 4. Working in partnership with other service providers, essential new and improved infrastructure to support the increased population of the District will have been delivered. Support will have been given to the retention of existing facilities and the provision of new facilities for health, leisure, recreation and cultural needs of the community. The health and wellbeing of the district's residents will have been improved, while health inequalities will have been addressed. New development will have supported improved sustainable travel, including initiatives contained in Hertfordshire's 2050 Transport Vision. Mitigating measures will have helped ameliorate congestion, particularly on the A414. | Modification in response to issue raised by HCC - Public Health (1058613) |
| MC/2/04 | East Herts in 2033 | 17                 | 5. The local economy in the District will have been supported, with provision having been made for the accommodation requirements of existing and new businesses, including agricultural businesses, rural crafts and skills. Important employment assets will have been retained. The emphasis will have been on sustainable economic development, of the right type and in the right place to meet employment needs both within the towns and in the rural areas.  | Modification at the request of HCC – Ecology (782964)                     |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para                           | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change   |
|---------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--|---|
| MC/2/05 | East Herts in 2033<br><br>New point 8 | 18                 | <p>8. To improve the health and wellbeing of all East Herts' communities and to reduce health inequalities.</p> <p><del>8.</del> 9. To reduce water consumption, increase biodiversity and protect and enhance the quality of existing environmental assets by, inter alia, creating new green spaces and networks of high quality green space for both recreation and wildlife.</p> <p><del>9.</del> 10. To ensure that development occurs in parallel with provision of the necessary infrastructure, including enhancement and provision of green infrastructure.</p> | Modification in response to issue raised HCC -Public Health (1058613) |

### Chapter 3: The Development Strategy

| Ref No.                                    | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change     |
|--|-------------|--------------------|---|-----------------------|
| <b>Chapter 3: The Development Strategy</b> |             |                    |   |                       |
| MC/3/01                                    | 3.2.3       | 24                 | The Council has worked closely with its housing market area partners (Harlow, Epping Forest and Uttlesford Councils) in order to prepare <del>technical evidence that identifies a technical document known as the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA). The purpose of the SHMA is to identify</del> an 'objective assessment of housing need' (NPPF paragraph 47), taking into account population projections, affordable housing needs and jobs growth.  | Council clarification |
| MC/3/02                                    | 3.2.6       | 25                 | It is important to note that the housing need figure for the District does not include the projected increase in the number of people within residential institutions. <del>The A technical document known as the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA)</del> identifies the projected growth in population aged 75 or over living in communal establishments in the District, as 529 persons, between 2011-2033. Therefore, in addition to the overall housing target, this Plan supports a gross increase of approximately 530 bed-spaces of C2 provision, primarily to help meet the accommodation needs of older people who need to live in an environment which provides residential or nursing care. | Council clarification |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para              | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change   |
|---------|--------------------------|--------------------|---|---|
| MC/3/03 | 3.2.7                    | 25                 | <del>3.2.7 The Government released new household projections in July 2016. These figures show that, by 2033, the population of East Herts is likely to be greater than originally expected. Following the release of these figures, further work on the SHMA has shown that the level of housing need in the District has increased to around 19,500 new homes by 2033. While the Council is unable to identify sufficient sites to meet this higher target at present, the District Plan does take account of the upward trend in housing need, and therefore seeks to provide for more than 745 new homes per year.</del> | Council proposed deletion as information is now out of date |
| MC/3/04 | Text box following 3.2.7 | 25                 | <del>The Evidence underpinning the objective assessment of housing need SHMA Economic Evidence</del> is available to view on the Council's website at:<br><br><del>www.eastherts.gov.uk/shma.</del> <a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase">www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase</a>  | Council clarification and update to web link                |
| MC/3/05 | 3.2.8                    | 25                 | <del>3.2.8</del> <b>3.2.7</b>   | Updated paragraph number                                    |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para              | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change                            |
|---------|--------------------------|--------------------|---|--|
| MC/3/06 | Text box following 3.2.8 | 25                 | <del>The SHMA Economic Evidence</del> underpinning job requirements is available to view on the Council's website at:<br><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/shma">www.eastherts.gov.uk/shma</a><br><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase">www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase</a> | Council clarification and update to web link |
| MC/3/07 | 3.2.9                    | 26                 | <del>3.2.9</del> 3.2.8  | Updated paragraph number                     |
| MC/3/08 | 3.2.10                   | 26                 | <del>3.2.10</del> 3.2.9   | Updated paragraph number                     |
| MC/3/09 | 3.2.11                   | 26                 | <del>3.2.11</del> 3.2.10  | Updated paragraph number                     |
| MC/3/10 | 3.2.12                   | 26                 | <del>3.2.12</del> 3.2.11  | Updated paragraph number                     |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para               | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change          |
|---------|---------------------------|--------------------|---|----------------------------|
| MC/3/11 | 3.2.13                    | 27                 | <del>3.2.13</del> 3.2.12  | Updated paragraph number   |
| MC/3/12 | 3.2.14                    | 27                 | <del>3.2.14</del> 3.2.13  | Updated paragraph number   |
| MC/3/13 | Text box following 3.2.14 | 27                 | The Retail and Town Centres Study Update (2013) is available to view on the Council's website at:<br><br><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/retailstudy2013">www.eastherts.gov.uk/retailstudy2013</a> .<br><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase">www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase</a> | Council update to web link |
| MC/3/14 | 3.2.15                    | 27                 | <del>3.2.15</del> 3.2.14  | Updated paragraph number   |
| MC/3/15 | 3.2.16                    | 27                 | <del>3.2.16</del> 3.2.15  | Updated paragraph number   |
| MC/3/16 | 3.2.17                    | 27                 | <del>3.2.17</del> 3.2.16  | Updated paragraph number   |
| MC/3/17 | 3.2.17<br>Footnote 2      | 27                 | As defined within Section <del>15.8</del> 16.8 of Chapter 16: Retail and Town Centres.  | Council correction         |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change                                  |
|---------|-------------|--------------------|---|--|
| MC/3/18 | 3.3.10 (1.) | 30                 | Completions and commitments are shown in the period 2011-2017, based on the most recently available monitoring data up to March 2016.   | Council clarification                              |
| MC/3/19 | 3.3.14      | 31                 | <del>3.3.14</del> 15 The Council's positive approach to planning may also require it to use its compulsory purchase powers under section 226 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. That power gives the Council a positive tool to help to assemble land where this is necessary to implement proposals in the District Plan or where strong planning justifications for the use of the power exist. For the circumstances in which those powers may be exercised, see the Department for Communities and Local Government's "Compulsory purchase process and the Crichel Down Rules: guidance" at: <a href="http://www.gov.uk">www.gov.uk</a> | Updated paragraph number and Council clarification |
| MC/3/20 | 3.3.15      | 31-32              | <del>3.3.15</del> 3.3.14  | Updated paragraph number                           |
| MC/3/21 | 3.3.16      | 33                 | <del>3.3.16</del> 3.3.15  | Updated paragraph number                           |
| MC/3/22 | 3.3.17      | 33                 | <del>3.3.17</del> 3.3.16  | Updated paragraph number                           |
| MC/3/23 | 3.3.18      | 33                 | <del>3.3.18</del> 3.3.17  | Updated paragraph number                           |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para               | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change          |
|---------|---------------------------|--------------------|--|----------------------------|
| MC/3/24 | 3.3.19                    | 33                 | <del>3.3.19</del> 3.3.18   | Updated paragraph number   |
| MC/3/25 | 3.3.20                    | 33                 | <del>3.3.20</del> 3.3.19   | Updated paragraph number   |
| MC/3/26 | Text box following 3.3.20 | 34                 | The Infrastructure Delivery Plan can be viewed on the Council's website at: <a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/idp">www.eastherts.gov.uk/idp</a><br><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase">www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase</a> | Council update to web link |
| MC/3/27 | 3.3.21                    | 34                 | <del>3.3.21</del> 3.3.20   | Updated paragraph number   |
| MC/3/28 | 3.3.22                    | 35                 | <del>3.3.22</del> 3.3.21   | Updated paragraph number   |
| MC/3/29 | 3.5                       | 35                 | <del>3.5</del> 3.4 Neighbourhood Planning  | Updated section number     |
| MC/3/30 | 3.5.1                     | 35                 | <del>3.5.1</del> 3.4.1   | Updated paragraph number   |
| MC/3/31 | 3.5.2                     | 35                 | <del>3.5.2</del> 3.4.2   | Updated paragraph number   |



| Ref No. | Policy/Para                        | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change        |
|---------|------------------------------------|--------------------|---|--------------------------|
| MC/3/32 | Text box following 3.5.2           | 36                 | Further information on Neighbourhood Planning can be found on the Council's website at:<br><br><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning">www.eastherts.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning</a> | Council correction       |
| MC/3/33 | 3.5.3                              | 36                 | <del>3.5.3</del> 3.4.3  | Updated paragraph number |
| MC/3/34 | 3.5.4                              | 36                 | <del>3.5.4</del> 3.4.4  | Updated paragraph number |
| MC/3/35 | 3.5.5                              | 36                 | <del>3.5.5</del> 3.4.5  | Updated paragraph number |
| MC/3/36 | 3.5.6                              | 36                 | <del>3.5.6</del> 3.4.6  | Updated paragraph number |
| MC/3/37 | 3.5.7                              | 36                 | <del>3.5.7</del> 3.4.7  | Updated paragraph number |
| MC/3/38 | Policy DPS6 Neighbourhood Planning | 36                 | Policy <del>DPS6</del> DPS5 Neighbourhood Planning  | Updated policy number    |

## Chapter 4: Green Belt and Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt

| Ref No.   | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change   |
|---|-------------|--------------------|--|---|
| <b>Chapter 4: Green Belt and Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt</b> |             |                    |  |   |
| MC/4/01   | 4.1.2       | 38                 | The National Planning Policy Framework ( <del>NPPF, paragraph 80</del> ) sets out the five main purposes of the Green Belt:  | Modification in response to issue raised by Inspector at Examination Hearings       |
| MC/4/02   | 4.3.1       | 38                 | The NPPF states that Green Belt boundaries can only be amended in exceptional circumstances, through the preparation or review of a Local Plan ( <del>paragraph 83</del> ). There is no definition in the NPPF of what constitutes exceptional circumstances, as this will vary for each locality. | Modification in response to issue raised by Inspector at Examination Hearings       |
| MC/4/03   | 4.4.2       | 39                 | There are however some uses that are appropriate in the Green Belt and these are listed in <del>paragraphs 89 and 90</del> of the NPPF.  | Modification in response to issue raised by Inspector at Examination Hearings       |
| MC/04/04  | GBR2 I. (d) | 41                 | Criterion (d) deleted – consequential renumbering of criterion (e) to (i)  | Modification in response to issue raised by Inspector in Matters and Issues, Part 2 |

## Chapter 5: Bishop's Stortford

| Ref No.                              | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change  |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|--|--|
| <b>Chapter 5: Bishop's Stortford</b> |             |                    |  |  |
| MC/5/01                              | 5.1.4       | 44                 | <b>5.1.4 5.1.5 Education:</b> the educational needs of the town will be achieved at primary level via the expansion of existing facilities at Thorley Hill Primary School, together with the provision of up to three new primary schools at Bishop's Stortford North (BISH3) and one new primary school in Bishop's Stortford South (BISH5). One new secondary school will be provided at Bishop's Stortford North (BISH3) and one at Bishop's Stortford South (BISH5).   | Modification in response to issue raised by Inspector at Part 2 Hearing Sessions<br><br>Renumbering following addition of new paragraph 5.1.4  |
| MC/5/02                              | 5.1.5       | 44                 | <b>5.1.5 5.1.6 Transport:</b> measures introduced within new development will encourage the use of sustainable travel, particularly through the enhancement of walking and cycling links and through the provision of new bus routes linking new sites to the town centre and beyond. The impact of development on the local road network will be mitigated through upgrades to existing junctions, while improvements to Junction 8 on the M11, and the provision of a new Junction 7a on the M11 which will reduce pressure on the A120 and A1184. The Bishop's Stortford Town Centre Planning Framework <del>will</del> sets out initiatives to tackle traffic congestion in and around the town. | Renumbering following addition of new paragraph 5.1.4 and Council clarification to reflect latest status of the Town Centre Planning Framework |
| MC/5/03                              | 5.1.6       | 44                 | <b>5.1.6 5.1.7 Economic Development:</b> the proximity of Bishop's Stortford to the M11 and Stansted Airport makes it an attractive  | Modification in response to issue raised by  |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change  |
|---------|-------------|--------------------|---|--|
|         |             |                    | place for businesses and new employment opportunities in the town will be provided by a new business park at Bishop's Stortford South. As the District's Principal Town Centre, there is a stronger retail offer than other centres in the District, and has good prospects for expansion. Development at <del>the Causeway</del> /Old River Lane (BISH8) will <del>potentially</del> increase the retail and leisure offer of the town and strengthen links across the river to the railway station to encompass the Goods Yard (BISH7) and, in the long-term, possibly also the Mill Site (BISH10). An attractive pedestrian circuit from the station through the town centre will enhance the vitality and viability of the town centre as a retail and leisure destination. | Inspector at Part 2 Hearing Sessions<br><br>Renumbering following addition of new paragraph 5.1.4 and Council clarification to site name |
| MC/5/04 | 5.1.7       | 45                 | <b>5.1.7 5.1.8 Character:</b> Bishop's Stortford will preserve its market town character and the quality of the town's historic core will be respected in development proposals. The provision of a new Country Park at Hoggate's Wood and Ash Grove will extend the pattern of Green Wedges which frame the urban area. The A120 and A1184 will continue to provide a boundary to development and retain the town's compact character. Long views to historic features, such as church spires, will be preserved through the layout of new streets. Development of the Goods Yard (and possibly in the long-term, the Mill Site) and other development sites which may come forward, will enhance the River Stort corridor, creating public spaces along the river. The urban  | Renumbering following addition of new paragraph 5.1.4  |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para   | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change  |
|---------|---------------|--------------------|--|--|
|         |               |                    | extension at Bishop's Stortford South will provide an attractive new gateway to the town. <del>Masterplans produced in collaboration with the local community will promote high quality design.</del>  | Replaced by additional text in paragraph 5.1.4   |
| MC/5/05 | 5.2.1 & 5.2.2 | 45                 | <p><b>5.2.1</b> There are two neighbourhood plans covering this area. The Bishop's Stortford Silverleys and Meads Neighbourhood Plan was 'made' <del>adopted</del> in July 2015, the first in East Herts. <del>The Bishop's Stortford Neighbourhood Plan for All Saints, Central, South and part of Thorley was 'made' in October 2017. This</del> These Plans forms part of the development plan and, therefore, proposals within the Neighbourhood Plan Areas must also accord with their provisions. <del>of the Bishop's Stortford Silverleys and Meads Neighbourhood Plan.</del></p> <p><b>5.2.2</b> <del>The Bishop's Stortford Neighbourhood Plan for All Saints, Central, South and part of Thorley has been submitted to East Herts Council. Consultation on the Plan is expected to commence in late September/early October 2016. The Plan is expected to reach examination in late 2016 and a referendum in early 2017. Once adopted, this Plan will also form part of the development plan and therefore proposals within the Neighbourhood Plan Area must also accord with the Bishop's Stortford Neighbourhood Plan for All Saints, Central, South and part of Thorley.</del></p> | Council modification to reflect the fact that the second Neighbourhood Plan has been 'made'; and for clarity |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para              | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change  |
|---------|--------------------------|--------------------|---|--|
| MC/5/06 | 5.3.5                    | 47                 | The Council <del>is in the process of preparing</del> has prepared a Bishop's Stortford Town Centre Planning Framework which will guide future development in the town centre and provide a comprehensive approach to managing the impact and potential of growth on the town centre. <del>It is anticipated that the</del> The Framework <del>will</del> sets out a number of strategies to increase the floorspace of the retail core of the town, and to address issues associated with parking, pedestrian accessibility, traffic calming, and traffic flows. | Council clarification to reflect latest status of the Town Centre Planning Framework |
| MC/5/07 | Text box following 5.3.5 | 47                 | The Bishop's Stortford Town Centre Planning Framework <del>will be</del> is available to view at:<br><br><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/bsplanningframework">www.eastherts.gov.uk/bsplanningframework</a><br><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase">www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase</a>   | Council correction and update to web link  |
| MC/5/08 | 5.3.6                    | 47                 | To ensure the aims of the Bishop's Stortford Town Centre Planning Framework can be met, where development is proposed in town centre locations in Bishop's Stortford, Policy BISH244 will apply.  | To reflect the correct policy number   |
| MC/5/09 | 5.3.10                   | 48                 | The site as a whole will comprise a mix of house types, including provision for specialist and accessible homes, starter homes and self-build properties. The site will provide two neighbourhood centres to accommodate day-to-day retail, service and   | Council change to reflect the extant planning permission on this part of the site    |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para   | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change                     |
|---------|---------------|--------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
|         |               |                    | community facility needs, employment areas, up to two primary schools and a secondary school of <del>at least</del> six forms of entry. If the secondary school is constructed on this site, the resulting housing number will be reduced. In addition, the site will provide enhanced walking and cycling links, green infrastructure and open spaces along with new and enhanced bus routes. Development in this location will offer benefits for the wider community by providing new sports pitches and funding off-site infrastructure where necessary, such as additional burial space, upgrades to sewage networks, support of the Rhodes Centre and museum for example. |                                       |
| MC/5/10 | BISH3 III     | 50                 | III. In order to ensure that the site is planned and delivered comprehensively, any application for development on part of the site will be assessed against its contribution to the <del>masterplan</del> <b>Masterplan</b> , and will not prejudice the implementation of the site as a whole.  | Council correction                    |
| MC/5/11 | BISH3 V. (d)  | 51                 | d) Self-Build <b>and Custom Build</b> Housing in accordance with Policy HOU8 (Self-Build <b>and Custom Build</b> Housing);  | To ensure consistency across the Plan |
| MC/5/12 | Section Title | 52                 | <del>Reserve Secondary School Site, Land South of Hadham Road</del> <b>(Policy BISH4)</b>   | Council update                        |
| MC/5/13 | Figure 5.3    | 53                 | <b>Figure 5.3 Site Location: Reserve Secondary School Site, Land South of Hadham Road</b>   | Council update                        |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para    | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change   |
|---------|----------------|--------------------|---|---|
| MC/5/14 | 5.3.14         | 54                 | A collaborative approach to masterplanning <del>which forms the basis of a Supplementary Planning Document</del> is considered to be essential to the preparation of this site to guide development in the short and longer term.   | Clarification at the request of Countryside Properties (1053284)  |
| MC/5/15 | BISH5 III. (d) | 56                 | (d) Self-Build <del>and Custom Build</del> Housing in accordance with Policy HOU8 (Self-Build <del>and Custom Build</del> Housing);   | To ensure consistency across the Plan   |
| MC/5/16 | Figure 5.5     | 58                 | <b>Figure 5.5 Site Location: <del>The</del> Bishop's Stortford High School Site, London Road</b>  | Council correction  |
| MC/5/17 | BISH7 II. (c)  |                    | (c) Self-Build <del>and Custom Build</del> Housing in accordance with Policy HOU8 (Self-Build <del>and Custom Build</del> Housing);   | To ensure consistency across the Plan   |
| MC/5/18 | Section title  | 62                 | <del>The Causeway</del> /Old River Lane (Policy BISH8)  | Council change to reflect how the site is now known   |
| MC/5/19 | BISH8          |                    | <b>Policy BISH8: <del>The Causeway</del>/Old River Lane</b>   | Council change to reflect how the site is now known   |
| MC/5/20 | 5.3.20         | 66                 | The Mill Site occupies a strategic location between the railway station and the town centre and fronting the River Stort. While acknowledging that not all properties on the site are associated with or in mill usage, for ease of location, the site is collectively known as the Mill Site. <del>In the long term, the opportunities for</del> | Council change to reflect that the Development Brief is no longer up to date and has been superseded by the |



| Ref No. | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change                                 |
|---------|-------------|--------------------|--|---|
|         |             |                    | <del>sensitive mixed-used development are significant, as set out in the Mill Site Development Brief (2011).</del> However, at present there is no indication that the Mill owners are seeking to relocate to an alternative site. Therefore, Policy BISH10 (The Mill Site) covers two eventualities; if the current occupants of the Mill wish to relocate at some point during the plan period; and if the remaining non-mill land within the site comes forward for development. Proposals for development on this and the adjoining landholding should reflect a comprehensive approach to the whole site. | Bishop's Stortford Town Centre Planning Framework |

## Chapter 6: Buntingford

| Ref No.                       | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change   |
|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|---|---|
| <b>Chapter 6: Buntingford</b> |             |                    |   |   |
| MC/6/01                       | 6.1.12      | 75                 | <b>Transport:</b> as part of development proposals for the town, bus services will be enhanced to support travel around the town and to provide links to neighbouring towns. Financial contributions towards the implementation of a Community Transport project have been secured <del>from some of the approved development schemes in the town</del> which will, once established, provide a | Clarification at the request of Buntingford Town Council (465125) |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change   |
|---------|-------------|--------------------|--|---|
|         |             |                    | valuable service to the residents of the town and neighbouring villages. New developments will encourage the use of sustainable travel modes through the enhancement of walking and cycling links around the town. The impact of development on the local road network will be mitigated through upgrades to existing junctions, including widening of the exit links at the A10/London Road roundabout. |   |
| MC/6/02 | 6.2         |                    | <b>6.2 6.3 Development in Buntingford</b>  | Renumbering following inclusion of new Section 6.2.                   |
| MC/6/03 | 6.2.1       | 76                 | <b>6.2.1 6.3.1</b>   | Renumbering following inclusion of new Section 6.2.                   |
| MC/6/04 | 6.2.2       | 77                 | <b>6.2.2 6.3.2</b>   | Renumbering following inclusion of new Section 6.2.                   |
| MC/6/05 | 6.2.3       | 77                 | <b>6.2.3 6.3.2</b>   | Renumbering following inclusion of new Section 6.2.                   |
| MC/6/06 | 6.2.4       | 77                 | <b>6.2.4 6.3.4</b> Hertfordshire County Council, as Local Education Authority, is responsible for the planning of school places in the District, and <b>have has</b> identified that a new 2 form of entry (2FE)   | Renumbering following inclusion of new Section 6.2; and typographical |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change                               | Reason for Change                                   |
|---------|-------------|--------------------|---|---|
|         |             |                    | First School is required in Buntingford.            | correction  |
| MC/6/11 | 6.3         | 79                 | <del>6.3</del> <b>6.4 Employment in Buntingford</b> | Renumbering following inclusion of new Section 6.2. |
| MC/6/12 | 6.3.1       | 79                 | <del>6.3.1</del> <b>6.4.1</b>                       | Renumbering following inclusion of new Section 6.2. |
| MC/6/13 | 6.3.2       | 79                 | <del>6.3.2</del> <b>6.4.2</b>                       | Renumbering following inclusion of new Section 6.2. |
| MC/6/14 | 6.3.3       | 79                 | <del>6.3.3</del> <b>6.4.3</b>                       | Renumbering following inclusion of new Section 6.2. |
| MC/6/15 | 6.4         | 80                 | <del>6.4</del> <b>6.5 Retail in Buntingford</b>     | Renumbering following inclusion of new Section 6.2. |
| MC/6/16 | 6.4.1       | 80                 | <del>6.4.1</del> <b>6.5.1</b>                       | Renumbering following inclusion of new Section 6.2. |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change                                   |
|---------|-------------|--------------------|---|---|
| MC/6/17 | 6.5         | 80                 | <del>6.5</del> <b>6.6 Leisure and Community Facilities in Buntingford</b> | Renumbering following inclusion of new Section 6.2. |
| MC/6/18 | 6.5.1       | 80                 | <del>6.5.1</del> <b>6.6.1</b>   | Renumbering following inclusion of new Section 6.2. |
| MC/6/19 | 6.5.2       | 80                 | <del>6.5.2</del> <b>6.6.2</b>   | Renumbering following inclusion of new Section 6.2. |

### Chapter 7: Hertford

| Ref No.                    | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change          | Reason for Change                   |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Chapter 7: Hertford</b> |             |                    |                                |                                     |
| MC/7/01                    | 7.1.8       | 83                 | <del>7.1.8</del> <b>7.1.9</b>  | Consequential paragraph renumbering |
| MC/7/02                    | 7.1.9       | 83                 | <del>7.1.9</del> <b>7.1.10</b> | Consequential paragraph renumbering |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para                | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change                      |
|---------|----------------------------|--------------------|---|--|
| MC/7/03 | 7.1.10                     | 83                 | <del>7.1.10</del> 7.1.11  | Consequential paragraph renumbering    |
| MC/7/04 | 7.1.11                     | 83                 | <del>7.1.11</del> 7.1.12  | Consequential paragraph renumbering    |
| MC/7/05 | 7.1.12                     | 83                 | <del>7.1.12</del> 7.1.13  | Consequential paragraph renumbering    |
| MC/7/06 | Text box following 7.2.6   | 85                 | The Mead Lane Urban Design Framework is available to view at:<br><br><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/hertfordmeadlane">www.eastherts.gov.uk/hertfordmeadlane</a><br><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase">www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase</a> | Council update to web link             |
| MC/7/07 | HERT2 Mead Lane Area II.   | 86                 | <del>II</del> II. Subject to, and in accordance with, the provisions of the Mead Lane Urban Design Framework, December 2014, the development is expected to address the following provisions and issues:  | Consequential renumbering              |
| MC/7/08 | HERT2 Mead Lane Area III.  | 86 & 87            | Additional criterion (d) & (n) inserted in policy. Consequential renumbering of criterion (d) to (n).   | Consequential renumbering of criterion |
| MC/7/09 | HERT3 West of Hertford II. | 89                 | <del>III</del> III. The development of at least 300 dwellings to the north of Welwyn Road is expected to address the following provisions and issues:   | Consequential renumbering              |
| MC/7/10 | HERT3 West of              | 90                 | c) Self-Build and Custom Build Housing in accordance with Policy  | Council modification to                |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para                   | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change   |
|---------|-------------------------------|--------------------|---|---|
|         | Hertford III (c)              |                    | HOU8 (Self-Build and Custom Build Housing);   | update cross-referencing to Policy HOU8                         |
| MC/7/11 | HERT3 West of Hertford        | 91                 | <del>III</del> IV. The development of at least 250 homes to the south of Welwyn Road/west of Thieves Lane is expected to address the following provisions and issues:                           | Consequential renumbering                                       |
| MC/7/12 | HERT3 West of Hertford IV (c) | 91                 | c) Self-Build and Custom Build Housing in accordance with Policy HOU8 (Self-Build and Custom Build Housing);  | Council modification to update cross-referencing to Policy HOU8 |
| MC/7/13 | HERT4 North of Hertford II.   | 93                 | <del>II</del> III. The development is expected to address the following provisions and issues:  | Consequential renumbering                                       |
| MC/7/14 | 7.2.11                        | 95                 | <del>7.2.11</del> 7.2.10  | Consequential renumbering                                       |
| MC/7/15 | 7.2.12                        | 95                 | <del>7.2.12</del> 7.2.11  | Consequential renumbering                                       |
| MC/7/16 | HERT5 South of Hertford II.   | 96                 | <del>II</del> III. The development is expected to address the following provisions and issues:  | Consequential renumbering                                       |
| MC/7/17 | HERT5 South of Hertford       | 97                 | <del>(m)</del> (k) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure; and<br><br><del>(n)</del> (l) other policy provisions of the District Plan and relevant | Council correction  |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para              | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change          |
|---------|--------------------------|--------------------|--|----------------------------|
|         |                          |                    | matters, as appropriate.   |                            |
| MC/7/18 | Text box following 7.4.5 | 99                 | The Hertford Town Centre Urban Design Strategy is available to view at: <a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/HertfordTCUDS">www.eastherts.gov.uk/HertfordTCUDS</a><br><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase">www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase</a> | Council update to web link |

### Chapter 8: Sawbridgeworth

| Ref No.                          | Policy/Para                               | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change         |
|----------------------------------|---|--------------------|--|---------------------------|
| <b>Chapter 8: Sawbridgeworth</b> |   |                    |  |                           |
| MC/8/01                          | SAWB2 Land to the North of West Road II.  | 105                | III. The development is expected to address the following provisions and issues: | Consequential renumbering |
| MC/8/02                          | SAWB3 Land to the South of West Road II.  | 107                | III. The development is expected to address the following provisions and issues: | Consequential renumbering |
| MC/8/03                          | SAWB3 Land to the South of West Road III. | 108                | Deletion of criteria (i). Consequential renumbering of criterion (j) to (n).     | Consequential renumbering |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para  | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change   |
|---------|--|--------------------|--|---|
| MC/8/04 | SAWB4 Land to the North of Sawbridgeworth II.      | 109                | III. The development is expected to address the following provisions and issues:                             | Consequential renumbering                                       |
| MC/8/05 | SAWB4 Land to the North of Sawbridgeworth III. (c) | 109                | c) Self-Build and Custom Build Housing in accordance with Policy HOU8 (Self-Build and Custom Build Housing); | Council modification to update cross-referencing to Policy HOU8 |
| MC/8/06 | 8.5.2  | 111                | <del>8.5.2</del> 8.5.1   | Consequential renumbering                                       |

### Chapter 9: Ware

| Ref No.                | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change  |
|------------------------|-------------|--------------------|---|--|
| <b>Chapter 9: Ware</b> |             |                    |   |  |
| MC/9/01                | 9.1.2       | 114                | In the past, the river has underpinned the town's economic function, but is now more widely used as a leisure resource. Ware also benefits from other excellent sporting and leisure facilities including, but not limited to: Wodson Park sports centre; | Request of Ware Arts Centre (1047958) to incorporate this facility into text |



| Ref No. | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change  |
|---------|-------------|--------------------|---|--|
|         |             |                    | Fanshawe Pool and Gym; Ware Lido; Place House; Ware Arts Centre and Fletcher's Lea at The Priory. The Lee Valley Regional Park, which bounds the south of the town, along with other woodland and countryside access opportunities are also available to Ware's residents and visitors.   |  |
| MC/9/02 | 9.1.8       | 115                | <b>Housing:</b> additional homes will be provided, the majority to the North and East of Ware (WARE2), which will consist of a mix of dwelling types and sizes that will have been constructed in appropriate locations to ensure that Ware's population is able to access a balanced housing market catering for all life stages. The provision of affordable housing as part of any new residential or mixed use development scheme/s will allow emerging households to be able to remain living in Ware in accommodation suited to their needs. The site will also provide for the accommodation needs of Travelling Showpeople and make provision for self-build and/or custom-build opportunities. | Modification in response to issue raised by Inspector at Part 2 Hearing Sessions |
| MC/9/03 | 9.1.9       | 115                | <b>Design:</b> a collaboratively prepared Masterplan for the development of the North and East of Ware (WARE2) will form an important part of the delivery of the site allocation. This Masterplan, incorporating Garden City design principles, will provide a strong framework for the development, which will also embody the use of design codes. This will ensure the highest  | Modification in response to issue raised by Inspector at Part 2 Hearing Sessions |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change  |
|---------|-------------|--------------------|--|--|
|         |             |                    | quality design and layout of the area and provide a comprehensive and unified approach to the whole development, whilst reflecting different character areas across the site. The Masterplan will accord with the provisions of Policy DES1 Masterplanning.  |  |
| MC/9/04 | 9.1.10      | 115                | <b>Education:</b> the educational needs of the town will be achieved at primary level via the provision of one or more new schools commensurate with the level of development delivered to the North and East of Ware (WARE2), and, potentially, by the expansion of existing facilities. Secondary educational provision will be enhanced via the expansion of one or more of the existing schools in the Hertford and Ware Schools Planning Area and via the construction of a new school (which could potentially be an all-through facility) of at least six forms of entry to the North and East of the town. Hertford Regional College will continue to provide further educational opportunities for students from both Ware and wider locales. | Modification in response to issue raised by Inspector at Part 2 Hearing Sessions |
| MC/9/05 | 9.1.11      | 115                | <b>Community Facilities:</b> in addition to the continuation of existing facilities, new homes to the North and East of Ware (WARE2) will be supported by a range of community facilities which will be located around a neighbourhood centre.   | Modification in response to issue raised by Inspector at Part 2 Hearing Sessions |
| MC/9/06 | 9.1.12      | 115                | <b>Transport:</b> as part of development to the North and East of Ware   | Modification in response   |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change  |
|---------|-------------|--------------------|---|--|
|         |             |                    | (WARE2), bus services will be improved so that they support travel between residential areas and the town centre and its railway station. Pedestrian and cycle links, routes and facilities will be improved and extended. In addition to supporting improved sustainable travel, a new link road between the A10/A1170 junction and the Widbury Hill area will be constructed to minimise local trips, help relieve the town centre of extraneous traffic, and assist in alleviating congestion.     | to issue raised by Inspector at Part 2 Hearing Sessions                          |
| MC/9/07 | 9.1.13      | 116                | <b>Waste Water and other Infrastructure:</b> as part of development to the North and East of Ware (WARE2), waste water will drain to Rye Meads Waste Water Treatment Works, and new waste water services will be created as part of the development to ensure that the efficiency of the network is maintained and there are no adverse effects on surrounding watercourses. A new sewer will also be required to serve this area of the town and link into the existing network to the east of Ware. | Modification in response to issue raised by Inspector at Part 2 Hearing Sessions |
| MC/9/08 | 9.1.14      | 116                | <b>Retail and Employment:</b> as a Minor Town Centre, Ware's retail offer in the central core will be maintained and strengthened, as suitable opportunities arise, to serve both the town's residents and its hinterland settlements. As part of development to the North and East of the town (WARE2), the town centre's retail offer will be enhanced by the provision of additional retail facilities   | Modification in response to issue raised by Inspector at Part 2 Hearing Sessions |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change  |
|---------|-------------|--------------------|---|--|
|         |             |                    | within a new neighbourhood centre as part of comprehensive development in that location. Such provision should be appropriate to support the local development without prejudicing the existing retail offer in the town centre.  |  |
| MC/9/09 | 9.1.15      | 116                | Existing employment sites in Ware will be retained and, where appropriate, modernised. These will be supplemented via the creation of a new employment site of around 3ha as part of development to the North and East of Ware (WARE2), which should be located close to the new neighbourhood centre.  | Modification in response to issue raised by Inspector at Part 2 Hearing Sessions |
| MC/9/10 | 9.1.16      | 116                | <b>Leisure:</b> Ware's leisure facilities will be supplemented by the provision of additional indoor and outdoor sports facilities (which may be shared use) and other informal leisure provision as part of the development of the area to the North and East of Ware (WARE2). Green corridors will feature as part of this provision, which will also act to mitigate the environmental impact of development in this location. | Modification in response to issue raised by Inspector at Part 2 Hearing Sessions |
| MC/9/11 | 9.1.17      | 116                | <b>Open Spaces:</b> open spaces will be provided as part of the development to the North and East of Ware (WARE2) which provide multi-functional drainage solutions in addition to space for recreation, creating connections to green infrastructure corridors, including the Ash and Lea Valleys. Formal open spaces will form part of the development and provision for playing  | Modification in response to issue raised by Inspector at Part 2 Hearing Sessions |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change  |
|---------|-------------|--------------------|--|--|
|         |             |                    | pitches and play spaces. Areas of ecological importance will be protected and enhanced through appropriate buffer planting and an appropriate land management strategy.  |  |
| MC/9/12 | 9.1.18      | 116                | <b>Heritage:</b> important heritage assets, both within the existing town and in the vicinity of the allocation to the North and East of Ware (WARE2) will continue to be protected. Furthermore, such heritage assets will be respected as part of development proposals and, where appropriate, adequate mitigation employed, which will also include maintaining open or landscaped areas where necessary. Land uses should contribute towards maintaining or enhancing existing buffers, and providing new green infrastructure, as appropriate.   | Modification in response to issue raised by Inspector at Part 2 Hearing Sessions |
| MC/9/13 | 9.1.19      | 117                | <b>Character:</b> Ware's unique market town character and the heritage qualities of the town's historic core will be maintained. In new developments a sense of place will be respected and allow for successful integration with existing assets of character in the area. Ware's green infrastructure, including its open spaces and river corridors, will be maintained and will continue to contribute to the town's unique character. Further green space provision will be made as part of development to the North and East of the town (WARE2). Where development involves river frontages, this will ensure the | Modification in response to issue raised by Inspector at Part 2 Hearing Sessions |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para                             | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change  |
|---------|---|--------------------|---|--|
|         |   |                    | provision of an enhanced setting and, where possible, improve public access. The Lee Valley Regional Park will continue to provide a valuable resource to enhance the area.   |  |
| MC/9/14 | 9.1.20                                  | 116                | <b>Minerals:</b> for development to the North and East of Ware (WARE2), and to conform with the requirements of national policy and the Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan which aim to prevent the unnecessary sterilisation of mineral resources, where underlying mineral deposits of sufficient depth and quality are identified, prior extraction will be required in advance of the commencement of development and, where possible, should be used locally in the construction phase. Detailed phasing and the approach to land remediation and subsequent development will be set out in the Masterplan. | Modification in response to issue raised by Inspector at Part 2 Hearing Sessions |
| MC/9/15 | WARE2 Land North and East of Ware V (c) | 120                | (c) Self-Build and Custom Build Housing in accordance with Policy HOU8 (Self-Build and Custom Build Housing);   | Council modification to update cross-referencing to Policy HOU8                  |
| MC/9/16 | WARE3 Employment in Ware                | 122                | <p>I. In accordance with Policy ED1 (Employment), the following locations are designated as Employment Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Broadmeads;</li> <li>b) Crane Mead;</li> <li>c) Ermine Point/Gentlemen's Field*;</li> <li>d) Marsh Lane;</li> </ul>   | Council modification for consistency   |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change |
|---------|-------------|--------------------|--|-------------------|
|         |             |                    | <p>e) Park Road/Harris's Lane;<br/>f) Star Street.</p> <p>II. Development to the North and East of Ware will further deliver a new employment site of around 3ha in conjunction with provision of residential and other uses. The precise location of the new Employment Area will be brought forward through the masterplanning process, as detailed set out in Policy WARE2.</p> |                   |

## Chapter 10: Villages

| Ref No.                     | Policy/Para                      | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change          |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|--|----------------------------|
| <b>Chapter 10: Villages</b> |                                  |                    |  |                            |
| MC/10/01                    | Text box following 10.1.6        | 126                | <p>Further information regarding the village classification process can be found in The Final Village Hierarchy Study, August 2016. This can be viewed at:</p> <p><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/villagehierarchystudy">www.eastherts.gov.uk/villagehierarchystudy</a><br/> <a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase">www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase</a></p> | Council update to web link |
| MC/10/02                    | Figure 10.1: Key Diagram for the | 127                | <b>Figure 10.1 Key diagram for the villages</b>  | Addition of title for key  |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change   |
|----------|-------------|--------------------|--|---|
|          | Villages    |                    |  | diagram   |
| MC/10/03 | 10.2        | 127                | <del>10.2</del> <b>10.3</b> Development in the Villages  | Renumbering following Chapter restructure   |
| MC/10/04 | 10.2.1      | 127                | <del>10.2.1</del> <b>10.3.1</b>  | Renumbering following Chapter restructure   |
| MC/10/05 | 10.2.2      |                    | <del>10.2.2</del> <b>10.3.2</b>  | Renumbering following Chapter restructure   |
| MC/10/06 | 10.2.3      |                    | <del>10.2.3</del> <b>10.3.3</b>  | Renumbering following Chapter restructure   |
| MC/10/07 | 10.2.8      | 130                | <del>10.2.8</del> <b>10.3.8</b> Group 2 Villages are generally smaller villages where limited infill development, together with small-scale employment, leisure, recreation and community facilities will be permitted. <del>infill</del> This development should take place within the <del>main built up area of the</del> village <b>development boundary</b> as defined on the Policies Map. | Renumbering following Chapter restructure and clarification at the request of Datchworth Parish Council (1048045) |
| MC/10/08 | 10.2.9      | 130                | <del>10.2.9</del> <b>10.3.9</b>  | Renumbering following Chapter restructure   |
| MC/10/09 | 10.2.10     | 131                | <del>10.2.10</del> <b>10.3.10</b>  | Renumbering following Chapter restructure   |



| Ref No.  | Policy/Para              | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change                                 |
|----------|--------------------------|--------------------|---|---|
| MC/10/10 | VILL2 Group 2 Villages   | 132                | <del>IV.</del> V. All development should:   |   |
| MC/10/11 | 10.2.11                  | 133                | <del>10.2.11</del> 10.3.11  | Renumbering following Chapter restructure         |
| MC/10/12 | 10.3.2                   | 134                | In addition, village development boundaries in Group 2 Villages located in the Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt may also be amended through the formulation of a Neighbourhood Plan to identify sites to accommodate small-scale development proposals. | Council clarification                             |
| MC/10/13 | 10.3                     | 133                | <del>10.3</del> 10.4 Village Development Boundaries   | Renumbering following Chapter restructure         |
| MC/10/14 | 10.3.1                   | 133                | <del>10.3.1</del> 10.4.1  | Renumbering following Chapter restructure         |
| MC/10/15 | 10.3.2                   | 134                | <del>10.3.2</del> 10.4.2  | Renumbering following Chapter restructure         |
| MC/10/16 | 10.3.3                   | 134                | <del>10.3.3</del> 10.4.3  | Renumbering following Chapter restructure         |
| MM/10/17 | VILL5 Village Employment | 135-136            | Policy <del>VILL5</del> VILL4 Village Employment Areas  | Policy number updated following deletion of VILL4 |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change | Reason for Change |
|---------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
|         | Areas       |                    |                       |                   |

### Chapter 11: The Gilston Area

| Ref No.                             | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|--|---|
| <b>Chapter 11: The Gilston Area</b> |             |                    |  |   |
| MC/11/01                            | 11.2        | 138                | <b>11.2 11.3 Development in the Gilston Area</b>   | Renumbering following addition of new section 11.2.                           |
| MC/11/02                            | 11.2.1      | 138                | <b>11.2.1 11.3.1</b>   | Renumbering following addition of new section 11.2.                           |
| MC/11/03                            | 11.2.2      | 138                | <b>11.2.2 11.3.2</b>   | Renumbering following addition of new section 11.2.                           |
| MC/11/04                            | 11.2.3      | 138                | <b>11.2.3 11.3.3</b>   | Renumbering following addition of new section 11.2.                           |
| MC/11/05                            | 11.2.4      | 138-139            | <b>11.2.4 11.3.4 Transport:</b> a wide range of small and large scale interventions including sustainable transport measures, will be required <b>if to ensure that</b> development in the wider Harlow area, including the Gilston Area, is able to proceed without causing unacceptable congestion in Harlow and the surrounding towns | Renumbering following addition of new section 11.2 and Council clarification. |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change                                   |
|----------|-------------|--------------------|---|---|
|          |             |                    | and villages, as well as the wider strategic transport network. These interventions include a new Junction 7a on the M11, upgrades to Junctions 7 & 8, a second River Stort crossing, widening of the existing crossing, and upgrades to the Amwell Roundabout. Sustainable transport measures will also be required including new bus services, connecting to Harlow and the wider area, as well as provision for walking and cycling. |   |
| MC/11/06 | 11.2.5      | 139                | <del>11.2.5</del> 11.3.5  | Renumbering following addition of new section 11.2. |
| MC/11/07 | 11.2.6      | 139                | <del>11.2.6</del> 11.3.6  | Renumbering following addition of new section 11.2. |
| MC/11/08 | 11.2.7      | 139                | <del>11.2.7</del> 11.3.7  | Renumbering following addition of new section 11.2. |
| MC/11/09 | 11.2.8      | 139                | <del>11.2.8</del> 11.3.8  | Renumbering following addition of new section 11.2. |
| MC/11/10 | 11.2.9      | 139                | <del>11.2.9</del> 11.3.9  | Renumbering following addition of new section 11.2. |
| MC/11/11 | 11.2.10     | 140                | <del>11.2.10</del> 11.3.10  | Renumbering following addition of new section 11.2. |
| MC/11/12 | 11.2.11     | 140                | <del>11.2.11</del> 11.3.11  | Renumbering following addition of new section 11.2. |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para          | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change  |
|----------|----------------------|--------------------|---|--|
| MC/11/13 | GA1 The Gilston Area | 141-144            | Self-Build and Custom Build Housing in accordance with Policy HOU8 (Self-Build and Custom Build Housing);   | Council modification to update cross-referencing to Policy HOU8  |
| MC/11/14 | 11.3                 | 144                | <b>11.3 11.4 The River Stort Crossings</b>  | Renumbering following addition of new section 11.2.  |
| MC/11/15 | 11.3.1               | 144                | <b>11.3.1 11.4.1</b>  | Renumbering following addition of new section 11.2.  |
| MC/11/16 | 11.3.2               | 144                | <b>11.3.2 11.4.2</b>  | Renumbering following addition of new section 11.2.  |
| MC/11/17 | 11.3.3               | 144                | <b>11.3.3 11.4.3</b> In accordance with <del>paragraph 90 of</del> the NPPF the Council considers it appropriate for the crossings to be located across Green Belt land. The Council, Harlow Council, Hertfordshire County Council and Essex County Council are exploring the land ownership associated with delivering additional transport capacity and, if necessary, are able to use CPO powers to bring forward works needed to support the growth and regeneration of the area. | Renumbering following addition of new section 11.2.<br><br>Modification in response to issue raised by Inspector at Examination Hearings |
| MC/11/18 | 11.3.4               | 144                | <b>11.3.4 11.4.4</b>  | Renumbering following addition of new section 11.2.  |

## Chapter 12: East of Stevenage

| Ref No.                              | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change  |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|--|--|
| <b>Chapter 12: East of Stevenage</b> |             |                    |  |  |
| MC/12/01                             | 12.1.2      | 148                | <del>Land to the east of Stevenage was assessed through the Plan-making process for either a new settlement or a major urban extension, but was not identified as part of the Preferred Options District Plan. The 2014 consultation raised the issue of the potential of a smaller parcel of land coming forward for development. A detailed assessment of the potential for development in the area has been undertaken which is documented in the Settlement Appraisal accompanying the Plan.</del> | Council change as justification is not necessary for inclusion in the final Plan |
| MC/12/02                             | 12.1.3      | 148                | <del>12.1.3</del> 12.1.2   | Consequential paragraph renumbering  |
| MC/12/02                             | 12.1.4      | 148                | <del>12.1.4</del> 12.1.3   | Consequential paragraph renumbering  |
| MC/12/03                             | 12.2.1      | 148                | The main components of the development strategy for land to the east of Stevenage at Gresley Park <del>are as follows subject to master planning are expected to consider the following:</del>   | Council change for consistency across the Plan                                   |
| MC/12/04                             | 12.2.3      | 149                | <b>Education:</b> the site will provide a two form entry primary school with Early Years Education facilities. This will meet the educational needs arising from the development as well as  | Council change to reflect the position agreed with Stevenage Borough             |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para                    | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change   |
|----------|--------------------------------|--------------------|---|---|
|          |                                |                    | providing additional capacity to address wider needs. Secondary education will be provided at the new <b>school planned for the nearby former Barnwell East Secondary School site within the wider Stevenage Education Planning Area</b> , towards which the development will contribute <b>financially</b> . | Council and Hertfordshire County Council                        |
| MC/12/05 | EOS1 East of Stevenage III (d) | 152                | Self-Build <b>and Custom Build</b> Housing in accordance with Policy HOU8 (Self-Build <b>and Custom Build</b> Housing);   | Council modification to update cross-referencing to Policy HOU8 |

### Chapter 13: East of Welwyn Garden City

| Ref No.                                       | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change  |
|---|-------------|--------------------|---|--------------------|
| <b>Chapter 13: East of Welwyn Garden City</b> |             |                    |   |                    |
| MC/13/01                                      | 13.1.1      | 156                | Welwyn Garden City which immediately adjoins East Herts to the <b>east west</b> of the district is the Country's second Garden City and therefore has a long history as an innovative and distinctive town. | Council correction |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para                           | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change   |
|----------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--|---|
| MC/13/02 | 13.2.4                                | 157                | <b>Education:</b> <del>A Land for a two-form entry primary school with early years provision, will be located within the Welwyn Hatfield part of the site, while an all through school of six forms of entry at secondary level and two forms of entry at primary level with early years provision will be located within the East Herts part of the site. Importantly, the through-school site will provide sufficient flexibility to accommodate up to eight forms of entry at secondary level and three forms of entry at primary level should future needs arise</del> land for a three-form entry primary school, with early years provision, will be provided on the East Herts part of the site, along with land for the provision of an eight-form entry secondary school. | Council change to reflect the position agreed with Hertfordshire County Council |
| MC/13/03 | 13.2.6                                | 157                | <b>Heritage:</b> Important heritage assets within and in the vicinity of the site will be protected through adequate mitigation which will include the provision of landscaped buffers, and maintaining open or landscaped areas where necessary.  | Council clarification on approach   |
| MC/13/04 | EWEL1 Land East of Welwyn Garden City | 160-162            | <del>VII.</del> In accordance with the relevant Local/District Plan policies the site will provide:<br><del>(H)(m)</del> necessary utilities, including integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home-working; and<br><del>(m)(n)</del> sustainable drainage and provision for flood mitigation.   | Consequential renumbering   |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change  |
|----------|-------------|--------------------|--|--------------------|
| MC/13/05 | 13.2.14     | 162                | Figure <del>13.2</del> 13.3 is an illustrative strategy diagram which will be used as a basis for masterplanning and will also help inform decisions on planning applications. | Council correction |
| MC/13/06 | Figure 13.2 | 163                | <b>Figure <del>13.2</del> 13.3 Strategy Diagram - Land East of Welwyn Garden City</b>  | Council correction |

#### Chapter 14: Housing

| Ref No.                    | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change                           |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------------------|--|---|
| <b>Chapter 14: Housing</b> |             |                    |  |   |
| MC/14/01                   | 14.2.1      | 166                | The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states <del>in</del> paragraph 47 that local planning authorities should use their | Modification in response to issue raised by |



| Ref No.  | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change                                     |
|----------|-------------|--------------------|--|---|
|          |             |                    | evidence base to ensure that their Local Plan meets the full, objectively assessed needs for market and affordable housing in the housing market area. Paragraph 50 states that local Local planning authorities should plan for a mix of housing, based on current and demographic trends, market trends and the needs of different groups in the community. It goes on to say that local planning authorities should identify the size, type, tenure and range of housing that is required in different locations.   | Inspector at Examination Hearings                     |
| MC/14/02 | 14.2.2      | 166                | <p>Developers are encouraged to discuss with the Council the appropriate mix of house size, type and tenure within any new housing development at an early stage in the pre-application process. Requirements will be informed by the following, along with any additional up-to-date evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The latest West Essex and East Hertfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) (2015);</li> <li>• <del>The Older People's Housing Requirements Technical Study (2013);</del></li> <li>• The latest East Herts Housing and Health Strategy;</li> <li>• Local demographic context and trends;</li> <li>• Local housing need and demand;</li> </ul> | Council corrections and deletion of out of date study |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para                                  | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change  |
|----------|--|--------------------|--|--|
|          |  |                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site issues and design considerations.</li> </ul>   |  |
| MC/14/03 | Text box following 14.2.3 (after Table 14.1) | 168                | <p>The <del>latest</del> West Essex and East Hertfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (<del>2015</del>) can be viewed and downloaded from the Council's Website at:</p> <p><del>www.eastherts.gov.uk/shma</del> <a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase">www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase</a></p> <p><del>The London Commuter Belt (East) Sub-Region: Older People's Housing Requirements Study (October 2013) can be viewed and downloaded from the Council's Website at:</del></p> <p><del>www.eastherts.gov.uk/olderpeoplestudy</del></p> <p>The <del>Council's</del> latest Housing <del>and Health</del> Strategy can be viewed and downloaded from the Council's Website at:</p> <p><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/housing">www.eastherts.gov.uk/housing</a></p> | <p>Council update to web link</p> <p>Council deletion of out of date study</p> <p>Council correction</p> |
| MC/14/04 | 14.2.4                                       | 168                | <del>14.2.4</del> <b>14.2.3</b>  | Council update to  |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para                     | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change   |
|----------|---------------------------------|--------------------|--|---|
|          |                                 |                    |  | paragraph numbering following deletion of existing paragraph 14.2.3 |
| MC/14/05 | HOU1 Type and Mix of Housing V. | 168                | V. Self-Build Housing in accordance with Policy HOU8 (Self-Build and Custom Build Housing).  | Council modification to update cross-referencing to Policy HOU8     |
| MC/14/06 | HOU2<br>Housing Density I. (a)  | 170                | a) The design objectives set out in Policy <del>DES3</del> DES4 (Design of Development);   | Council update to policy reference                                  |
| MC/14/07 | Text box following 14.4.6       | 171                | The Delivery Study can be viewed and downloaded at:<br><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/deliverystudy">www.eastherts.gov.uk/deliverystudy</a><br><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase">www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase</a>  | Council update to web link  |
| MC/14/08 | 14.4.9                          | 172                | Effective affordable housing provision is not just about quantity; of equal importance is ensuring the right type of provision. The latest SHMA 2015 identifies the greatest need for affordable housing is from those requiring housing from the affordable rent tenure. However, the Housing and Planning Act 2016 has introduced the requirement for local authorities to promote the | Council update to reference   |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para                | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change                            |
|----------|----------------------------|--------------------|--|--|
|          |                            |                    | supply of starter homes. The Act sets out a definition of starter homes and signals the Government's intention to require a set proportion of starter homes to be delivered on qualifying sites, the level of which will be confirmed by secondary legislation.  |  |
| MC/14/09 | Text box following 14.4.17 | 174                | <p>The Affordable Housing and Lifetime Homes' (2008, or as amended) Supplementary Planning Document can be viewed and downloaded at:</p> <p><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/affordablehousing">www.eastherts.gov.uk/affordablehousing</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/spd">www.eastherts.gov.uk/spd</a></p>   | Council update to web link                   |
| MC/14/10 | HOU8<br>Self-Build Housing | 182                | <b>Policy HOU8 Self-Build and Custom Build Housing</b>   | Council correction to policy title           |
| MC/14/11 | 14.10.3                    | 183                | <p>There are currently <del>three</del> <b>four</b> authorised private Gypsy and Traveller sites in East Herts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nine Acres, High Cross: 8 13 permitted pitches;</li> <li>• Field Farm, Levens Green: 6 permitted pitches; <del>and</del></li> <li>• The Stables, Bayfordbury: 8 permitted pitches; <del>and</del></li> <li>• <b>South Paw, Widford: 1 permitted pitch.</b></li> </ul> | Council update in light of recent permission |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change   |
|----------|-------------|--------------------|---|---|
| MC/14/12 | 14.10.6     | 183                | <p>For Gypsies and Travellers, 2 pitches will be required up to 2022, with a further 3 pitches between 2022-2027. These pitch requirements arise from two sites at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Stables, Bayford (3 pitches), which will be met via expansion of that site; and</li> <li>• Unauthorised pitches at Esbies, Sawbridgeworth (2 pitches), which will be met within a new site for 15 pitches to be established within Birchall Garden Suburb (EWEL1), which will also contribute to meeting the needs of Welwyn Hatfield Borough.</li> </ul>  | In response to issue regarding the cross-referencing of policies raised by Inspector at Part 2 Hearing Sessions |
| MC/14/13 | 14.10.7     | 184                | <p>As the identification of accommodation needs for Gypsies and Travellers is less certain beyond year 10 of the Plan, and an up-to-date understanding of the needs of Gypsy and Traveller communities will need to be maintained throughout the plan period, it is considered appropriate that provision should not be specifically allocated post-2027 without a demonstration of precise need at this time. However, in anticipation of future accommodation needs occurring, 2 further pitches should be reserved within the new site at Birchall Garden Suburb (EWEL1), and an additional new Gypsy and Traveller site should also be identified within the Gilston Area (GA1) site allocation for future need towards the end of the plan period and/or beyond. Land should be safeguarded as part of the overall development of these sites for such purposes.</p> | In response to issue regarding the cross-referencing of policies raised by Inspector at Part 2 Hearing Sessions |

| Ref No.                | Policy/Para   | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change   |  |                      |   |  |
|------------------------|---|--------------------|---|---|--|----------------------|---|--|
| MC/14/14               | 14.10.8   | 184                | For Travelling Showpeople, 7 plots will be required up to 2022; one plot is required between 2022 and 2027; and a further plot between 2027 and 2033 (totalling 9 plots across the plan period). All of these plot requirements arise from the Rye House site, which is fully occupied with no room for expansion. A new yard should be identified within <del>Gresley Park</del> Land to the East of Stevenage (EOS1) to provide 5 plots towards meeting the needs of the first five years; and 4 plots should also be allocated within the development to the North and East of Ware (WARE2) to meet the residual need across the plan period. In order to ensure that any, as yet unidentified, Travelling Showpeople's needs can be accommodated the allocated site to the North and East of Ware (WARE2) should also include sufficient safeguarded land for future expansion within a site area large enough to accommodate a total of 8 plots overall, as need dictates. Additionally, the Gilston Area (GA1) should also include sufficient safeguarded land for future longer term provision within a site area large enough to accommodate a total of 8 plots | In response to issue regarding the cross-referencing of policies raised by Inspector at Part 2 Hearing Sessions |  |                      |   |  |
| MC/14/15               | HOU9 Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople   | 185                | <div>I. To meet identified local need, pitches for Gypsies and Travellers and plots for Travelling Showpeople will be provided within the District at the following locations:</div> <table><tr><th colspan="2">Gypsies and Travellers</th></tr><tr><td>The Stables, Bayford</td><td>3 additional pitches (2 to be provided in the period up to 2022; and 1 between 2022 and 2027) within the allocated site area.</td></tr></table>  | Gypsies and Travellers  |  | The Stables, Bayford | 3 additional pitches (2 to be provided in the period up to 2022; and 1 between 2022 and 2027) within the allocated site area. | Part I. – Minor Change Council update of table header for accuracy |
| Gypsies and Travellers |   |                    |   |   |  |                      |   |  |
| The Stables, Bayford   | 3 additional pitches (2 to be provided in the period up to 2022; and 1 between 2022 and 2027) within the allocated site area. |                    |   |   |  |                      |   |  |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change                                      |   | Reason for Change |
|---------|-------------|--------------------|--|---|-------------------|
|         |             |                    | Birchall Garden Suburb, East of Welwyn Garden City (EWEL1) | 4 pitches (2 to be provided between 2022 and 2027; and 2 to allow for longer-term accommodation needs) for East Herts within an area sufficient to accommodate a total of 15 pitches (11 for Welwyn Hatfield) to meet the accommodation needs of both East Herts and Welwyn Hatfield and/or for future expansion, as evidence of need dictates. |                   |
|         |             |                    | The Gilston Area (GA1)                                     | To allow for longer-term accommodation needs, an area of suitable land should be safeguarded that would allow for future provision of a total of 15 pitches, to be delivered towards the end of the Plan period and/or beyond, as evidence of need dictates.  |                   |
|         |             |                    | Travelling Showpeople                                      |   |                   |
|         |             |                    | Gresley Park, East of Stevenage (EOS1)                     | 5 plots (each of sufficient size to allow for the provision of accommodation and equipment plus storage/maintenance).   |                   |
|         |             |                    | North and East of Ware (WARE2)                             | 4 plots (each of sufficient size to allow for the provision of accommodation and equipment plus storage/maintenance) within the first phase of development to be provided within a larger area  |                   |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   |  | Reason for Change                                   |
|----------|-------------|--------------------|---|--|---|
|          |             |                    |   | that should be safeguarded to allow for future expansion to a total of 8 plots, as evidence of need dictates.  |   |
|          |             |                    | The Gilston Area (GA1)  | To allow for longer-term accommodation needs, an area of suitable land should be safeguarded that would allow for future provision of a total of 8 plots (each of sufficient size to allow for the provision of accommodation and equipment plus storage/maintenance), to be delivered towards the end of the Plan period and/or beyond, as evidence of need dictates. |   |
| MC/14/16 | 14.13       | 188                | <b>14.13 14.12 Extensions and Alterations to Dwellings and Residential Outbuildings</b>   |  | Council update following deletion of Section 14.12. |
| MC/14/17 | 14.13.1     | 188                | <b>14.13.1 14.12.1</b>  |  | Council update following deletion of Section 14.12. |
| MC/14/18 | 14.13.2     | 188                | <b>14.13.2 14.12.2</b> The Council will expect all proposals for extensions and alterations to dwellings and residential outbuildings to be of a high standard of design that is appropriate to the character and appearance of the dwelling and the surrounding area. All householder development proposals should be sensitively designed to ensure that they would not have an unacceptable impact upon the amenities of the occupiers of the existing dwelling and any neighbouring dwellings. In particular the Council will assess proposals having |  | Council update following deletion of Section 14.12. |



| Ref No.  | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change                                  |
|----------|-------------|--------------------|--|--|
|          |             |                    | regard to any loss of light, privacy and outlook and overbearing impacts that the development could have upon existing and future occupiers of the host dwelling and adjoining dwellings. In addition to the policies below, applications for extensions will also be considered against Policy <del>DES3</del> <b>DES4</b> (Design of Development) where appropriate. | Council update to policy reference                 |
| MC/14/19 | 14.13.3     | 189                | <del>14.13.3</del> <b>14.12.3</b>  | Council update following deletion of Section14.12. |
| MC/14/20 | 14.14       | 190                | <del>14.14</del> <b>14.13 Change of Use of Land to Residential Garden and Enclosure of Amenity Land</b>  | Council update following deletion of Section14.12. |
| MC/14/21 | 14.14.1     | 190                | <del>14.14.1</del> <b>14.13.1</b>  | Council update following deletion of Section14.12. |
| MC/14/22 | 14.14.2     | 190                | <del>14.14.2</del> <b>14.13.2</b>  | Council update following deletion of Section14.12. |
| MC/14/23 | 14.15       | 190                | <del>14.15</del> <b>14.14 Residential Annexes</b>  | Council update following deletion of Section14.12. |
| MC/14/24 | 14.15.1     | 190                | <del>14.15.1</del> <b>14.14.1</b>  | Council update following deletion of Section14.12. |
| MC/14/25 | 14.15.2     | 191                | <del>14.15.2</del> <b>14.14.2</b>  | Council update following                           |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change      | Reason for Change                                  |
|----------|-------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--|
|          |             |                    |                            | deletion of Section14.12.                          |
| MC/14/26 | 14.15.3     | 191                | <del>14.15.3</del> 14.14.3 | Council update following deletion of Section14.12. |

### Chapter 15: Economic Development

| Ref No.                                 | Policy/Para               | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change   |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------|--|---|
| <b>Chapter 15: Economic Development</b> |                           |                    |  |   |
| MC/15/01                                | Text box following 15.2.1 | 196                | The Council's technical studies relating to employment and economic development can be viewed and downloaded from the Council's Website at:<br><br><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/technicalstudies">www.eastherts.gov.uk/technicalstudies</a><br><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase">www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase</a>  | Council update to web link  |
| MC/15/02                                | 15.2.4                    | 197                | The following policies relate to the district as a whole, <del>where the provisions of the General Permitted Development (England) Order 2015 (as amended) do not apply. and</del> They set out the approach to designated and non-designated employment land and employment generating uses, which may include uses not within the traditional employment Use Classes B1 (Business), B2 | Modification in response to issue raised by Inspector in Matters and Issues, Part 2 |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para                   | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change   |
|----------|-------------------------------|--------------------|---|---|
|          |                               |                    | (General Industrial) and B8 (Storage and Distribution). Policies on retail and commercial uses are contained in Chapter 16 (Retail and Town Centres). Policies related to employment, retail or commercial uses relevant to specific settlements are included in the appropriate settlement chapter.  |   |
| MC/15/03 | 15.3.4 and following Text box | 199                | <p>Agricultural buildings within the rural area are often of historic merit and the conversion of such buildings should be undertaken with care in order to protect the historic and visual quality of the building and its setting. In most cases, agricultural buildings would be considered in relation to the farm house, most of which, if they are of historic merit would already be designated in some way. Where there is no designation, an assessment will be made in relation to the Heritage policies in Chapter 21 and other policies in this Plan. The Council will expect such proposals to <del>consider the English Heritage guide 'The Conversion of Traditional Farm Buildings: A guide to good practice'</del> take into account Historic England's Best Practice Guidelines for Adaptive Reuse.</p> <p><del>The English Heritage guide 'The conversion of Traditional Farm Buildings: A guide to good practice' can be viewed and downloaded at:</del></p> <p><del><a href="http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/conversion-of-traditional-farm-buildings-a-guide-to-good-practice/">www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/conversion-of-traditional-farm-buildings-a-guide-to-good-practice/</a></del></p> | Council update to Historic England publication and web link |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para                           | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change   |
|----------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|---|---|
|          |                                       |                    | <p><del>traditional farm buildings/</del></p> <p>Historic England's guidelines for 'Adapting Traditional Farm Buildings: best practice guidelines for adaptive reuse' can be viewed and downloaded at:</p> <p><a href="https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/adapting-traditional-farm-buildings/">https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/adapting-traditional-farm-buildings/</a></p> |   |
| MC/15/04 | ED2 III. (d) and (e)<br>Rural Economy | 199 - 200          | <p>(d) the building is of permanent and substantial construction.;<br/>and<br/><del>(e) such proposals should not conflict with other policies within this Plan.</del></p>  | Modifications in response to issues raised by Inspector at Examination Hearings |
| MC/15/05 | ED2 IV. (e) and (f)<br>Rural Economy  | 199 - 200          | <p>(e) any resultant retail or commercial use does not have an adverse impact on the viability of existing nearby rural or village shops or community facilities.; and<br/><br/><del>(f) such proposals do not conflict with other policies within this Plan.</del></p>   | Modifications in response to issues raised by Inspector at Examination Hearings |
| MC/15/06 | Text box following 15.6.2             | 203                | <p>The Council's Economic Development Vision can be viewed and downloaded at: <del><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/article/27662/Business-and-Economy">www.eastherts.gov.uk/article/27662/Business-and-Economy</a></del> <a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/article/35676/Business-Support-Advice">www.eastherts.gov.uk/article/35676/Business-Support-Advice</a></p>  | Council update to web link  |

## Chapter 16: Retail and Town Centres

| Ref No.                                    | Policy/Para               | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change          |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------|--|----------------------------|
| <b>Chapter 16: Retail and Town Centres</b> |                           |                    |  |                            |
| MC/16/01                                   | 16.3.3                    | 207                | In accordance with <del>paragraph 24 of</del> the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the Council will apply a sequential test to applications for main town centre uses. The main town centre uses, as defined in the NPPF, should be located in the town centre, then in edge of centre locations, and only if suitable sites are not available, should out of centre locations be considered. When considering edge of centre and out of centre proposals, preference will be given to accessible sites that are well connected to the town centre. The Council and the applicant will demonstrate flexibility on issues such as format and scale. | Council clarification      |
| MC/16/02                                   | Text box following 16.3.4 | 207                | The East Herts Retail and Town Centres Study Update Report 2013 can be viewed and downloaded at:<br><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/retailstudy2013">www.eastherts.gov.uk/retailstudy2013</a><br><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase">www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase</a>   | Council update to web link |
| MC/16/03                                   | Text box following 16.4.4 | 209                | The Hertford Town Centre Urban Design Strategy can be viewed at:<br><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/HertfordTCUDS">www.eastherts.gov.uk/HertfordTCUDS</a><br><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase">www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase</a>   | Council update to web link |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para   | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change   |
|----------|---|--------------------|--|---|
|          |   |                    | The Bishop's Stortford Planning Framework can be viewed at:<br><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/bsplanningframework">www.eastherts.gov.uk/bsplanningframework</a><br><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase">www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase</a>  |   |
| MC/16/04 | RTC3<br><br>Primary Shopping Frontages / Policy Map | 210                | Modification to extend the Primary Shopping Frontage in Ware to encompass units in Star Street as far as the Sainsbury's Local.  | Request by Sainsbury's Supermarket Ltd (466270)                             |
| MC/16/05 | 16.8  | 211                | 16.8 District Centres, <a href="#">Neighbourhood Centres</a> , Local Parades and Individual Shops  | Council correction to section title   |
| MC/16/06 | 16.8.6 Table  | 212                | <a href="#">Table 16.1: Retail Hierarchy</a>   | Council insertion of table heading  |
| MC/16/07 | 16.8.6 Table  | 212                | Neighbourhood Centre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bishop's Park, Bishop's Stortford North</li> <li>• <a href="#">Bishop's Stortford North</a></li> <li>• Birchall Garden Suburb, East of Welwyn Garden City</li> <li>• Gresley Park, East of Stevenage</li> <li>• North and East of Ware</li> <li>• The Gilston Area</li> <li>• Whittington Way at Bishop's Stortford South</li> </ul> | To address error raised by the Bishop's Stortford Civic Federation (465343) |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para   | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change  |
|----------|---|--------------------|---|--|
| MC/16/08 | 16.8.6 Table  | 212                | Local Parade Villages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Puckeridge</li> <li>• Standon</li> <li>• Stanstead Abbotts and St Margarets</li> <li>• Watton-at-Stone</li> </ul>            | To address error raised by Sally Crook (1048021)                                 |
| MC/16/09 | RTC5 II.<br><br>District Centres, Neighbourhood Centres, Local Parades and Individual Shops | 213                | I. Proposals that result in the loss of individual shops in A1 Use will be resisted and will be considered in accordance with Policy <del>CFLR7</del> CFLR8 (Loss of Community Facilities). | Part II. – Minor Change to provide clarification and to correct policy reference |

## Chapter 17: Design and Landscape

| Ref No.                                 | Policy/Para               | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change  |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------|---|--|
| <b>Chapter 17: Design and Landscape</b> |                           |                    |   |  |
| MC/17/01                                | Text box following 17.3.4 | 218                | Building Futures is an interactive Website which can be viewed at:<br><a href="http://www.hertslink.org/buildingfutures">www.hertslink.org/buildingfutures</a><br><a href="http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/building-futures/building-futures.aspx">www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/building-futures/building-futures.aspx</a>  | Council update to web link   |
| MC/17/02                                | 17.3.6                    | 218                | The Building Research Establishment has established a new Home Quality Mark to replace <del>Building for Life</del> the Code for Sustainable Homes which was revoked in the National Standards <del>review</del> Review 2015. The Home Quality Mark is an independent assessment of the home's quality in terms of its contribution to the occupant's health and wellbeing, cost to maintain and energy efficiency for example. It is a voluntary standard which demonstrates that design and construction exceeds that required by Building Regulations and can be used as a tool when marketing and buying properties and may be used as a benchmark for proposals. | Council clarification  |
| MC/17/03                                | 17.7.7                    | 221                | The rural landscape is of great significance to the character of East Herts. The district has a rich landscape of open fields and parklands shaped by river valleys and arable plateaux. Woodland accounts for 9.8% of total land cover, 11% of which is recorded by the Woodland Trust as being Ancient Woodland under threat.   | Clarification at the request of HCC – Ecology (782964) and East Herts Landscape Officer (500069) |



| Ref No.  | Policy/Para               | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change   |
|----------|---------------------------|--------------------|---|---|
|          |                           |                    | Hedgerows are also an important feature throughout Hertfordshire, reflecting the historic enclosure of agricultural fields and defining land ownership boundaries. Many hedgerows throughout the district are considered as being 'important' (as defined under the Hedgerows Legislation Regulations, 1997) and are key elements of green corridors, contributing towards wider ecological networks. |   |
| MC/17/04 | Text box following 17.7.9 | 222                | The Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Planning Document (2007, or as amended) can be viewed and downloaded at:<br><br><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/landscapecharacterspd">www.eastherts.gov.uk/landscapecharacterspd</a><br><br><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/spd">www.eastherts.gov.uk/spd</a>   | Council update to web link  |
| MC/17/05 | DES1 Landscape Character  | 222                | <b>Policy <del>DES1</del> DES2 Landscape Character</b>  | Council correction to reflect addition of a new Policy DES1           |
| MC/17/06 | 17.7.10                   | 222                | Landscape issues must be regarded as an integral part of the <a href="#">site planning and layout phase of the design and development planning</a> process.   | Clarification at the request of East Herts Landscape Officer (500069) |
| MC/17/07 | 17.7.13                   | 223                | Advice on <a href="#">existing trees and hedgerows</a> , new planting and arboricultural constraints can be found in British Standard 5837  | Clarification at the request of East Herts Landscape                  |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para         | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change   |
|----------|---------------------|--------------------|--|---|
|          |                     |                    | (2012), compliance with which is required where there are trees on or around the site.   | Officer (500069)  |
| MC/17/08 | 17.7.15             | 223                | The Council welcomes landscape design which incorporates principles of <b>green space infrastructure as well as</b> sustainability such as use of local materials, low energy consumption for construction and maintenance, local recycling of water through surfaces which increase the permeability of the ground (such as SUDS or multifunctional green <b>space infrastructure</b> ) good pedestrian/cycle links and facilities to reduce car use. | Clarification at the request of East Herts Landscape Officer (500069) |
| MC/17/09 | DES2<br>Landscaping | 223                | <b>Policy <del>DES2</del> DES3 Landscaping</b>   | Council correction to reflect addition of a new Policy DES1           |
| MC/17/10 | 17.7.19             | 224                | 6. Green space being retained, enhanced and integrated into the design of a development scheme, which may include the creation of space for local food production, <del>or</del> community gardens <b>or orchards</b> . This can help to reinforce the quality and character of a place, increase biodiversity and deliver a wide range of environmental and health and wellbeing benefits as well as foster a sense of community;                     | Addition at the request of HCC – Ecology (782964)                     |
| MC/17/11 | DES3                | 225-226            | <b>Policy <del>DES3</del> DES4 Design of Development</b>   | Council correction to reflect addition of a new                       |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para                      | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change   |
|----------|----------------------------------|--------------------|---|---|
|          | Design of Development            |                    |   | Policy DES1   |
| MC/17/12 | DES4<br>Crime and Security       | 227                | <b>Policy <del>DES4</del> DES5 Crime and Security</b>   | Council correction to reflect addition of a new Policy DES1   |
| MC/17/13 | DES5<br>Advertisements and Signs | 228                | <b>Policy <del>DES5</del> DES6 Advertisements and Signs</b><br><br>II. <del>Consent will not be given for advertisements that are harmful to amenity or public safety.</del> Advertisements should avoid harm to amenity and public safety. | Council correction to reflect addition of a new Policy DES1<br><br>Part II. - Modification in response to issues raised by Inspector at Part 2 Examination Hearings |

## Chapter 18: Transport

| Ref No.                      | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change          |
|------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|---|----------------------------|
| <b>Chapter 18: Transport</b> |             |                    |   |                            |
| MC/18/01                     | Text box    | 230                | The Hertfordshire Local Transport Plan 2011 can be viewed and | Officer update to web link |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para               | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change   |
|----------|---------------------------|--------------------|--|---|
|          | following 18.1.2          |                    | downloaded at:<br><br><a href="http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/transtreets/tranpan/ltt/">www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/transtreets/tranpan/ltt/</a><br><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase">www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase</a>   |   |
| MC/18/02 | Text box following 18.1.3 | 230                | The Hertford and Ware Urban Transport Plan can be viewed and downloaded at:<br><br><a href="http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/transtreets/tranpan/tcatp/handwutp.pdf">www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/transtreets/tranpan/tcatp/handwutp.pdf</a> <a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase">www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase</a>   | Officer update to web link  |
| MC/18/03 | 18.1.8                    | 231                | <del>Green</del> Travel Plans are an essential tool for facilitating development by creating sustainable transport access to, from and around a site. They are effective in managing travel demand, with the potential to contribute to a significant reduction in local and national traffic. They can also help assist in modal shift e.g. via lift sharing schemes, Smarter Choices, readily accessible public transport information, working from home, car clubs, etc. Travel Plans are administered by Hertfordshire County Council (as Transport Authority) and are submitted with planning applications, where applicable. Guidance on their preparation is available at: <a href="https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/media-library/documents/highways/development-management/travel-plan-guidance.pdf">https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/media-library/documents/highways/development-management/travel-plan-guidance.pdf</a> . However, despite the measures which Travel Plans may introduce, <del>Nonetheless</del> , within the rural parts of the | Modification in response to issue raised by Essex County Council (1049956) to detail how Travel Plans will be delivered/ monitored and whose responsibility it would be and to provide further clarity over contents which may be covered |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change   |
|----------|-------------|--------------------|---|---|
|          |             |                    | district the dispersed settlement pattern with related lower levels of passenger transport provision and attendant high levels of car dependency make the provision of realistic alternatives to the private car more challenging. Therefore, while supporting and encouraging a reduction in car usage, it is necessary to recognise the importance of private motorised transport in enabling the population of more rural locations to access key facilities and services.   |   |
| MC/18/04 | 18.2.3      | 232                | It is, however, acknowledged by the Government, <del>in the NPPF, that "different policies and measures will be required in different communities and opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary from urban to rural areas" (Paragraph 29, NPPF, CLG, 2012).</del> Therefore, where new development is sited away from urban areas it is recognised that there may be reduced scope for passenger transport service and/or other sustainable transport provision in some locations. However, every effort should be made to ensure that the best possible sustainable transport outcomes can be achieved for all new developments, irrespective of remoteness of location, and developers will be expected to demonstrate where specific circumstances indicate otherwise. | Modification in response to issue raised by Inspector at Examination Hearings |
| MC/18/05 | Textbox     | 234                | The Vehicle Parking Provision at New Development  | Officer update to web link  |

| Ref No. | Policy/Para      | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change |
|---------|------------------|--------------------|---|-------------------|
|         | following 18.4.3 |                    | Supplementary Planning Document (2008, or as amended) can be viewed and downloaded at:<br><br><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/vehicleparking">www.eastherts.gov.uk/vehicleparking</a> <a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/spd">www.eastherts.gov.uk/spd</a> |                   |

### Chapter 19: Community Facilities, Leisure and Recreation

| Ref No.   | Policy/Para               | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change           |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| <b>Chapter 19: Community Facilities, Leisure and Recreation</b> |                           |                    |   |                             |
| MC/19/01  | Text box following 19.2.3 | 239                | Sport England guidance on Planning for Sport can be viewed and downloaded from the Sport England Website at:<br><a href="http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/">www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/</a><br><br>Sport England guidance on the Design of Sports Facilities can be viewed and downloaded from the Sport England Website at:<br><br><a href="http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance">www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance</a><br><br><a href="http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/">www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/</a> | Officer update to web links |
| MC/19/02  | Text box                  | 240                | The East Herts <del>Playing Pitch Strategy</del> <a href="#">Open Spaces and Sports Facilities Assessment</a> can be viewed and downloaded from the   | Officer update to web       |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para                             | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change                               |
|----------|---|--------------------|--|---|
|          | following 19.2.7                        |                    | <p>Council's Website at:<br/> <a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/playingpitchstrategy">www.eastherts.gov.uk/playingpitchstrategy</a><br/> <a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase">www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase</a></p> <p><del>The East Herts Sports Facility Assessment can be viewed and downloaded from the Council's Website at:<br/> <a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/article/24811/East-Herts-Assessment-of-Indoor-Sports-Facilities">www.eastherts.gov.uk/article/24811/East-Herts-Assessment-of-Indoor-Sports-Facilities</a></del></p> | links   |
| MC/19/03 | CFLR4 (c)<br><br>Water Based Recreation | 243                | (c) The proposal does not have an adverse impact on any flood alleviation works and does not impede the Environment Agency's access requirements to <del>waterworks</del> <a href="#">watercourses</a> .   | Council correction to use correct word          |
| MC/19/04 | 19.6.4                                  | 244                | Further information on the Council's approach to nature conservation and green infrastructure can be found in Chapter <del>19</del> <a href="#">20</a> : Natural Environment.  | Correction identified by HCC – Ecology (782946) |
| MC/19/05 | CFLR 10 III. (b)<br><br>Education       | 251-252            | (b) Be of the highest quality of design which offers flexible use of facilities, in order to ensure the various needs of the community can be met, in accordance with Policy <del>DES3</del> <a href="#">DES4</a> (Design of Development) (see also Policy ED6 (Lifelong Learning));   | Council update to policy reference              |

## Chapter 20: Natural Environment

| Ref No.                                | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change   |
|--|-------------|--------------------|--|---|
| <b>Chapter 20: Natural Environment</b> |             |                    |  |   |
| MC/20/01                               | 20.2.2      | 254                | To assist with this, the most important areas in the district are identified on the Policies Map. These include sites of international, national and local importance. The sites are correct at the time of publication of the District Plan but may be subject to change through future reviews. The Council will continue to work with the Hertfordshire Environmental Records Centre as the primary resource for ecological data in the County. Applicants will be expected to seek the advice of the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, the Hertfordshire Environmental Records Centre, Hertfordshire Ecology at the County Council, <del>Countryside Management Service</del> , Natural England, and other <del>advisory groups relevant local nature partnerships</del> —where appropriate, where proposals affect or have the potential to affect the natural environment and nature conservation assets, <del>including valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils.</del> | Clarification at the request of HCC – Ecology (782964) and Natural England (848197) |
| MC/20/02                               | Table 20.1  | 255                | Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)   | Clarification at the request of the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust (866619)     |



| Ref No.  | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change                                      |
|----------|-------------|--------------------|---|--|
| MC/20/03 | 20.2.7      | 256                | Local Wildlife Sites in the district are identified by the Hertfordshire Local Wildlife Sites Partnership which is a partnership approach to the identification, selection, assessment and protection of Local Wildlife Sites in the County, led and coordinated by the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust. Local Wildlife Sites (WS) are considered to be of significance for wildlife in at least a district context. There are currently <del>544</del> <b>541 Local Wildlife Sites</b> in the district covering 3,442 hectares. There are also 14 Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust Reserves in the district, seven of which are SSSIs and one, Waterford Heath, is a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) (under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949, as amended). | Clarification at the request of HCC – Ecology (782964) |
| MC/20/04 | 20.2.9      | 256                | The NPPF requires local planning authorities to apply a mitigation hierarchy <b>of avoidance, mitigation and compensation, with distinctions made between international, national and locally designated sites</b> . In the context of the natural environment this means that policies should seek to create net gains in biodiversity, to avoid adverse impacts by considering alternative options, to use mitigation measures where avoidance is not possible and as a last resort to use compensatory measures. <b>Where these measures cannot be achieved, the NPPF makes it clear that permission should be refused.</b>  | Clarification at the request of HCC – Ecology (782964) |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change  |
|----------|-------------|--------------------|--|--|
| MC/20/05 | 20.2.10     | 257                | In order to objectively assess net ecological impacts and therefore achieve net gains in biodiversity, <del>as required by NPPE,</del> it is vital that a fair robust mechanism for measuring these impacts is applied. To ensure they are consistently quantified, <del>applications must be accompanied by a Biodiversity Impact Assessment using the locally approved DEFRA Biodiversity Metric where appropriate. the application of the DEFRA and NE endorsed Biodiversity Impact Assessment Calculator (Warwickshire County council V18 2014 or as updated) will be required for all development with negative impacts on biodiversity.</del>  | Clarification at the request of HCC – Ecology (782964) and Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust (866619) |
| MC/20/06 | 20.3.3      | 258                | Whilst protecting priority species and habitats (as listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006) is important, if biodiversity is to be genuinely enhanced, the conservation of all wildlife and habitats needs to be at the centre of development and planning decision making. It must be recognised that Biodiversity does not only exist on priority habitat sites. Lower quality habitats contribute significantly to the biodiversity of an area. Indeed the vast majority of biodiversity in this country is dependent on non-priority habitat. Through the use of the <del>locally approved Biodiversity Metric where appropriate</del> <del>BIAC</del> , the ecological value of these habitats can be quantified and properly reflected in the planning process. Their value in planning | Clarification at the request of HCC – Ecology (782964) and Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust (866619) |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change                                 |
|----------|-------------|--------------------|--|---|
|          |             |                    | terms will be less than that of priority habitat and commensurate with the contribution they make to the wider ecosystem, as informed by the calculator.   |   |
| MC/20/07 | 20.3.6      | 259                | Development should be planned to avoid habitat loss and fragmentation, and opportunities should be sought to improve ecological connectivity, including through the creation, restoration and enhancement of linking habitats and 'stepping stones' through the landscape. Any development should minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains for nature where possible. This involves safeguarding and enhancing biodiversity already present, providing new areas of habitat appropriate to the ecology of the area and integrating biodiversity within new development. <b>Changes in land management (field margins and crop rotations for example) can make significant contributions to biodiversity.</b> Simple features such as integrated bat and bird boxes within the fabric of new buildings can be very effective in ensuring a continued supply of roosting opportunities for urban wildlife. Encouragement will be given to proposals which improve the biodiversity value of sites and to the establishment of local nature reserves where the nature conservation and landscape interest of the site will be protected and enhanced. | Addition at the request of HCC – Ecology (782964) |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para              | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change  |
|----------|--------------------------|--------------------|---|--|
| MC/20/08 | 20.3.13                  | 261                | The waterside environment is particularly rich providing habitat in its own right as well as critical connectivity through the landscape. The value of a waterway is significantly enhanced if it is buffered by complimentary habitat. In accordance with Environment Agency directives, development will be expected to conserve and enhance the aquatic environment and where possible restore the negative impact of previous development – e.g. <del>the naturalisation of canalised or culverted water courses</del><br><del>canalisation or culverting of rivers or streams.</del> | Clarification at the request of East Herts Council Environment and Engineering (1048240) |
| MC/20/09 | Textbox following 20.4.2 | 262                | The Council's Green Infrastructure Plan can be viewed and downloaded from the Council's<br><br>Website at: <del>www.eastherts.gov.uk/gip</del><br><br><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase">www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase</a>  | Council update to web link   |
| MC/20/10 | 20.4.5                   | 263                | It is important to remember that habitats and landscapes in East Herts are part of a wider network of green infrastructure that pays no heed to local authority boundaries. For example, the woodland to the south of the District forms part of the swathe of woodland and other habitats that stretch around London, which is <del>part of commonly known as</del> the 'GreenArc' approach, which seeks to maintain and enhance these valuable assets around London, which is commonly known as the GreenArc.   | Clarification at the request of HCC – Ecology (782964)                                   |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para                             | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change                                      |
|----------|---|--------------------|---|--|
|          |   |                    | Development should therefore be planned to avoid habitat loss and fragmentation, and opportunities should be sought to improve ecological connectivity, including through the creation, restoration and enhancement of linking habitats and 'stepping stones' through the landscape.  |  |
| MC/20/11 | NE4 II. (e)<br><br>Green Infrastructure | 263-264            | (e) Demonstrate how lighting will not adversely impact on green infrastructure that functions as nocturnal wildlife movement and foraging corridors, <b>in line with Policy EQ3 Light Pollution.</b>  | Clarification at the request of HCC - Ecology (782964) |
| MC/20/12 | NE4 IV.<br><br>Green Infrastructure     | 263-264            | IV. Proposals which affect the district's river environments, including built development and recreation and leisure proposals, should take into account and contribute towards achieving, the aims of any statutory or non-statutory plans, such as the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority Park Development Framework, <del>the Bishop's Stortford Waterspace Strategy,</del> relevant River Catchment Management Plans and the Water Framework Directive, and any future relevant plans and programmes. | Council deletion of out of date study                  |

## Chapter 21: Heritage Assets

| Ref No.                            | Policy/Para                           | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change  |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--|--|
| <b>Chapter 21: Heritage Assets</b> |                                       |                    |  |  |
| MC/21/01                           | 21.2.2                                | 266                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <del>Over 40</del> 45 Scheduled Monuments</li> <li>• Nearly 3,100 Listed Buildings (which comprise over 4,000 individual listed features)</li> <li>• 42 Conservation Areas</li> <li>• 550 Areas of Archaeological Significance</li> <li>• <del>45</del> 16 Registered Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest</li> <li>• <del>59</del> 58 Locally Listed Historic Parks and Gardens</li> </ul> | Council update and clarification at the request of Historic England (1049766)          |
| MC/21/02                           | 21.2.5                                | 267                | Non-designated heritage assets are being identified through ongoing monitoring as well as through the Conservation Area Appraisal work that the Council is currently undertaking, and through future updates to in the Historic Parks & Gardens SPD 2007.  | Clarification at the request of HCC – Historic Environment (782964)                    |
| MC/21/03                           | HA2<br>Non-Designated Heritage Assets | 268                | <p>I. The Council will engage with key stakeholders and local communities to identify undesigned non-designated heritage assets that contribute to local distinctiveness and refer to existing information in the historic environment record.</p> <p>II. Where a proposal would adversely affect a non-designated heritage asset, regard will be had to the scale</p>   | Council change and clarification at the request of HCC – Historic Environment (782964) |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para              | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change  |
|----------|--------------------------|--------------------|---|--|
|          |                          |                    | of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.   |  |
| MC/21/04 | 21.6.2                   | 274                | The Historic England 'Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England' was established in 1983 and currently identifies over 1,600 sites assessed to be of national importance. <del>Fifteen</del> <b>Sixteen</b> of these are in the District and are identified on the Policies Map.                     | Clarification at the request of Historic England (1049766) |
| MC/21/05 | Textbox following 21.6.6 | 275                | The 'Historic Parks & Gardens' Supplementary Planning Document (September 2007, or as amended) can be viewed and downloaded at:<br><br><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/historicparksandgardensspd">www.eastherts.gov.uk/historicparksandgardensspd</a><br><br><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/spd">www.eastherts.gov.uk/spd</a> | Council update to web link                                 |

## Chapter 22: Climate Change

| Ref No.                           | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|--|-----------------------|
| <b>Chapter 22: Climate Change</b> |             |                    |  |                       |
| MC/22/01                          | Text box    | 278                | Building Futures is an interactive website which can be accessed | Council update to web |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para               | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change          |
|----------|---------------------------|--------------------|--|----------------------------|
|          | following 22.1.2          |                    | at:<br><a href="http://www.hertslink.org/buildingfutures">www.hertslink.org/buildingfutures</a><br><a href="http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/building-futures/building-futures.aspx">www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/building-futures/building-futures.aspx</a>  | link                       |
| MC/22/02 | Text box following 22.4.1 | 281                | The Hertfordshire Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Technical Study (July 2010) can be viewed and downloaded from the Hertfordshire County Council Website at:<br><a href="http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/envplan/plan/renewableenergy/">www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/envplan/plan/renewableenergy/</a><br><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase">www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase</a> | Council update to web link |

### Chapter 23: Water

| Ref No.                  | Policy/Para               | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change          |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|--|----------------------------|
| <b>Chapter 23: Water</b> |                           |                    |  |                            |
| MC/23/01                 | Text box following 23.1.2 | 284                | Building Futures is an interactive website which can be accessed at:<br><a href="http://www.hertslink.org/buildingfutures">www.hertslink.org/buildingfutures</a><br><a href="http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/building-futures/building-futures.aspx">www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/building-futures/building-futures.aspx</a> | Council update to web link |



| Ref No.  | Policy/Para               | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change                                     |
|----------|---------------------------|--------------------|---|---|
|          |                           |                    | <a href="#">futures.aspx</a>  |   |
| MC/23/02 | Text box following 23.2.2 | 284                | The East Herts Strategic Flood Risk Assessment can be viewed on the Council's website<br><br>at: <a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/sfra">www.eastherts.gov.uk/sfra</a><br><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase">www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase</a> | Council update to web link                            |
| MC/23/03 | 23.6.4                    | 292                | East Herts Council will seek to ensure that there is adequate wastewater <a href="#">network</a> infrastructure to serve all new developments.  | Clarification at the request of Thames Water (465246) |

## Chapter 24: Environmental Quality

| Ref No.                                  | Policy/Para | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change  |
|--|-------------|--------------------|---|--|
| <b>Chapter 24: Environmental Quality</b> |             |                    |   |  |
| MC/24/01                                 | 24.5.3      | 297                | Bishop's Stortford in particular suffers from this issue; the combination of the historic road network combined with its proximity to Stansted Airport means that the town centre frequently suffers from congestion and the resultant poor air quality. As such an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) has been established in the town centre (at Hockerill Lights) to monitor levels of pollutants. There is also an AQMA in Hertford | Council update to include explanatory text about the Air Quality Action Plan |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para               | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change                                      |
|----------|---------------------------|--------------------|---|--|
|          |                           |                    | (at the Mill Road/A414 roundabout), and in London Road, Sawbridgeworth. These monitoring sites are supported by action plans to improve air quality in these locations. The Council also produces regular update and screening assessments and progress reports for the whole district and regular assessments on each AQMA. The Council also has an Air Quality Action Plan which sets out how the Council will work with partner organisations and residents to contribute towards improving air quality across the District.                           |  |
| MC/24/02 | Text box following 24.5.3 | 297                | More information on Air Quality Management Areas and the Council's Air Quality Action Plan can be found on the Council's Website at: <a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/envhealth">www.eastherts.gov.uk/envhealth</a>   | Council update to refer to the Air Quality Action Plan |
| MC/24/03 | 24.5.4                    | 298                | The Council <del>is preparing</del> has prepared an Air Quality Planning Guidance Document which defines the Council's expectations of developers to ensure a consistent approach and sets criteria for when an Air Pollution Assessment is required and a range of mitigation options. In some cases it may be necessary to place conditions where permission is granted in order to ensure mitigation is delivered. It is intended that the Air Quality Planning Guidance Document will be adopted by the Council as a Supplementary Planning Document. | Council update to reflect status of document           |
| MC/24/04 | Textbox                   | 298                | The Council's <del>(emerging)</del> Air Quality Planning Guidance   | Council update to web                                  |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para      | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change                  |
|----------|------------------|--------------------|--|------------------------------------|
|          | following 24.5.4 |                    | Document can be found on the Council's Website at: <a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/envhealth">www.eastherts.gov.uk/envhealth</a><br><a href="http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase">www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase</a>  | link                               |
| MC/24/05 | 24.5.7           | 298                | In line with Policy <del>DES3</del> DES4 (Design of Development), the Council will expect proposals to embrace renewable, zero and low-carbon technology to fulfil some, if not all, of the expected energy use of the proposed development. Where proposals are within or near the urban areas of settlements, applications should be supported by an air quality assessment, which details proposed mitigation measures where necessary. | Council update to policy reference |

## Chapter 25: Delivery and Monitoring

No proposed minor changes.

## Minor Changes – Policies Map:

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para            | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change   |
|----------|------------------------|--------------------|---|---|
| MC/PM/01 | Sheet F / Inset Map 26 | -                  | Removal of land from Green Belt (Policy GBR1) to the north-east of site allocation HERT3 (Land west of Hertford, North of Welwyn Road).           | Council modification of boundary to increase site allocation area by approximately 0.66 ha to North of Welwyn Road.<br><br><b>See MM/7/07</b> |
| MC/PM/02 | Sheet F / Inset Map 26 | -                  | Extension of site allocation boundary to HERT3 (Land west of Hertford, North of Welwyn Road) to include further 0.66ha to north-east of the site. | Council modification of boundary to increase site allocation area by approximately 0.66 ha to North of Welwyn Road.<br><br><b>See MM/7/07</b> |
| MC/PM/03 | Sheet E / Inset Map 23 | -                  | Removal of the 14 hectare Sports Pitch provision (Policy SAWB5) from policy map.  | Allocation deleted as the Council cannot be assured that the site can be deliverable as a sports pitch.<br><br><b>See MM/8/13</b>             |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para                 | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change   | Reason for Change  |
|----------|-----------------------------|--------------------|---|--|
| MC/PM/04 | Sheet E / Inset Map 23      | -                  | Green Space allocation linked to site allocation SAWB3 (Land South of West Road) to be deleted.             | To reflect the position agreed with the site promoters.<br><br><b>See MM/8/09</b>  |
| MC/PM/05 | Sheet A – Inset Map 1       | -                  | Buntingford Settlement Boundary (BUNT1) amended in line with Buntingford Community Area Neighbourhood Plan. | Reflect recently ‘made’ Buntingford Community Area Neighbourhood Plan where boundary was in conflict to settlement boundary in District Plan.        |
| MC/PM/06 | Sheet G / Inset Map 34      | -                  | Benington Village Boundary (VILL2) to include Hebing End to the south of the village of Benington.          | Council change to ensure consistency.  |
| MC/PM/07 | Sheet F / Inset Map 26 & 28 | -                  | Change to the size of employment area (Policy HERT6) at Pegs Lane. Site to be reduced in size.              | Modification to reflect the deletion of Leahoe House from the Employment Area in response to issue raised by HCC (482550).<br><br><b>See MM/3/05</b> |

| Ref No.  | Policy/Para            | District Plan Page | Proposed Minor Change  | Reason for Change  |
|----------|------------------------|--------------------|--|--|
| MC/PM/08 | Sheet F / Inset Map 30 | -                  | Primary Shopping Area (Policy RTC1) in Ware to be extended to include newly developed frontage to the east of the town centre.       | Council change to reflect recent retail development in this location and representations made at Regulation 19 stage by Sainsbury's Supermarket Ltd. (466270).                 |
| MC/PM/09 | Sheet F / Inset Map 30 | -                  | Secondary Shopping Frontage (Policy RTC4) in Ware to be extended to include newly developed frontage to the east of the town centre. | Council change to reflect recent retail development in this location and representations made at Regulation 19 stage by Sainsbury's Supermarket Ltd. (466270).                 |
| MC/PM/10 | Sheet A – Inset Map 1  | -                  | Buntingford First School (BUNT2) site deleted and creation of a new site allocation to the east of the original site.                | Council modification to reflect the fact that Hertfordshire County Council has now acquired land to the east of London Road for a first school site.<br><br><b>See MM/6/07</b> |

## September 2018







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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

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## Chapter 1 Introduction

### 1.1 What is the District Plan?

- 1.1.1** The District Plan sets out the Council's planning framework for the district. It identifies how East Herts will grow and develop to become an even more desirable and prosperous place to live, work and visit. It covers the period 2011–2033 and consists of a Written Statement (this document) and a Policies Map. Once adopted, the policies in the District Plan will replace the policies in the Local Plan 2007.
- 1.1.2** The District Plan, together with the Minerals and Waste Local Plans for Hertfordshire and any adopted Neighbourhood Plans, form the Development Plan for the district. The Development Plan is the basis upon which planning applications will be determined, unless there are material planning considerations that indicate otherwise. The policies of the Plan should be read as a whole.
- 1.1.3** The District Plan is a long-term document which provides certainty to communities and businesses as to where development will be provided and, likewise, where precluding restrictions may apply. It also allows infrastructure providers to plan effectively for the future.
- 1.1.4** The District Plan should be read alongside policies set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

### 1.2 Content of this Document

- 1.2.1** The District Plan Written Statement is divided into three parts:
- **Part 1: Development Strategy** comprises Chapters 1-13 and includes the vision and strategic objectives, development strategy and settlement/site specific policies.
  - **Part 2: Development Management Policies** comprises Chapters 14-24 and contains the policies which will be used by the Council in the determination of planning applications.
  - **Part 3: Delivery and Monitoring** contains policies on infrastructure and service delivery.
- 1.2.2** The Policies Map shows the main policy designations, such as Green Belt, housing allocations, employment areas, environmental assets, conservation areas and open spaces.



### 1.3 Evidence Base

- 1.3.1** The preparation of the District Plan has been informed by an extensive evidence base which is available to view on the Council's website at:

[www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase)

- 1.3.2** The technical studies cover a range of topics including housing need and delivery, transport modelling, infrastructure requirements and economic development. A Sustainability Appraisal and a Habitats Regulations Assessment have also been undertaken.

### 1.4 Duty to Co-operate and Strategic Planning

- 1.4.1** The duty to co-operate was created in the Localism Act 2011 and places a legal duty on local planning authorities, county councils and public bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of local plan preparation in the context of strategic cross boundary matters.
- 1.4.2** The Council has undertaken extensive engagement with a range of organisations including its neighbouring authorities and infrastructure providers throughout the preparation of the District Plan.
- 1.4.3** East Herts forms part of the London Stansted Cambridge Corridor (LSCC) core area which seeks to capitalise on the strategic locations of the corridor in order to promote economic growth and prosperity. The Council is working with partner authorities in the corridor to deliver the LSCC vision for the area.
- 1.4.4** The Council is also working, and will continue to work, with various other groups, including the Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Planning Partnership (HIPP) and the Co-operation for Sustainable Development Board.

### 1.5 Sustainable Development

- 1.5.1** The purpose of the planning system is to help achieve sustainable development. There are three dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. These dimensions give rise to the need for the District Plan to perform a number of roles:
- an **economic role**: contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure;

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- a **social role**: supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being; and
- an **environmental role**: contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.

**1.5.2** These roles are mutually dependent and as such should not be undertaken in isolation. Economic growth can secure higher social and environmental standards, and well-designed buildings and places can improve the lives of people and communities. Therefore, to achieve sustainable development, economic, social and environmental gains should be sought jointly and simultaneously through the planning system.

**1.5.3** In line with the requirements of the NPPF, the East Herts District Plan seeks to create sustainable communities which embrace the principles of sustainable development using a co-ordinated approach to the delivery of homes, jobs and infrastructure.

**1.5.4** The NPPF also highlights the Government's desire to promote and support the delivery of growth. Local authorities are urged to work proactively with applicants and approve proposals wherever possible – where they accord with policies in the District Plan. If the Plan is silent or out of date, local authorities are urged to grant approval, having regard to whether any adverse effects would significantly outweigh the benefits, and other aspects of the NPPF. This approach has been termed a 'presumption in favour of sustainable development'. The Government has issued advice that a 'model policy' should be included within local plans, which reiterates national guidance. This policy is set out below.

### Policy INT1 Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development

I. The District Council will work proactively with applicants jointly to find solutions which mean that proposals can be approved wherever possible, and to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the area.

II. Planning applications that accord with the policies in this District Plan (and, where relevant, policies in Neighbourhood Plans) will be approved without delay, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

III. Where there are no policies relevant to the application or relevant policies are out of date at the time of making the decision then the Council will grant permission unless material considerations indicate otherwise taking into account whether:

- a. Any adverse impacts of granting permission would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework taken as a whole; or
- b. Specific policies in the National Planning Policy Framework indicate that development should be restricted.

## Chapter 1 . Introduction



## Chapter 2

# Vision and Strategic Objectives

## Chapter 2 . Vision and Strategic Objectives

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### Chapter 2 Vision and Strategic Objectives

#### 2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1** This chapter sets out the overall strategic vision for development in East Herts over the Plan period to 2033. The vision is supported by a set of strategic objectives which, when considered together, provide the framework for the policies set out in the District Plan.

#### 2.2 East Herts District

- 2.2.1** The District of East Herts covers an area of 477 km<sup>2</sup> (184 square miles) and comprises around one third of the county of Hertfordshire. It is predominantly a rural district, with attractive towns and villages set in a rolling landscape. Topographically, the District is shaped like a hand with the principal rivers of the Lea, Mimram, Beane, Rib, Ash, and Stort forming the fingers and higher ground lying in-between.
- 2.2.2** East Herts has a dispersed settlement pattern that includes the five market towns of Bishop's Stortford, Buntingford, Hertford, Sawbridgeworth and Ware. Each of the towns provides a range of services to the surrounding rural area. There are also some hundred villages and hamlets of varying sizes.
- 2.2.3** Approximately the southern third of the District lies within the London Metropolitan Green Belt.
- 2.2.4** East Herts lies in the core area of the London Stansted Cambridge Corridor. The District is also heavily influenced by the presence of major settlements beyond its boundary. The three New Towns of Stevenage, Harlow and Welwyn Garden City are located immediately on the East Herts District boundary, and there is pressure for expansion of these settlements. There are also substantial cross-boundary influences from Cambridgeshire to the north and Essex to the east.
- 2.2.5** Historical development of the transport network has resulted in the District being largely bypassed by strategic road and rail corridors; with the M11 and the West Anglia Main Line between London and Cambridge to the east; and the A1(M) and East Coast Main Line to the west. The M25 London Orbital Motorway lies further to the south.
- 2.2.6** Within the District, the main road routes are the A10, which bisects the District roughly in half on a north-south axis; and the A414 in the south of the District, running on an east-west axis. The A120 also runs east-west from the A10 at Puckeridge to Bishop's Stortford and beyond, and the A602 links the A10 from Ware with the A1(M) in Stevenage. Stansted Airport, whilst outside the district, is immediately to the north-east of Bishop's Stortford and has strategic implications for the area.

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**2.2.7** The District contains many special landscape, natural and built heritage features including:

- 3 international nature conservation designations
- 1 National Nature Reserve at Broxbourne Woods
- 1 Local Nature Reserve at Waterford Heath
- 15 Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust Reserves
- 16 Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- 543 non-statutory Wildlife Sites
- Several chalk streams which support special wildlife habitats and species
- 45 Scheduled Monuments
- Nearly 3,100 Listed Buildings
- 42 Conservation Areas
- 550 Areas of Archaeological Significance
- 16 Registered Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest
- 58 Locally Listed Historic Parks and Gardens

**2.2.8** Residents in East Herts enjoy one of the highest qualities of life in rural Britain. In particular residents in East Herts enjoy a good level of health and life expectancy. Educational attainment is also high with students performing better in East Herts than the wider region.

### 2.3 Key Issues and Challenges

**2.3.1** East Herts is an attractive and prosperous area. However, there are still a number of important issues and challenges facing the District. These are mainly related to challenges of managing high levels of growth and the effects of population increase. An overview of the key issues is set out below:

**2.3.2 Environment** – East Herts has a high quality environment, both within the towns and villages and in the countryside. The challenge is to ensure that this is recognised and protected whilst still allowing the necessary development to take place. It means protecting what is most important and ensuring that where new development takes place, it is of a high quality of design that takes account of its local setting. It is also

## Chapter 2 . Vision and Strategic Objectives

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about protecting the rich biodiversity in the District and responding to the challenge of climate change. This includes promoting sustainable development, both in terms of where it is located and how it is constructed.

- 2.3.3 Economy** – Supporting a vibrant local economy and responding to the needs of businesses is another key issue. This means getting the balance right between the delivery of new housing on previously developed sites and ensuring there is enough employment land to meet current and future needs. It also means recognising and responding to the particular issues in East Herts, including the rural economy.
- 2.3.4 Housing** – East Herts is an attractive place to live, which is reflected in high house prices. There is a pressing need for more affordable housing in the District. Achieving housing development that responds to local needs, whilst recognising the environmental and other constraints in East Herts, is a significant challenge. It is also necessary to recognise the specific accommodation and housing needs of different groups in the local community.
- 2.3.5 Infrastructure and Services** – It is important that the infrastructure and services needed to support new development are provided. This includes transport infrastructure, education and health provision, utilities such as water, wastewater and energy and improved broadband provision. The challenge is to ensure that these services and facilities are delivered alongside growth.
- 2.3.6 Transport** – The District is predominantly rural with a dispersed population which creates challenges in providing a comprehensive public transport network. Many local communities are reliant on the private car as their only transport option. This impacts on carbon dioxide emissions, air quality, noise, public safety and the quality of the environment in towns and villages. The challenge is to ensure that development is directed to sustainable locations, to reduce the need to travel and, where journeys need to be made, the distance of those trips. Sustainable modes of transport are also encouraged to both reduce reliance on the car and promote healthier lifestyles.
- 2.3.7 Population** – East Herts has an ageing population. Meeting the varying needs of older people will be a challenge, whilst ensuring that the district remains attractive and accessible to young people.
- 2.3.8 Town Centres** – The District's market towns form the core of East Herts retail offer and their vitality and viability are critical to the success of the local economy. The challenge is to support the main town centres in East Herts, which are all different, all serve a particular purpose and all have particular needs.
- 2.3.9 Rural Services** – The retention of local services is a key issue, particularly for rural communities. The challenge is to resist the loss of important facilities and to support the delivery of new ones. This will be especially important in the context of the district's ageing population and the dispersed rural nature of the district.



## Chapter 2 . Vision and Strategic Objectives

- 2.3.10 Cross Boundary Issues** – Understanding and taking account of the significance and impact of cross boundary issues is key. These include those developments planned outside East Herts but that will impact on the District. It also means considering how the developments planned within East Herts might impact on other areas.

### 2.4 Vision

- 2.4.1** Having identified the main planning challenges for the District, this section now sets out the vision for East Herts. The vision has been developed through public consultation and sets out what the Council would like the District to be like in 2033.

#### East Herts in 2033

1. The high quality environment of East Herts, its distinctive character and its economic prosperity will have been maintained.
2. New homes and jobs will have been provided through well designed and sustainable development. Local communities will have embraced Neighbourhood Planning to deliver their local objectives.
3. A range of sizes, types and tenure of new housing and accommodation will have been provided; including the provision of accessible and adaptable dwellings to meet the changing needs of occupants over their lifetime. There will be an increase in the overall stock of affordable housing including starter homes.
4. Working in partnership with other service providers, essential new and improved infrastructure to support the increased population of the District will have been delivered. Support will have been given to the retention of existing facilities and the provision of new facilities for health, leisure, recreation and cultural needs of the community. The health and wellbeing of the District's residents will have been improved, while health inequalities will have been addressed. New development will have supported improved sustainable travel, including initiatives contained in Hertfordshire's 2050 Transport Vision. Mitigating measures will have helped ameliorate congestion, particularly on the A414.
5. The local economy in the District will have been supported, with provision having been made for the accommodation requirements of existing and new businesses, including agricultural businesses, rural crafts and skills. Important employment assets will have been retained. The emphasis will have been on sustainable economic development, of the right type and in the right place to meet employment needs both within the towns and in the rural areas.
6. The vitality and viability of the main towns of Bishop's Stortford, Buntingford, Hertford, Sawbridgeworth and Ware will have been safeguarded in a way that takes account of their distinctive roles. This will have been achieved through carefully planned

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development, which meets the needs of these centres, whilst recognising the importance of preserving and enhancing their historic character. In local and village centres shopping facilities that meet local needs will have been supported.

7. Outside of the main settlements, strategic development will have been accommodated to the east of Stevenage, east of Welwyn Garden City and in the Gilston Area. These areas will have provided a range of homes, schools, facilities and services for the benefit of East Herts residents.
8. The rich heritage of historic buildings, features and archaeology in the District will have been protected and enhanced. The attractive landscape of East Herts, which contributes to its distinctive character, will have been conserved and enhanced.
9. New building will have contributed to the creation of sustainable communities, which are safe, attractive and inclusive and where the design of new development makes a positive contribution to the area in which it is located.
10. The rich biodiversity of East Herts will have been protected and enhanced. Where new development could potentially have an adverse effect on biodiversity and the ecological network of the District, measures will have been taken to ensure that the impact was either avoided or mitigated.
11. The District's rich and varied green infrastructure centred in the river valleys will have been re-connected and enhanced and its multi-functionality protected providing increased resilience to changing climates, improved ecological connectivity and new spaces for recreation and leisure.
12. East Herts will be more sustainable through measures to combat the effects of climate change. This will have been achieved by locating new buildings in the most sustainable locations so as to reduce car dependency and by ensuring through their design and construction, new buildings produce lower carbon emissions.
13. Measures will have been taken to adapt to the effects of climate change, which will have included steps to minimise the risk of flooding and reduce the demand for water as well as supporting the adaptation of buildings to cope with extremes of heat and cold in an energy efficient manner.

## Chapter 2 . Vision and Strategic Objectives

### 2.5 Strategic Objectives

**2.5.1** The following strategic objectives are the stepping stones to deliver the vision and form the basis of the policies contained in the District Plan.

#### Strategic Objectives

1. To mitigate the effects of climate change by reducing carbon dioxide emissions, supporting decentralised, low carbon and renewable energy and reducing the risk of flooding.
2. To encourage safe and vibrant mixed communities that provide for the needs of all East Herts residents including the young, the elderly and vulnerable people.
3. To balance the housing market by delivering a mix of market, low cost, and affordable homes and accommodating the housing needs of an ageing population.
4. To protect the countryside from inappropriate development and to protect and enhance the historic environment of East Herts, promoting good design that creates a distinctive sense of place.
5. To foster entrepreneurial endeavour through educational attainment and encourage small and medium enterprises through maximising existing employment opportunities and clusters and supporting rural diversification.
6. To improve access opportunities, minimise the need to travel, and encourage necessary journeys to be made by sustainable means to ease congestion and help reduce East Herts' carbon footprint.
7. To meet the needs of all of East Herts' communities by maintaining and improving existing facilities and providing new facilities including for arts, culture, community, leisure, entertainment, recreation, faith and health.
8. To improve the health and wellbeing of all East Herts' communities and to reduce health inequalities.
9. To reduce water consumption, increase biodiversity and protect and enhance the quality of existing environmental assets by, inter alia, creating new green spaces and networks of high quality green space for both recreation and wildlife.
10. To ensure that development occurs in parallel with provision of the necessary infrastructure, including enhancement and provision of green infrastructure.

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### 2.6 London Stansted Cambridge Corridor (LSCC) Vision

- 2.6.1** The Councils of Broxbourne, East Herts, Epping Forest, Harlow and Uttlesford form the LSCC Core Area which lies at the heart of the London Stansted Cambridge Corridor (LSCC). This corridor has, over the past decade or more, been the engine of UK growth with its world class industries and businesses.
- 2.6.2** Over the past five years the Corridor's dynamic, knowledge-based economy has grown at a rate almost double that of the UK average and as a result rates of population growth have increased. Transport links are excellent; with two major rail routes - the East Coast and West Anglia main lines - serving the Corridor. The A1(M), A10 and M11 motorways link its towns and cities with the capital, while London Stansted Airport offers international connections.
- 2.6.3** With a significant number of jobs in knowledge-based industries, the Corridor is a leading knowledge economy and a showcase for tech industries and firms. There is a high rate of innovation.
- 2.6.4** The Corridor accounts for 24,700 jobs in the life sciences sector contributing 11% of all national employment. This success is built on research institutes and notable firms and organisations, including Amgen and AstraZeneca in Cambridge, GlaxoSmithKline in Stevenage and Ware, and Public Health England in Harlow.
- 2.6.5** The continued success of the Corridor as a great place to live, work, do business and visit provides the opportunity for the Core Area to deliver greater and lasting prosperity for its residents and businesses. As such the Council is working with its partner authorities in the Core Area to deliver the following LSCC strategic vision for the area up to 2050:

#### Vision for the London Stansted Cambridge Corridor Core Area

The Core Area will build on its key strengths including its skilled workforce in sectors such as health, life sciences and pharmaceuticals, advanced engineering and aerospace, its high quality environment and educational opportunities. Together with Stansted Airport, the local authorities will deliver sustainable growth which supports the economic ambitions of the LSCC and the UK through:

- complementing and supporting the economic performance of the Corridor whilst maintaining and enhancing the special character of the area, including the locally distinctive historic character of its market towns and rural settlements;
- the delivery of housing, supported by good access to social, leisure, community, health facilities, education and jobs, that meets the needs of local people and supports sustainable economic growth, whilst ensuring it remains an attractive place for people to live and locate to;

## Chapter 2 . Vision and Strategic Objectives

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- capitalising on existing economic sectors and promoting growth of expanding industries including in the food production, life sciences, pharmaceuticals and technology sectors; tourism including hotels, Stansted's expansion, recreation/green assets including the Lee Valley, Stort Valley, Epping Forest and Hatfield Forest National Nature Reserve;
- working with partners to protect and enhance the high quality environment, its unique landscapes and places of special wildlife value. This would be achieved by place-shaping initiatives which would include measures to conserve areas of high biodiversity; the provision of new, alternative green spaces for people and wildlife; and the increase of green infrastructure connections between these areas, to provide greater opportunities for more sustainable access to nature for everyone living in the corridor;
- working with partners to secure investment in major infrastructure including increasing rail capacity on the West Anglia Mainline and maximising the opportunities that Crossrail 2 can deliver, together with road improvements including a new junction on the M11 at 7A and improvements to junctions 7 and 8, and to the A414, A120, A10 and M25; and delivery of superfast broadband;
- supporting the delivery of new jobs in the Harlow Enterprise Zone, and the north side of Stansted Airport, Broxbourne Park Plaza, Brookfield and Bishop's Stortford – all identified as Strategic Opportunity Sites within the corridor; and
- the regeneration of existing urban areas including at Harlow, Waltham Abbey, Loughton and Waltham Cross.

The Core Area supports the development and sustainable growth of Greater Harlow and key growth locations at Broxbourne, Brookfield and Bishop's Stortford together with Stansted Airport growing to its full permitted capacity and as a business growth hub. These centres, with proportionate growth throughout the wider area, and the right investment, would create an economic powerhouse.

Putting in place these critical building blocks will provide the foundations for looking further ahead to 2050. Certainty through further investment and delivery of key infrastructure, including in the West Anglia mainline, Crossrail 2, the M11 junctions, M25 junctions, A414, A120 and A10 is a vital component of this.

## Chapter 2 . Vision and Strategic Objectives



## Chapter 3

# The Development Strategy

## Chapter 3 . The Development Strategy

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### Chapter 3 The Development Strategy

#### 3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1** This chapter sets out the Council's strategy for delivering growth in East Herts over the Plan period up to 2033. It looks at the amount of new development that will be delivered, and where it should be located across the District. It also identifies the need for new site allocations to deliver this strategy, and what new infrastructure and services may be required.
- 3.1.2** The strategy seeks to deliver the vision and objectives in Chapter 2 and ensure that growth in East Herts is 'sustainable'. Sustainable development is defined as 'development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'. In essence it means providing growth which meets the needs of existing and future residents, while mitigating adverse economic, environmental and social impacts. The amount and location of growth is important. It is also critical to ensure that growth is accompanied by the required infrastructure and services in order to support the quality of people's lives.
- 3.1.3** This chapter also sets out how local people can facilitate the delivery of growth themselves, and influence their local area – through Neighbourhood Planning. The Government's localism agenda has raised the profile and importance of community involvement in planning. The Council is supportive of this approach.

#### 3.2 Level of Growth

- 3.2.1** This section looks at the amount of housing, employment and retail growth that the Council will seek to facilitate over the Plan period. Other types of development will also be needed in the District over the Plan period including, for example, green infrastructure and community facilities. These requirements are explored further in the relevant topic chapters (see Part 2 of the Plan) and settlement chapters.

##### Housing Growth

- 3.2.2** Following the abolition of the East of England Regional Spatial Strategy in 2013, the Council is responsible for identifying a housing 'target' in the District Plan. The right level of housing can help to support economic growth, meet local housing needs, and facilitate the delivery of infrastructure. Having a housing target also allows a local authority to work with service providers and other organisations to ensure that suitable infrastructure is provided to meet the needs of new development.
- 3.2.3** The Council has worked closely with its housing market area partners (Harlow, Epping Forest and Uttlesford Councils) in order to prepare technical evidence that identifies an 'objective assessment of housing need' taking into account population projections, affordable housing needs and jobs growth.



- 3.2.4** The evidence concludes that the combined level of housing need across the four local authority areas is 51,878 homes for the period 2011 - 2033. This figure has been disaggregated amongst the four authorities. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been prepared which commits all four Councils to meeting their individual housing needs within their own administrative boundaries. For East Herts, the level of need is 839 new homes per year, or 18,458 new homes by 2033 . The Council is committed to meeting its Full Objectively Assessed Housing Need, and as such its housing requirement over the Plan period 2011 - 2033 is for 18,458 homes.
- 3.2.5** In order to meet this challenging housing target, the District Plan has allocated a number of sites across East Herts. These sites are identified in Section 3.3 later in the chapter.
- 3.2.6** It is important to note that the housing need figure for the District does not include the projected increase in the number of people within residential institutions. A technical document known as the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) identifies the projected growth in population aged 75 or over living in communal establishments in the District, as 529 persons, between 2011-2033. Therefore, in addition to the overall housing target, this Plan supports a gross increase of approximately 530 bed-spaces of C2 provision, primarily to help meet the accommodation needs of older people who need to live in an environment which provides residential or nursing care.

Evidence underpinning the objective assessment of housing need is available to view on the Council's website at: [www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase).

### Economic Growth

- 3.2.7** In addition to housing need, the Council has also worked with its neighbouring authorities in order to understand how many new jobs are likely to be created within the plan period. This work, which was undertaken to inform the SHMA, indicates that 10,800 new jobs will be created in East Herts between 2011 and 2033, equivalent to 491 jobs each year.

Evidence underpinning job requirements is available to view on the Council's website at: [www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase)

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**3.2.8** In order to help support jobs growth in the District, this Plan seeks to ensure sufficient provision of land and premises for office, industrial and warehousing uses (B1, B2, B8 uses) in sustainable locations which meet the needs of local businesses. As such, 19-20 hectares of new employment land will be provided in the following locations:

- 3 hectares to the north of Buntingford Business Park (BUNT3);
- 4 hectares within the development at Bishop's Stortford North (BISH3);
- 4-5 hectares within the development at Bishop's Stortford South (BISH5);
- 3 hectares within the development at North and East of Ware (WARE2): and
- 5 hectares within the development at the Gilston Area (GA1).

**3.2.9** In addition, around 3,000 square metres of B1 employment floorspace, or other employment generating uses that would be compatible with the uses on neighbouring land, will be provided at the Mead Lane Area, Hertford, site (HERT2).

**3.2.10** In order to recognise the valuable role existing businesses have, the following existing industrial and commercial locations have also been designated as Employment Areas:

- 6 hectares to the east of Welwyn Garden City;
- 0.23 hectares at Millside Industrial Estate, Bishop's Stortford;
- 0.36 hectares at Southmill Trading Estate, Bishop's Stortford;
- 7.44 hectares at Pegs Lane/Hale Road, Hertford;
- 0.43 hectares at Leaside Works, Stanstead Abbots; and
- 0.59 hectares at Riverside Works, Amwell End, St Margarets.

**3.2.11** In addition, all Employment Areas that were previously identified through the East Herts Local Plan 2007 have retained their designation through the District Plan. The Council encourages the provision of new employment land created through mixed-use developments, which should contain small-scale business units. These will make valuable contributions to balancing new residential developments with local employment opportunities. These employment areas may be designated through future revisions to the District Plan.

- 3.2.12** More detail on the approach to employment is contained in the settlement chapters and in Chapter 15 (Economic Development). Proposals that affect designated and non-designated Employment Areas will be considered in accordance with Policies ED1 (Employment) and ED2 (Rural Economy).

### Retail Growth

- 3.2.13** As the population grows, additional retail development will be required to provide shopping opportunities at the local level. The Council's 'Retail and Town Centres Study Update' (2013) assesses qualitative issues and quantitative requirements for additional retail floorspace to meet future needs. The Study concludes that there will be a need over the Plan period for:

1. Convenience (food) retail – an additional 7,100m<sup>2</sup> (net) of new floorspace
2. Comparison (non-food) retail – an additional 5,700m<sup>2</sup> (net) of new floorspace

- 3.2.14** These floorspace requirements take into account current planning permissions, but not the potential reoccupation of vacant floorspace.

The Retail and Town Centres Study Update (2013) is available to view on the Council's website at: [www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase)

- 3.2.15** The Plan seeks to ensure that new retail development occurs in a manner that secures the vitality and viability of the District's retail centres but is not too restrictive as to stifle innovation and investment. There is a need for a balanced approach to enabling retail centres to respond to changing retail behaviour, whilst preserving and enhancing the essence and historic character which is key to the attractiveness of the District's historic market towns.
- 3.2.16** More detail on the approach to retail requirements is contained in the settlement chapters and in Chapter 16 (Retail and Town Centres).
- 3.2.17** New retail provision will be encouraged within major urban extensions in order to support the new and existing communities. These will be neighbourhood centres or local parades<sup>(1)</sup> as appropriate and will complement the existing town centres.

1 As defined within Section 16.8 of Chapter 16: Retail and Town Centres.

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### Policy DPS1 Housing, Employment and Retail Growth

In the period 2011 to 2033 the Council will:

- (a) Provide for a minimum of 18,458 new homes in the District up to 2033.
- (b) Maximise opportunities for jobs growth, with the aim of achieving a minimum of 10,800 new jobs in the District up to 2033. This will include making provision for 19-20 hectares of new employment land for B1/B2/B8 uses.
- (c) Encourage an additional 7,100m<sup>2</sup> of convenience and 5,700m<sup>2</sup> of comparison retail floorspace in the District.

### 3.3 Development Strategy

**3.3.1** This section sets out where growth should be focused, and where it should be restricted. The aim is to ensure that growth takes place in the most suitable locations in the District i.e. where it is needed, where it is deliverable, and where it is sustainable. This section sets out the broad policy framework, which is then carried through into the separate settlement-level policy sections.

#### Guiding Principles and Strategy

**3.3.2** The District Plan is based on a number of guiding principles. The principles are based on national policy and legal requirements applied to the local circumstances of the East Herts area.

#### Guiding Principles

1. To allocate sufficient sites in order to meet the full housing needs of East Herts;
2. To prioritise the development of brownfield land and other appropriate sites within the urban areas of the settlements, but to avoid over-development of such sites;
3. To promote self-containment by directing development to areas where there is reasonable proximity to services and facilities, and which reflect existing travel to work areas, school catchments, and retail spend patterns and functional geographies;
4. Wherever possible to utilise readily available features to provide clear and unambiguous Green Belt boundaries;
5. To co-operate with adjoining authorities on cross-boundary strategic matters where it is reasonable to do so;

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6. To focus development in locations where the impacts on the historic and natural environment are minimised as far as possible;
7. To acknowledge that the capacity for the market towns and villages to grow is constrained by the existing capacity and future potential of these settlements, and therefore the provision of large-scale strategic development will be required, both within this Plan period and beyond;
8. To protect and enhance the rural area and the Green Belt outside the allocated development areas to maintain the countryside and the rural character of the District;
9. To encourage appropriate development in and around the identified villages, with an opportunity for neighbourhood planning to influence the type and location of development sites.

**3.3.3** The strategy must have regard to a number of housing requirements set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

**3.3.4** Firstly, the NPPF requires that every effort should be made to meet the housing, business and other development needs of an area. As set out above in Section 3.2, the housing need in the District is for 839 new homes each year. East Herts' projected need is back-dated to 2011 when the previous Local Plan figures ended, meaning that the total need is for 18,458 homes up to 2033.

**3.3.5** Secondly, the NPPF requires a supply of specific deliverable sites in order to meet housing needs in the first five years of the plan period. For East Herts, the first five year period is 2017 to 2022.

**3.3.6** In the period 2011-2017 (the 'pre-plan' period) it is anticipated that only 3,244 homes will be built, leaving a shortfall of 1,790 homes when measured against the projected need of 5,034 over 6 years. The Plan seeks to make up this shortfall over the ten year period 2017 – 2027 as set out in Table 3.1 below.

**3.3.7** Thirdly, the NPPF also requires the provision of an additional buffer in the first five year period (moved forward from later in the plan period) to ensure choice and competition in the market for land. A 20% buffer should be applied where there is a persistent record of under-delivery. Given the significant shortfall in housing delivery since 2011, a 20% buffer should be applied. Taking into account identified need, the shortfall and the 20% buffer, the total housing requirement for the first five year period (2017-2022) is 6,108 new homes as set out in Table 3.2 below.

Table 3.1 Annualised Housing Requirement including 10-year spread of shortfall

|  | 2011-2017 | 2017-2018 | 2018-2019 | 2019-2020 | 2020-2021 | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 | 2023-2024 | 2024-2025 |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Completions</b>                       | 3,244     |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| <b>OAHN</b>                              |           | 839       | 839       | 839       | 839       | 839       | 839       | 839       | 839       |
| <b>Shortfall addressed over 10 years</b> |           | 179       | 179       | 179       | 179       | 179       | 179       | 179       | 179       |
| <b>Annual Housing Requirement</b>        | 3,244     | 1,018     | 1,018     | 1,018     | 1,018     | 1,018     | 1,018     | 1,018     | 1,018     |
|  | 2025-2026 | 2026-2027 | 2027-2028 | 2028-2029 | 2029-2030 | 2030-2031 | 2031-2032 | 2032-2033 | 2011-2033 |
| <b>Completions</b>                       |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| <b>OAHN</b>                              | 839       | 839       | 839       | 839       | 839       | 839       | 839       | 839       |           |
| <b>Shortfall addressed over 10 years</b> | 179       | 179       |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| <b>Annual Housing Requirement</b>        | 1,018     | 1,018     | 839       | 839       | 839       | 839       | 839       | 839       | 18,458    |

Table 3.2 5-Year Housing Land Supply Requirement 2017-2022

|                                      | 2017-2018 | 2018-2019 | 2019-2020 | 2020-2021 | 2021-2022 | 2017-2022 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Annual Requirement</b>            | 1,018     | 1,018     | 1,018     | 1,018     | 1,018     | 5,090     |
| <b>20% Buffer</b>                    | 204       | 204       | 204       | 204       | 204       | 1,020     |
| <b>Total Land Supply Requirement</b> | 1,222     | 1,222     | 1,222     | 1,222     | 1,222     | 6,110     |

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- 3.3.8** Policy DSP2 (The Development Strategy 2011-2033) below sets out the Council's strategy for delivering sustainable development. More detailed information about individual sites can be found in the settlement chapters. Policy DPS2 also sets out the key assumptions which are relied on to calculate the 5-year housing land supply.

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### Policy DPS2 The Development Strategy 2011-2033

I. The strategy of the District Plan is to deliver sustainable development in accordance with the following hierarchy:

- Sustainable brownfield sites;
- Sites within the urban areas of Bishop's Stortford, Buntingford, Hertford, Sawbridgeworth and Ware;
- Urban extensions to Bishop's Stortford, Hertford, Sawbridgeworth and Ware, and to the east of Stevenage, east of Welwyn Garden City and in the Gilston Area; and
- Limited development in the villages.

II. The 5-year housing land supply will comprise the following elements:

- The projected housing need of 839 dwellings per annum;
- Any shortfall in delivery since the start of the Plan period (to be met over the ten year period 2017-2027);
- A 20% buffer for choice and flexibility brought forward from later in the Plan period.

- 3.3.9** The main policy elements of the development strategy are shown on the Key Diagram. Inset maps showing further detail on particular locations are shown in the relevant section of the Plan. The Key Diagram including the main map and inset maps is included at Appendix A.

### Housing Supply

- 3.3.10** There are a number of potential sources of housing supply as follows:

1. Completions and commitments are shown in the period 2011-2017, based on the most recently available monitoring data.
2. Within the urban areas of the towns, a limited number of sites with capacity for 10 or more homes have been identified through the Strategic Land Availability Assessment (SLAA).



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3. It is also anticipated that there will be a number of permissions granted on small sites of less than 10 homes that have not currently been identified. These are known as windfalls. A windfall allowance of 75 dwellings per annum has been made on the basis of an analysis of past windfalls.
4. The majority of new homes will be provided on sites that have been allocated within this Plan. These are shown on the Policies Map and the site locations are shown in red alongside each of the site specific policies in the settlement chapters.
5. Finally, in addition to providing new homes within the Plan period, the Gilston Area will provide a further 6,950 new homes after 2033 while North and East of Ware will also provide a further 500 homes subject to the identification of suitable highways mitigation measures.

**3.3.11** Policy DPS3 (Housing Supply 2011-2033) reflects these different sources of housing supply. It also sets out the contribution from each source for the important first five year period after adoption (2017-2022).

**3.3.12** The identified housing supply to 2033 exceeds the requirement by around 450 homes. Contingency planning is necessary to allow for eventualities beyond the Council's control, including the economic cycle and factors relating to specific sites or developers, which could result in stalled sites. The Plan provides a range of sites in different locations which means that it is not reliant on delivery at a single location. Flexibility could also be provided by accelerating the delivery of homes at the Gilston Area, thereby providing a greater amount of development within the Plan period. The potential to achieve this will be considered through joint work in relation to the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town. A full breakdown of the housing supply is included at Appendix B.

**3.3.13** The Council's positive approach to planning may require it to use its compulsory purchase powers under section 226 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. That power gives the Council a positive tool to help to assemble land where this is necessary to implement proposals in the District Plan or where strong planning justifications for the use of the power exist. For the circumstances in which those powers may be exercised, see the Department for Communities and Local Government's "Compulsory purchase process and the Crichel Down Rules: guidance" at: [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

### Green Belt

**3.3.14** Green Belt land is a valued resource for many residents in East Herts. However, the challenging level of housing need in the District cannot be met in a sustainable way without undertaking a carefully planned review of the Green Belt in certain locations. Therefore approximately 6% of the District's Green Belt has been removed in order to help meet a significant proportion of the housing need, both within this Plan period and beyond.



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### Policy DPS3 Housing Supply 2011-2033

The minimum housing supply to meet projected housing need over the Plan period 2011-2033 is set out below. A more detailed Strategy Worksheet is included in Appendix B.

| Supply Source   | Policy Reference | Housing supply: 2017-2022 | Housing supply: 2011-2033 |
|---|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Windfall allowance  | -                | 300                       | 1,125                     |
| Completions (31/03/2017)  | -                | 0                         | 3,244                     |
| Commitments (31/08/17)  | -                | 3,680                     | 4,901                     |
| <b>Sustainable Brownfield Sites</b>   |                  |                           |                           |
| SLAA sites in urban areas   | -                | 43                        | 43                        |
| High School Site, Bishop's Stortford  | BISH6            | 0                         | 150                       |
| Goods Yard, Bishop's Stortford  | BISH7            | 480                       | 600                       |
| Old River Lane, Bishop's Stortford  | BISH8            | 0                         | 100                       |
| Mead Lane Area, Hertford  | HERT2            | 50                        | 200                       |
| <b>Urban Extensions to Bishop's Stortford, Hertford, Sawbridgeworth and Ware:</b> |                  |                           |                           |
| South of Bishop's Stortford   | BISH5            | 200                       | 750                       |
| East of Manor Links, Bishop's Stortford   | BISH9            | 50                        | 50                        |
| West of Hertford  | HERT3            | 415                       | 550                       |
| North of Hertford   | HERT4            | 50                        | 150                       |
| South of Hertford   | HERT5            | 50                        | 50                        |
| North of West Road, Sawbridgeworth  | SAWB2            | 125                       | 125                       |
| South of West Road, Sawbridgeworth  | SAWB3            | 175                       | 175                       |
| North of Sawbridgeworth   | SAWB4            | 200                       | 200                       |

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| Supply Source   | Policy Reference | Housing supply: 2017-2022 | Housing supply: 2011-2033 |
|---|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| North and East of Ware  | WARE2            | 100                       | 1,000*                    |
| <b>Urban Extensions to the East of Stevenage, east of Welwyn Garden City and in the Gilston Area:</b> |                  |                           |                           |
| East of Stevenage   | EOS1             | 500                       | 600                       |
| East of Welwyn Garden City  | EWEL1            | 220                       | 1,350                     |
| Gilston Area  | GA1              | 0                         | 3,050**                   |
| <b>Villages:</b>  |                  |                           |                           |
| Group 1 Villages  | VILL1            | 391                       | 500                       |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  |                  | <b>7,029</b>              | <b>18,913</b>             |

\* With a further 500 homes, subject to suitable mitigation

\*\* With a further 6,950 homes beyond 2033.

### Infrastructure Planning

- 3.3.15** When development occurs, it places additional demands on infrastructure, including water and energy supply, wastewater disposal, roads, education and healthcare as well as open space, and green infrastructure. Therefore it is important to ensure that appropriate levels of infrastructure are provided to support growth and meet the objectives of the District Plan.
- 3.3.16** The Council plays an important role in coordinating a range of agencies and bodies which deliver infrastructure in East Herts, in order to ensure delivery alongside housing growth. Infrastructure providers include Hertfordshire County Council (including transport and education), NHS England and the Clinical Care Commissioning Group (healthcare), utility companies, as well as the Council itself.
- 3.3.17** The planning system can be used in a number of other ways, including securing the provision of infrastructure or contributions towards infrastructure from developers. The District Plan also assists by protecting existing facilities against loss.
- 3.3.18** Policy DPS4 (Infrastructure Requirements) identifies the key infrastructure requirements that are likely to be needed over the plan period to support the levels of growth envisaged in Policy DPS2 (The Development Strategy 2011-2033). This

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list has been informed by discussions with key infrastructure providers. The list is not exhaustive and does not include site-specific infrastructure which may be required in connection with individual development sites to mitigate their impact.

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- 3.3.19** A full list of infrastructure schemes can be found in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP), which also provides information on costs, funding and phasing. The IDP will be reviewed on a regular basis in order to identify risks and monitor the implementation of infrastructure schemes and identify where interventions might be required.

The Infrastructure Delivery Plan can be viewed on the Council's website at: [www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase)

- 3.3.20** The Council will work closely with infrastructure providers to ensure inclusion of infrastructure schemes within their programmes, plans and strategies, and delivery of specific infrastructure requirements in conjunction with individual development schemes and the expected timing of development coming forward.

### Policy DPS4 Infrastructure Requirements

I. Infrastructure needed to support development must be phased appropriately with the delivery of residential and other development to ensure that capacity is provided and impacts are satisfactorily mitigated in a timely manner.

II. During the Plan-period the following strategic infrastructure will be required to support the development identified in East Herts and the wider housing market area:

- (a) a new Junction 7a on the M11;
- (b) upgrades to Junction 7 and 8 of the M11;
- (c) widening of the existing River Stort crossing, and provision of a second crossing;
- (d) provision of a Hertford bypass to address identified constraints on the A414 in combination with Sustainable Travel Town initiatives;
- (e) the Little Hadham bypass;
- (f) upgrades to the A602;
- (g) upgrades to the rail network;
- (h) measures to facilitate sustainable transport;
- (i) new schools and the expansion of existing schools;

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- (j) healthcare facilities;
- (k) broadband telecoms; and
- (l) upgrades to waste water and water supply networks.

III. The Council will use planning obligations with landowners and developers to secure direct provision or financial contributions towards infrastructure necessary to support the District Plan, including both on-site and off-site provision to address the cumulative impacts of development on strategic infrastructure.

**3.3.21** Strategic infrastructure is defined as infrastructure which meets more than site-specific needs and supports the overall level and pattern of growth outlined in the Development Strategy. Site specific infrastructure serves just the needs of the occupiers and visitors to the site that it is located in. The site-specific policies in the settlement sections within this Plan contain both strategic and site-specific infrastructure.

### 3.4 Neighbourhood Planning

**3.4.1** Neighbourhood Planning is a new right for communities introduced through the Localism Act 2011. Communities can shape development in their areas through the production of Neighbourhood Development Plans, Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders.

**3.4.2** Once approved, Neighbourhood Development Plans will become part of the Development Plan and the policies contained within them will be used, together with the District Plan, in the determination of planning applications. A Neighbourhood Development Plan can set out a vision for an area and planning policies for the use and development of land. Any Neighbourhood Plan prepared will need to support the strategic development needs of the District as set out in this Plan. However it will be able to shape and influence where development in the local area will go and what it will look like.

Further information on Neighbourhood Planning can be found on the Council's website at: [www.eastherts.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning)

**3.4.3** A Neighbourhood Development Order can grant planning permission for specified developments in a neighbourhood area. Once established there would be no need for anyone to apply to the Council for planning permission if it is for the type of development covered by the order. This should make it easier and quicker for such development to go ahead in the future.

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- 3.4.4** A Neighbourhood Development Order must still be in line with national planning policy, with the strategic vision for the wider area set by the local planning authority, and any other legal requirements.
- 3.4.5** Community Right to Build Orders are a new way for communities to choose for themselves where and when to build homes, shops, facilities and businesses – putting power back into the hands of local people.
- 3.4.6** Community Right to Build is an enabling right supporting local people to undertake community led development (communities collectively owning, developing and/or managing their own land and developments).
- 3.4.7** As an alternative to the traditional application for planning permission, it gives communities the power to decide for themselves what happens in their neighbourhood i.e. local people will be able to decide what their community needs. The benefits of any development, such as any profits generated, should be managed by a community organisation on behalf of the whole community.

### Policy DPS5 Neighbourhood Planning

The Council will support in principle development brought forward through Neighbourhood Development Plans, Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders, where such development is in general conformity with the strategic objectives and policies set out in this District Plan.

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## Chapter 4

# Green Belt and Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt

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### Chapter 4 Green Belt and Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt

#### 4.1 Green Belt

- 4.1.1** The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence.
- 4.1.2** The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the five main purposes of the Green Belt:
- to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;
  - to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another;
  - to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;
  - to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and
  - to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

#### 4.2 Local Context

- 4.2.1** Hertfordshire County Council first designated the south of the County as Green Belt as part of the Hertfordshire County Development Plan, published in 1951 and approved by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in December 1958, under the Town and Country Planning Act 1947.
- 4.2.2** The extent of the Green Belt in East Herts was originally limited to a small area south of Hertford and Ware. However the 1979 County Structure Plan extended the area of Green Belt northwards along the A1 to Stevenage and beyond, and along the M11 to the southern limits of Bishop's Stortford.
- 4.2.3** The 1986 County Structure Plan Review included the extension of the Green Belt to surround Bishop's Stortford, with the inner Green Belt boundaries being defined through the East Herts Local Plan Review, adopted in 1993.
- 4.2.4** The broad extent of the Green Belt was carried forward in the 2007 East Herts Local Plan and as such contains the settlements of Bishop's Stortford, Hertford, Sawbridgeworth and Ware, together with several villages.

#### 4.3 Exceptional Circumstances

- 4.3.1** The NPPF states that Green Belt boundaries can only be amended in exceptional circumstances, through the preparation or review of a Local Plan. There is no definition in the NPPF of what constitutes exceptional circumstances, as this will vary for each locality.



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**4.3.2** In East Herts there is a combination of factors that exist locally that together constitute the exceptional circumstances that require the Council to amend its Green Belt boundaries. This includes the high level of housing need, including affordable homes, exacerbated by a significant backlog of unmet need, and the lack of suitable alternative locations to the north of the District.

**4.3.3** Chapter 3 (The Development Strategy) therefore sets out that the challenging level of housing need cannot be met in a sustainable way without undertaking a carefully planned review of the Green Belt. As such approximately 6% of the District's Green Belt has been removed in order to help meet a significant proportion of the housing need, both within this Plan period and beyond. The revised Green Belt boundary is shown on the Policies Map.

### 4.4 Planning Applications in the Green Belt

**4.4.1** When considering any planning application for development, local planning authorities should ensure that substantial weight is given to any harm to the Green Belt. Inappropriate development in the Green Belt is by definition harmful and should not be approved except in 'very special circumstances'. 'Very special circumstances' will not exist unless the potential harm to the Green Belt by reason of inappropriateness, and any other harm, is clearly outweighed by other considerations.

**4.4.2** There are however some uses that are appropriate in the Green Belt and these are listed in the NPPF.

### 4.5 Neighbourhood Planning

**4.5.1** The villages of Hertford Heath, Stanstead Abbots & St Margarets, and Watton-at-Stone are inset from the Green Belt. These villages will be encouraged to consider accommodating development in their Neighbourhood Plans, especially where it contributes to wider sustainability objectives and the delivery of community benefits. Where such proposals would involve changes to Green Belt boundaries, the District Council will consider making these amendments either through the next Review of the District Plan or through a separate Site Allocations Development Plan Document if necessary.

#### Policy GBR1 Green Belt

I. Planning applications within the Green Belt, as defined on the Policies Map, will be considered in line with the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework.

II. The villages of Hertford Heath, Stanstead Abbots & St Margarets, and Watton-at-Stone will be encouraged to consider whether it is appropriate through the formulation of a Neighbourhood Plan to accommodate additional development especially where it contributes to wider sustainability objectives and the delivery of community benefits. Where such proposals would involve changes to Green Belt boundaries, the District

## Chapter 4 . Green Belt and Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt

Council will consider making these amendments either through the next Review of the District Plan or through a separate Site Allocations Development Plan Document if necessary.

### 4.6 Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt

**4.6.1** Green Belt in East Herts covers approximately one-third of the District. The remaining two-thirds of the District are located in the ‘Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt’. This Rural Area is highly valued by the District’s residents and visitors alike, particularly for its open and largely undeveloped nature. As such it forms an important part of the character of the District. It is a considerable and significant countryside resource, which Policy GBR2 seeks to maintain by concentrating development within existing settlements.

### 4.7 Planning Applications in the Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt

**4.7.1** When considering planning applications in the Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt, sustainable development will be permitted in accordance with Policy GBR2.

#### Policy GBR2 Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt

I. In order to maintain the Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt as a valued countryside resource, the following types of development will be permitted, provided that they are compatible with the character and appearance of the rural area:

- (a) buildings for agriculture and forestry;
- (b) facilities for outdoor sport, outdoor recreation, including equine development in accordance with CFLR6 (Equine Development), and for cemeteries;
- (c) new employment generating uses where they are sustainably located, in accordance with Policy ED2 (Rural Economy);
- (d) the replacement, extension or alteration of a building, provided the size, scale, mass, form, siting, design and materials of construction are appropriate to the character, appearance and setting of the site and/or surrounding areas;
- (e) limited infilling or the partial or complete redevelopment of previously developed sites (brownfield land), whether redundant or in continuing use (excluding temporary buildings) in sustainable locations, where appropriate to the character, appearance and setting of the site and/or surrounding area;
- (f) rural exception housing in accordance with Policy HOU4 (Rural Exception Affordable Housing Sites);

## Chapter 4 . Green Belt and Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt

(g) accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in accordance with Policy HOU9 (Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople) or Non-Nomadic Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, in accordance with Policy HOU10 (New Park Home Sites for Non-Nomadic Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople);

(h) development identified in an adopted Neighbourhood Plan.

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Chapter 4 . Green Belt and Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt



## Chapter 5

# Bishop's Stortford

### Chapter 5 Bishop's Stortford

#### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1** Bishop's Stortford is the largest town in the District, with an important sub-regional role related to its retail, leisure and employment offer, which is underpinned by good transport links including the M11 and the railway. It is designated as a Principal Town Centre which reflects the wide range of uses and services present, and its role as a destination for visitors from beyond the town. The town retains a very attractive historic core and has a thriving town centre with a regular market. It has a reputation for good schools and also benefits from numerous areas of green space in the Stort corridor and 'Green Wedges' which penetrate the town. The town is unusual in East Herts in having several remaining brownfield redevelopment opportunities, although the scale of housing need in the local area also necessitates the provision of well-designed urban extensions on land adjoining the town.
- 5.1.2** The main components of the development strategy for Bishop's Stortford are as follows:
- 5.1.3** **Housing:** additional homes will be provided which will consist of a mix of dwelling types and sizes to ensure that the need of residents to access a balanced housing market across all life stages is catered for. The provision of affordable housing will allow emerging households to remain living in Bishop's Stortford in accommodation suited to their needs, while essential opportunities are provided for those seeking retirement accommodation or who are in need of specialist care.
- 5.1.4** **Design:** collaboratively prepared Masterplans for development in Bishop's Stortford (at sites BISH3, BISH4, BISH5, BISH6, BISH7, BISH8, BISH9 and BISH10) will form an important part of the delivery of the site allocations. These Masterplans will provide a strong framework for the development, which will ensure the highest quality design and layout of each area and provide a comprehensive approach to the development as a whole, whilst reflecting different character areas across the sites. The Masterplans will accord with the provisions of Policy DES1 (Masterplanning).
- 5.1.5** **Education:** the educational needs of the town will be achieved at primary level via the expansion of existing facilities at Thorley Hill Primary School, together with the provision of up to three new primary schools at Bishop's Stortford North (BISH3) and one new primary school in Bishop's Stortford South (BISH5). One new secondary school will be provided at Bishop's Stortford North (BISH3) and one at Bishop's Stortford South (BISH5).
- 5.1.6** **Transport:** measures introduced within new development will encourage the use of sustainable travel, particularly through the enhancement of walking and cycling links and through the provision of new bus routes linking new sites to the town centre and beyond. The impact of development on the local road network will be mitigated through upgrades to existing junctions, while improvements to Junction 8 on the

M11, and the provision of a new Junction 7a on the M11 which will reduce pressure on the A120 and A1184. The Bishop's Stortford Town Centre Planning Framework sets out initiatives to tackle traffic congestion in and around the town.

**5.1.7 Economic Development:** the proximity of Bishop's Stortford to the M11 and Stansted Airport makes it an attractive place for businesses and new employment opportunities in the town will be provided by a new business park at Bishop's Stortford South. As the District's Principal Town Centre, there is a stronger retail offer than other centres in the District, and has good prospects for expansion. Development at Old River Lane (BISH8) will increase the retail and leisure offer of the town and strengthen links across the river to the railway station to encompass the Goods Yard (BISH7) and, in the long-term, possibly also the Mill Site (BISH10). An attractive pedestrian circuit from the station through the town centre will enhance the vitality and viability of the town centre as a retail and leisure destination.

**5.1.8 Character:** Bishop's Stortford will preserve its market town character and the quality of the town's historic core will be respected in development proposals. The provision of a new Country Park at Hoggate's Wood and Ash Grove will extend the pattern of Green Wedges which frame the urban area. The A120 and A1184 will continue to provide a boundary to development and retain the town's compact character. Long views to historic features, such as church spires, will be preserved through the layout of new streets. Development of the Goods Yard (and possibly in the long-term, the Mill Site) and other development sites which may come forward, will enhance the River Stort corridor, creating public spaces along the river. The urban extension at Bishop's Stortford South will provide an attractive new gateway to the town.

### 5.2 Neighbourhood Plans

**5.2.1** There are two neighbourhood plans covering this area. The Bishop's Stortford Silverleys and Meads Neighbourhood Plan was 'made' in July 2015, the first in East Herts. The Bishop's Stortford Neighbourhood Plan for All Saints, Central, South and part of Thorley was 'made' in October 2017. These Plans form part of the development plan and, therefore, proposals within the Neighbourhood Plan Areas must also accord with their provisions.

### 5.3 Development in Bishop's Stortford

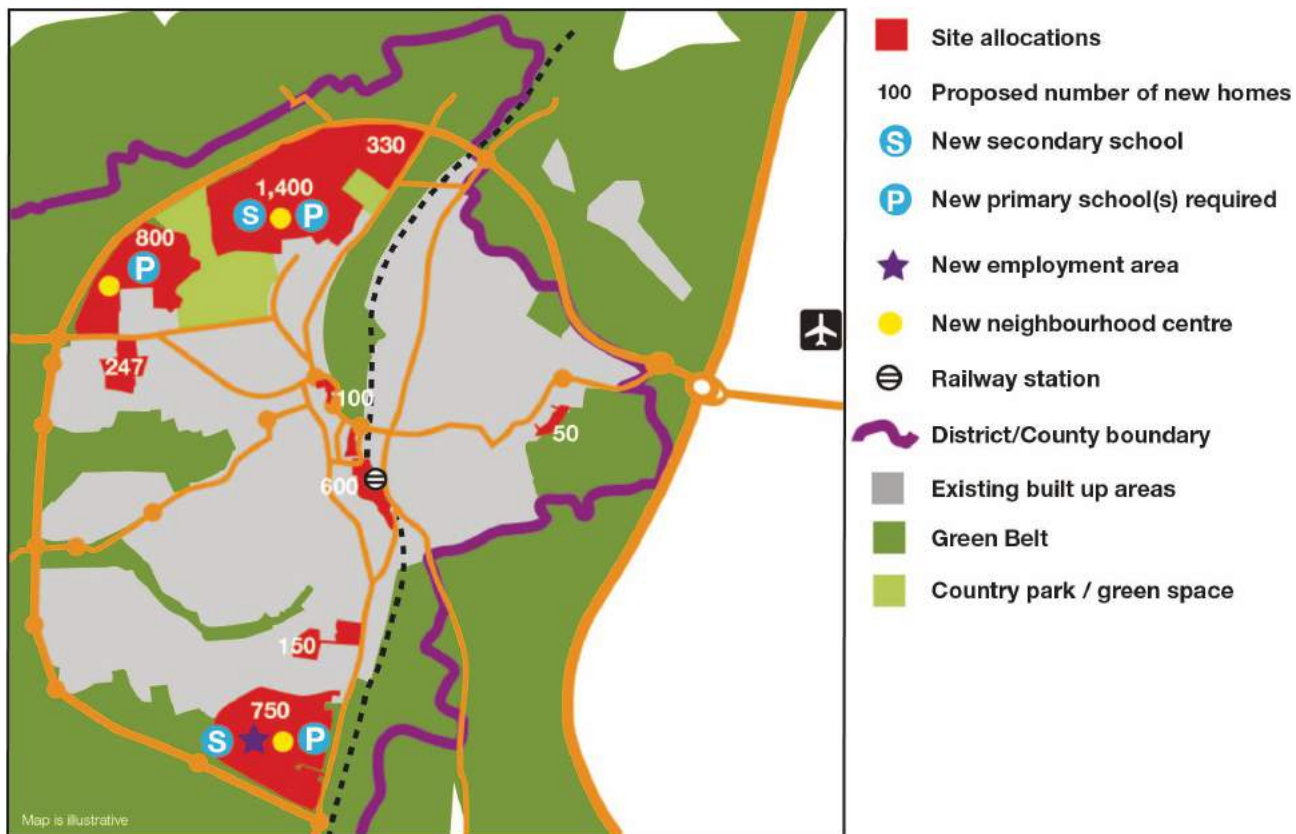
**5.3.1** The main features of the policy approach to development in Bishop's Stortford are shown on Figure 5.1 below:

## Chapter 5 . Bishop's Stortford

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Figure 5.1: Key Diagram for Bishop's Stortford

Picture 5.1



**5.3.2** Reflecting the District Plan Strategy, the following policies will apply to applications for new development in Bishop's Stortford in addition to general policies in the Plan:

### Policy BISH1 Development in Bishop's Stortford

I. Bishop's Stortford will accommodate a minimum of 4,426 homes, which will include:

- around 2,529 homes at Bishop's Stortford North, including 2,200 on ASRs 1 to 4 and 329 at ASR 5 as set out in Policy BISH3;
- around 247 homes at the Reserve Secondary School site at Hadham Road contingent on the provision of a secondary school site at Bishop's Stortford North, as set out in Policy BISH4;
- around 750 homes at Bishop's Stortford South as set out in Policy BISH5;
- around 150 homes at the Bishop's Stortford High School site at London Road contingent on the relocation of the school to Bishop's Stortford South as set out in Policy BISH6;
- around 600 homes at the Goods Yard as set out in Policy BISH7;



- (f) around 100 homes at Old River Lane as set out in Policy BISH8;
- (g) around 50 homes at land East of Manor Links as set out in Policy BISH9; and
- (h) A proportion of the overall windfall allowance for the District.

II. New employment and retail floorspace will be delivered primarily within the town centre and the two strategic allocations of Bishop's Stortford North and South:

- Through mixed-use development at the Old River Lane (Policy BISH7) and Goods Yard (Policy BISH8) sites;
- Through two mixed-use local centres at Bishop's Stortford North (Policy BISH3) providing 4.1ha of land comprising 21,000m<sup>2</sup> of commercial floorspace (B1 a, b and c), up to 3,000m<sup>2</sup> for D1 uses and up to 1,200m<sup>2</sup> retail floorspace. Further provision of up to 4,000m<sup>2</sup> of commercial floorspace may also be delivered;
- By provision for up to 1,000m<sup>2</sup> retail floorspace and between 4 and 5 hectares of new employment land at Bishop's Stortford South (Policy BISH 5).

III. In the longer term, land at the Mill Site may come forward for mixed-use development as set out in Policy BISH10.

**5.3.3** Within Bishop's Stortford's urban area it is expected that a proportion of the overall windfall allowance for the District will be accommodated. These sites will be determined on an individual basis, taking into account the policies of the Plan. In addition, there are several sites with planning permission that are already counted as part of the District's committed delivery of new homes.

### **Bishop's Stortford Town Centre Planning Framework**

**5.3.4** Bishop's Stortford has the largest shopping centre in the District and provides a wide range of convenience and comparison shopping opportunities in addition to other service needs. This offer serves both its own residents and those of surrounding settlements. Bishop's Stortford's markets, food and drink facilities and successful night-time economy also draw patronage from wider locations.

**5.3.5** The Council has prepared a Bishop's Stortford Town Centre Planning Framework which will guide future development in the town centre and provide a comprehensive approach to managing the impact and potential of growth on the town centre. The Framework sets out a number of strategies to increase the floorspace of the retail core of the town, and to address issues associated with parking, pedestrian accessibility, traffic calming, and traffic flows.

The Bishop's Stortford Town Centre Planning Framework is available to view at: [www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase)

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**5.3.6** To ensure that the aims of the Bishop's Stortford Town Centre Planning Framework can be met, where development is proposed in town centre locations in Bishop's Stortford, Policy BISH2 will apply.

**5.3.7** It is intended that the Framework will be adopted by East Herts Council as a Supplementary Planning Document in due course.

### **Policy BISH2 Bishop's Stortford Town Centre Planning Framework**

Development proposals in Bishop's Stortford Town Centre will be expected to take account of, and positively contribute to, proposals contained within the Bishop's Stortford Town Centre Planning Framework, as appropriate.

### **Bishop's Stortford North (Policy BISH3)**

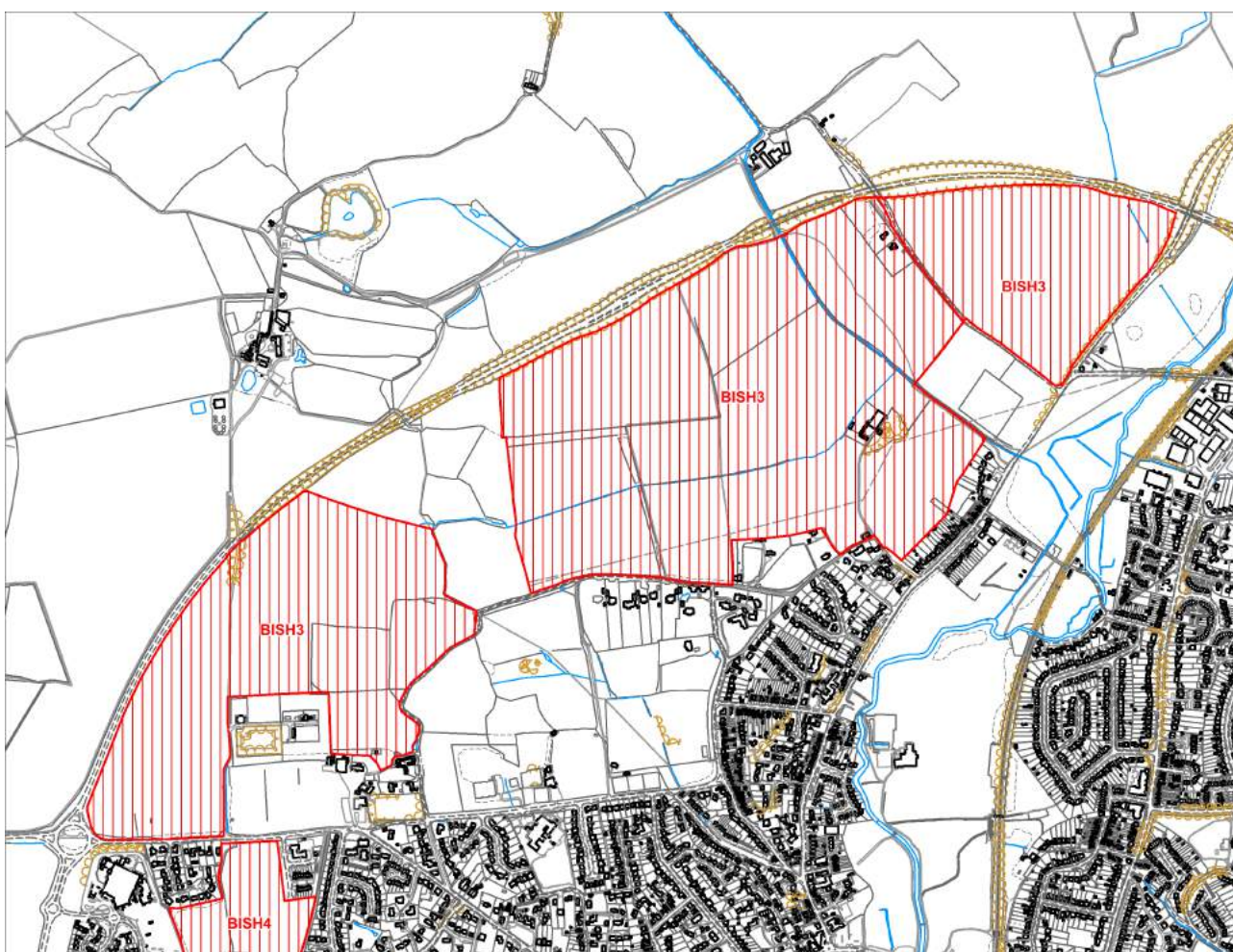
**5.3.8** To the north of the town, land inset from the Green Belt and safeguarded for future development in previous Local Plans is allocated for mixed-use development. Outline planning permission has been granted on ASRs 1 to 4 for 2,200 homes, with detailed permission granted on ASRs 1 and 2 for 850 homes (the western neighbourhood). ASRs 3 and 4 are earmarked for 1,350 homes, but there are currently no detailed plans for this eastern neighbourhood. Outline planning permission has been granted for 329 homes on ASR 5.

**5.3.9** As a large proportion of this site remains without detailed permission it is considered prudent to set out the requirements of this site in the context of the settlement of Bishop's Stortford and the District as a whole, reflecting the approved applications where appropriate and emerging policy.

**5.3.10** The site as a whole will comprise a mix of house types, including provision for specialist and accessible homes, starter homes and self-build properties. The site will provide two neighbourhood centres to accommodate day-to-day retail, service and community facility needs, employment areas, up to two primary schools and a secondary school of six forms of entry. If the secondary school is constructed on this site, the resulting housing number will be reduced. In addition, the site will provide enhanced walking and cycling links, green infrastructure and open spaces along with new and enhanced bus routes. Development in this location will offer benefits for the wider community by providing new sports pitches and funding off-site infrastructure where necessary, such as additional burial space, upgrades to sewage networks, support of the Rhodes Centre and museum for example.

**Figure 5.2 Site Location: Bishop's Stortford North**

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### **Policy BISH3 Bishop's Stortford North**

Land at Bishop's Stortford North will accommodate a minimum of 2,529 homes between 2017 and 2033 (650 homes to be delivered between 2017 and 2022; 1,250 homes between 2022 and 2027; and, 300 homes between 2027 and 2033).

I. West of Hoggate's Wood, will accommodate around 850 homes. The site shall include the provision of:

- (a) a primary school of two forms of entry;
- (b) a neighbourhood centre providing a range of local shops and services;
- (c) a new roundabout on Hadham Road to provide vehicular access to the area;
- (d) outdoor playing pitches at Hoggate's Wood;

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(e) equipped areas for play as part of a wider green infrastructure strategy;

(f) a sustainable transport spine road (bus route, cycleway and pedestrian use only) connecting Hadham Road through to the land east of Hoggate's Wood, a hierarchy of local roads, including walking and cycling networks.

II. Land between Hoggate's Wood and Farnham Road will accommodate around 1,350 new homes between 2017 and 2033. Prior to the submission of reserved matters planning applications (pursuant to outline planning permission 3/13/0804/OP), a Masterplan will be collaboratively prepared, involving site promoters, landowners, East Herts Council, Hertfordshire County Council, Bishop's Stortford Town Council and other key stakeholders. This document will further be informed by public participation in the process. Development in this location shall include the provision of:

(a) a primary school of two forms of entry with an Early Years facility;

(b) land for a secondary school of six forms of entry. The layout of the schools should be designed to provide for the dual use of indoor and outdoor sports facilities for community purposes;

(c) vehicular access by a new roundabout on the A120 and also by a new junction on Rye Street;

(d) continuation of the sustainable transport spine road connecting to the western neighbourhood to access points created for the eastern neighbourhood;

(e) a neighbourhood centre comprising a mix of local shops and facilities, business incubator units, health facilities, and a play area/open space;

(f) a new employment allocation to provide modern business premises attractive to B1 employment uses;

(g) preservation and enhancement of Foxdells Farm as a focus for a public space and appropriate community or leisure facilities; and

III. In order to ensure that the site is planned and delivered comprehensively, any application for development on part of the site will be assessed against its contribution to the Masterplan, and will not prejudice the implementation of the site as a whole.

IV. East of Farnham Road, 329 homes shall be provided in accordance with planning permission 3/13/0886/OP. The site shall include the provision of:

(a) a site for a one form entry primary school, unless appropriate provision is made elsewhere;

(b) public open and amenity space and appropriate landscaping, including land to the east of Hazelend Road;



- (c) access and highway improvements, including a new roundabout junction to provide suitable access to the site and surrounding land;
- (d) a sustainable transport route through the site;
- (e) essential on-site infrastructure including utilities.

V. The development across the whole site is expected to address the following provisions and issues:

- (a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing);
- (b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);
- (c) a care home/ flexi-care or sheltered properties in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU6 (Specialist Housing for Older and Vulnerable People);
- (d) Self-Build and Custom Build Housing in accordance with Policy HOU8 (Self-Build and Custom Build Housing);
- (e) responding to the existing landform, incorporating existing landscaping within new streets, paths and spaces, creating quality local green infrastructure which maximises opportunities presented by existing landscape features including watercourses, to create net gains to biodiversity through additional planting and other measures. Proposals in the vicinity of Farnham Bourne and Bourne Brook will need to reflect the River Stort Catchment Management Plan;
- (f) a new Country Park shall be provided to include the Green Belt land north and south of Dane O' Coy's Road, including Hoggate's Wood and Ash Grove, including long-term arrangements for management and maintenance. Other open spaces and play areas should also be provided throughout the site;
- (g) the rural character of Dane O' Coys Road shall be preserved, and access along the road shall be reserved for pedestrians and cyclists only;
- (h) a network of well-signposted pedestrian and cycle routes between the development and the town centre;
- (i) a circular bus route connecting with the bus/rail interchange in the town centre;
- (j) the preservation of strategic long views of St. Michael's Church and All Saints, Hockerill, and views of mature trees;
- (k) easy access to the village of Farnham must be maintained along Farnham Road, including during the construction period;
- (l) necessary utilities, including integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home-working, and upgrades to the localised sewerage network;

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(m) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure;

(n) other policy provisions of the District Plan, Bishop's Stortford Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan for Silverleys and Meads Wards and any other relevant matters, as appropriate.

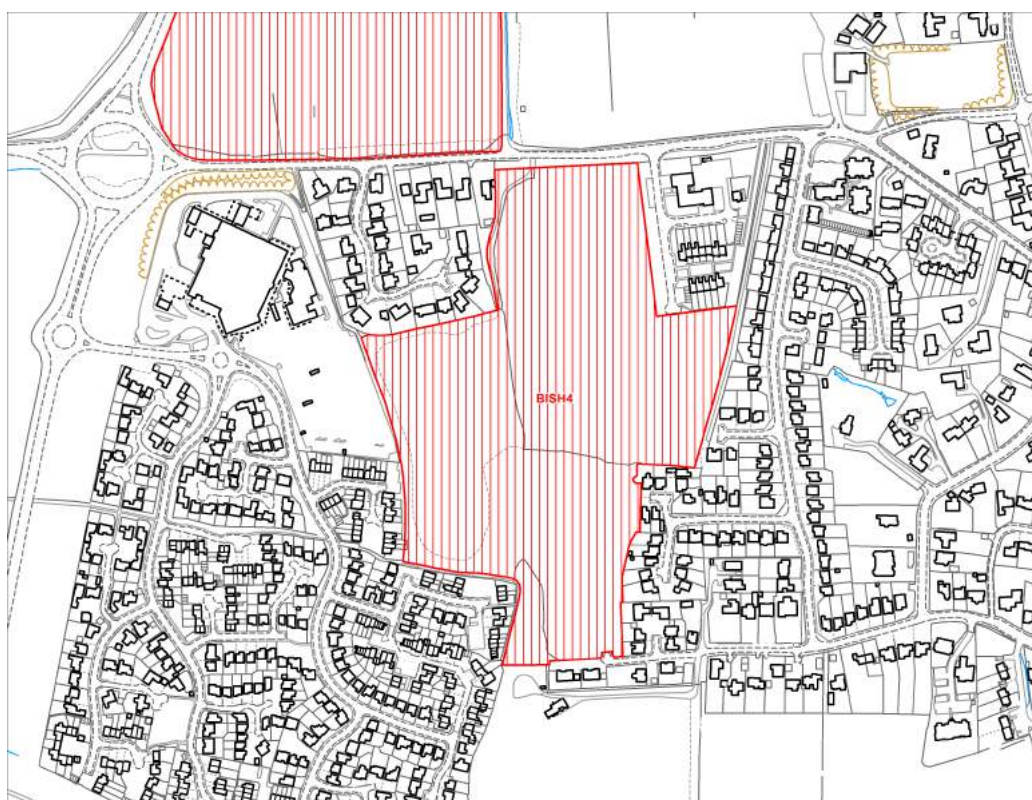
### Land South of Hadham Road (Policy BISH4)

**5.3.11** The 2007 Local Plan reserved land south of Hadham Road for the provision of a secondary school until such time as alternative provision was secured. A six-form entry secondary school will now be delivered as part of the Bishop's Stortford North development.

**5.3.12** Outline permission has recently been granted on appeal for the delivery of 247 homes on this site. However, it is considered appropriate to maintain a policy to guide the anticipated detailed application/s.

**Figure 5.3 Site Location: Land South of Hadham Road**

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### **Policy BISH4 Land South of Hadham Road**

I. Land South of Hadham Road will accommodate around 247 new homes between 2017 and 2027.

II. A Masterplan will be collaboratively prepared, involving site promoters, landowners, East Herts Council, Hertfordshire County Council, Bishop's Stortford Town Council, and other key stakeholders. This document will further be informed by public participation in the process.

III. The development is expected to address the following provisions and issues:

- (a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing);
- (b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);
- (c) retention and enhancement of public rights of way, providing connections to neighbouring residential areas where possible. Skelleys Wood in the south of the site will be retained and connections made between it and the site through buffer planting, tree-lined streets and it will be subject to appropriate management.

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- (d) necessary utilities, including integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home-working, and upgrades to the localised sewerage network;
- (e) sustainable drainage and provision for flood mitigation;
- (f) access arrangements and wider strategic and local highways mitigation measures;
- (g) sustainable transport measures which encourage walking and cycling, and enhanced passenger transport services;
- (h) public amenity green space and play areas;
- (i) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure;
- (j) other policy provisions of the District Plan, Bishop's Stortford Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan for Silverleys and Meads Wards and any other relevant matters, as appropriate.

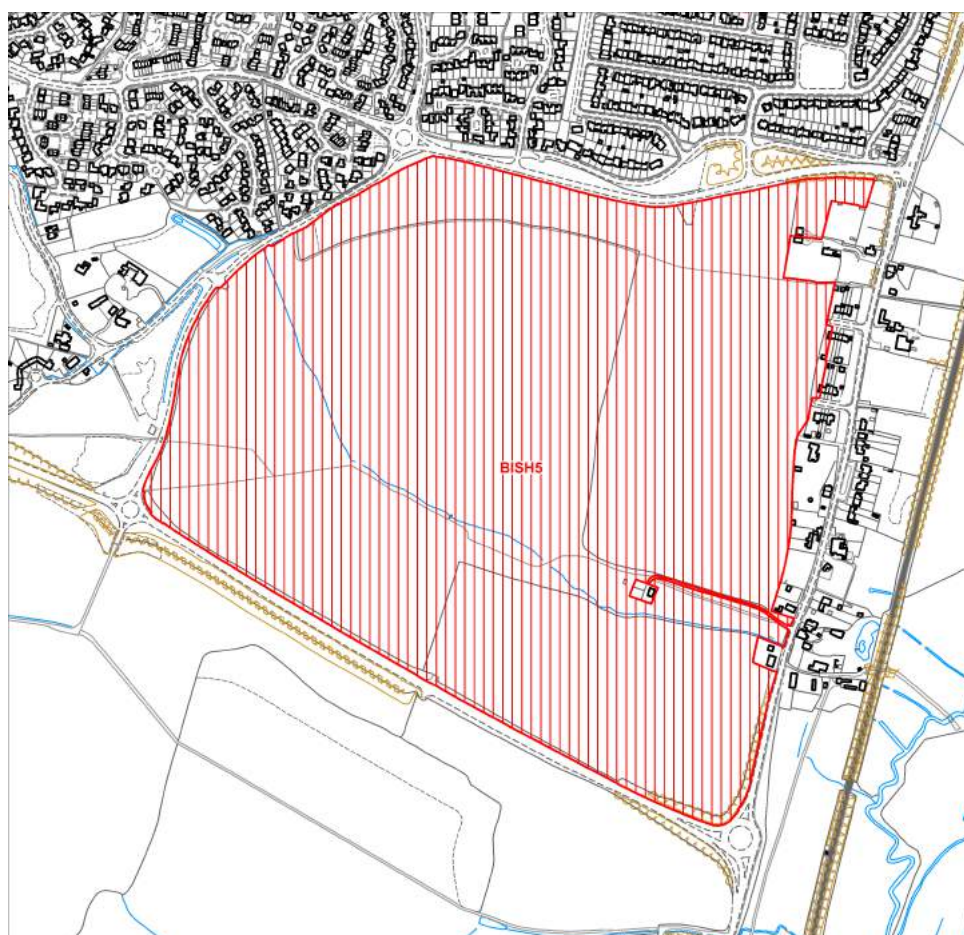
### Bishop's Stortford South (Policy BISH5)

- 5.3.13** Development of a mixed-use urban extension is required in this area in order to meet housing needs and to facilitate the provision of a new primary and secondary school. To encourage self-containment and improve sustainability, the provision of a neighbourhood centre including local shops will be required. To provide for local and wider job opportunities, a modern business park will provide a gateway to the south of the town.
- 5.3.14** A collaborative approach to masterplanning is considered to be essential to the preparation of this site to guide development in the short and longer term. Close working will be required with the County Council and other parties to ensure essential infrastructure such as schools are provided in a timely manner.



**Figure 5.4 Site Location: Bishop's Stortford South**

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### **Policy BISH5 Bishop's Stortford South**

I. Land to the south of Whittington Way is allocated as a residential-led mixed-use development, to accommodate around 750 new homes by 2027.

II. A Masterplan will be collaboratively prepared, involving site promoters, landowners, East Herts Council, Hertfordshire County Council, Bishop's Stortford Town Council, Thorley Parish Council and other key stakeholders. This document will further be informed by public participation in the process.

III. The development is expected to address the following provisions and issues:

- (a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the full provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing);
- (b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);

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(c) a care home/ flexi-care or sheltered properties in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU6 (Specialist Housing for Older and Vulnerable People);

(d) Self-Build and Custom Build Housing in accordance with Policy HOU8 (Self-Build and Custom Build Housing);

(e) education facilities, including land for a two-form entry primary school with an Early Years facility with room to expand to three-forms of entry; land for a six-form entry secondary school with room to expand to eight-forms of entry to meet longer term needs;

(f) indoor and outdoor sports facilities will be delivered as part of the secondary school, which should provide for the dual use of facilities for community purposes;

(g) a neighbourhood centre in an accessible location, providing local retail and community uses including a healthcare facility;

(h) 4-5 hectares of new employment land of landmark design, in an accessible location;

(i) appropriate access arrangements, which will not include direct vehicular access on to London Road, and wider strategic and local highways mitigation measures, including improvements along London Road;

(j) sustainable transport measures which encourage walking and cycling through the site and beyond, including:

- the provision of cycleways and footways that provide links into the existing residential areas;
- appropriate treatment of the Hertfordshire Way, including the retention of an open southerly aspect;
- enhancement of other Public Rights of Way, making new east-west connections across London Road;
- enhanced passenger transport services to the town centre and station, including the creation of a sustainable route through the site;

(k) responding to the existing landform, incorporating existing landscaping within new streets, paths and spaces, creating quality local green infrastructure which maximises opportunities presented by existing landscape features including watercourses, to create net gains to biodiversity through additional planting and other measures;

(l) sustainable drainage and provision for flood mitigation;

(m) a variety of public open spaces across the site, including the provision of play areas and opportunities for indoor and outdoor health and fitness activities, as well as space for wildlife;

(n) maintain and enhance ecological connections to existing green infrastructure assets such as Southern Country Park and the Stort valley;

(o) layout and orientation of spaces to facilitate views and vistas beyond the site, in particular towards Thorley Church and Wallbury Camp, protecting and enhancing the setting of listed buildings along London Road where necessary. This will be done through careful layout, design and planted screening;

(p) necessary utilities, including integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home-working, and upgrades to the localised sewerage network;

(q) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure;

(r) other policy provisions of the District Plan, Bishop's Stortford Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan for All Saints, Central, South and parts of Thorley Wards and any other relevant matters, as appropriate.

IV. In order to ensure that the site is planned and delivered comprehensively, any application for development on part of the site will be assessed against its contribution to the masterplan, and will ensure that such development would not prejudice the implementation of the site allocation as a whole.

### The Bishop's Stortford High School Site, London Road (Policy BISH6)

**5.3.15** Bishop's Stortford High School will relocate to the land at Bishop's Stortford South, and the existing school site will be released for residential development. However, land will be set aside on the site to accommodate the expansion of Thorley Hill Primary School and to retain some of the land for public open space. The delivery of homes on this site is linked to the delivery of the new school campus at Bishop's Stortford South. As such, new homes are not anticipated to be delivered until 2021/22.

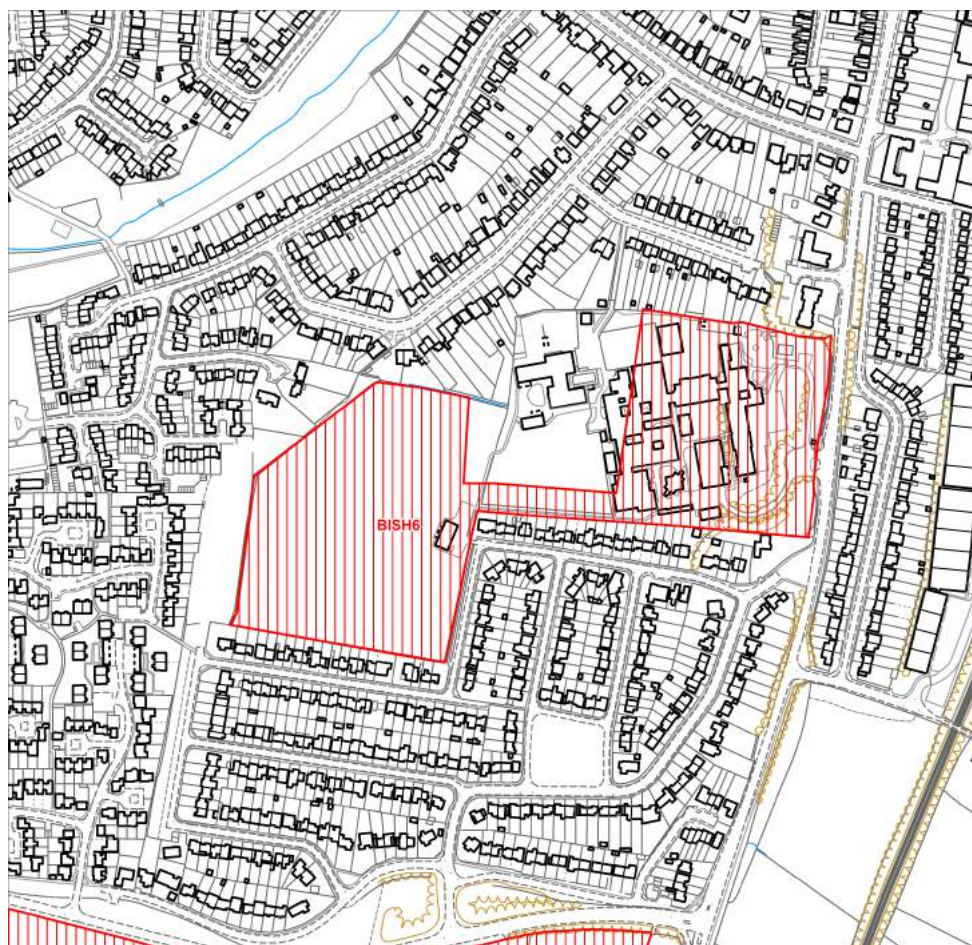


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**Figure 5.5 Site Location: Bishop's Stortford High School Site, London Road**

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### **Policy BISH6 Bishop's Stortford High School Site, London Road**

I. The Bishop's Stortford High School Site will only be released for residential development if sufficient secondary school capacity is provided within the Bishop's Stortford South development or elsewhere in the town.

II. In the event that the site comes forward for non-educational development, around 150 new homes will be provided between 2017 and 2027.

III. A Masterplan will be collaboratively prepared, involving site promoters, landowners, East Herts Council, Hertfordshire County Council, Bishop's Stortford Town Council and other key stakeholders. This document will further be informed by public participation in the process.

IV. The development is expected to address the following provisions and issues:

- (a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the full provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing);

- (b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);
- (c) land set aside to accommodate the expansion of Thorley Hill Primary School by one form of entry.
- (d) retention and enhancement of part of the school outdoor playing pitches in the western parcel of the site as public open space for community purposes, commensurate with the amount of residential development, and providing connections to neighbouring residential areas where possible;
- (e) necessary utilities, including integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home-working, and upgrades to the localised sewerage network;
- (f) sustainable drainage and provision for flood mitigation;
- (g) access arrangements and wider strategic and local highways mitigation measures. Where a new access is required to serve the western part of the site, consideration will need to be given to the relationship of this new access and neighbouring uses, including residential and school uses;
- (h) sustainable transport measures which encourage walking and cycling, and enhanced passenger transport services;
- (i) public amenity green space and play areas;
- (j) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure;
- (k) other policy provisions of the District Plan, Bishop's Stortford Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan for All Saints, Central, South and parts of Thorley Wards and relevant matters, as appropriate.

### The Goods Yard (Policy BISH7)

- 5.3.16** The Goods Yard occupies a strategic location between the railway station and the town centre. Occupying a riverside location, the Goods Yard offers a unique opportunity to create a new area of attractive public realm which connects the river to the station through to the town centre. The northern part of the site lies within the town centre boundary and is appropriate for a mix of retail and commercial development, exploiting its highly accessible location through the creation of a commuter and business hub. This part of the site marks the entry to the town from the station and as such should provide a landmark building or public realm that respects the town's heritage and the site's riverside and railway environment.

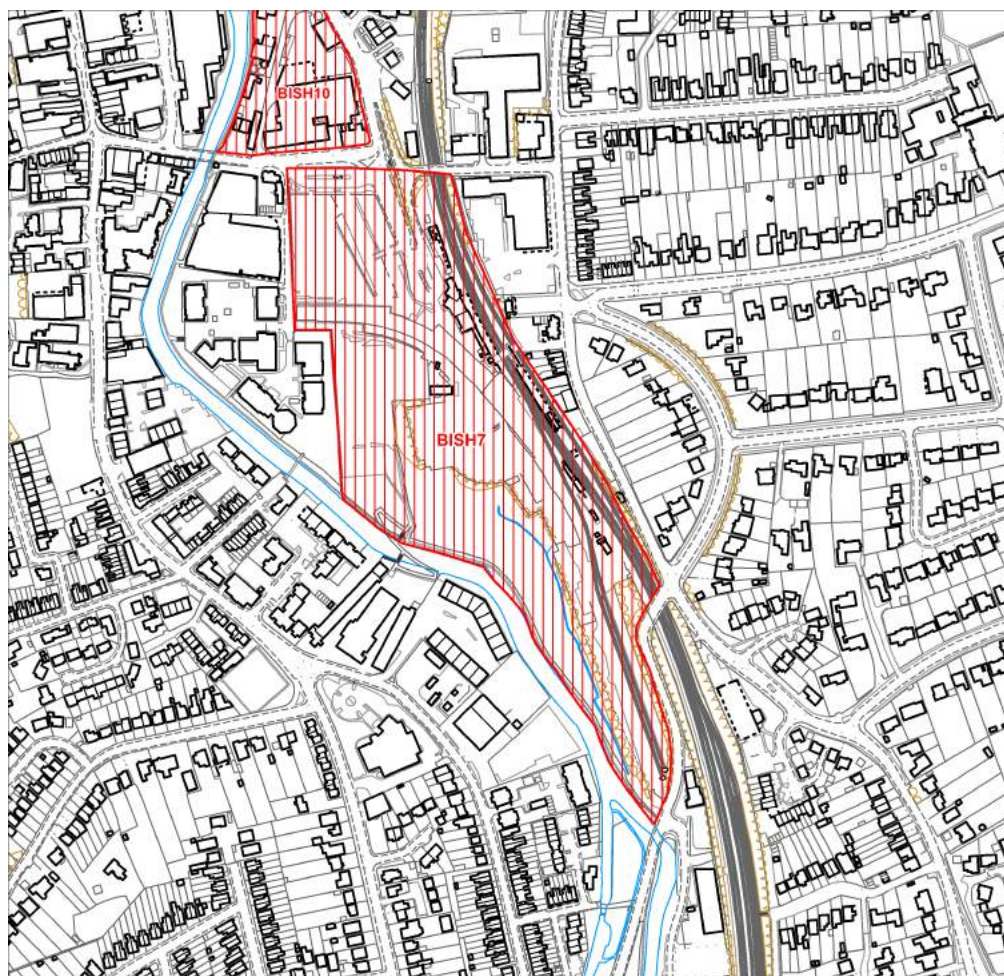


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Figure 5.6 Site Location: Land at the Goods Yard

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### Policy BISH7 The Goods Yard

I. The Bishop's Stortford Town Centre Planning Framework will form the basis of a Supplementary Planning Document, which will be used to inform the masterplanning of this site.

II. The Goods Yard will provide for around 600 homes between 2017 and 2027, as part of a mixed use development including a significant amount of B1a office floorspace and small-scale retail provision and other community and leisure uses. Development of the site shall include:

- (a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing), including residential apartments on the upper floors of commercial uses and 3-4 bed family homes;
- (b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);

(c) Self-Build and Custom Build Housing in accordance with Policy HOU8 (Self-Build and Custom Build Housing);

(d) sustainable transport measures which encourage walking and cycling through the site and beyond, including:

- the provision of cycleways and footpaths that provide links through the site, connecting the river to the station, the station and the town centre via the Anchor Street Leisure Park and improved Station Road bridge, and to provide opportunities to cross the railway line;
- the creation of a new station forecourt that provides a safe and attractive public realm which facilitates the movement of people between various modes of transport;
- enhanced passenger transport services to the town centre and station, including the creation of a sustainable route through the site;

(e) high quality, vehicle-free public realm along the river frontage, enabling improved access to the town centre along the waterway. The orientation of buildings will retain an open riverside environment, facilitate views of local landmarks and provide a direct route between the Goods Yard footbridge and the station;

(f) landscaping and tree planting to reduce urban heat island effects, including retention and enhancement of the area of woodland to the south of the site;

(g) improvements to the riverside environment in line with the River Stort Catchment Management Programme;

(h) high quality design which incorporates local material pallets and provides varying character and style across the site, incorporating sustainable design features;

(i) residential blocks which have access to private amenity green space, separate from parking areas;

(j) multistorey parking which is appropriately screened and separated from residential buildings, ensuring homes have pleasant outlooks;

(k) necessary utilities, including integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home-working, and upgrades to the localised sewerage network;

(l) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure;

(m) other policy provisions of the District Plan, Bishop's Stortford Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan for All Saints, Central, South and parts of Thorley Wards and relevant matters, as appropriate.

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III. On-site car parking will need to be sufficient to meet the needs of the uses proposed, without encouraging travel to the town centre in order to avoid worsening traffic congestion and further impact on the Hockerill Air Quality Management Area. Parking will need to be provided to serve the town centre as well as commuters.

IV. Site promoters must work with Hertfordshire County Council as the Highways and Transport Authority to undertake transport modelling to assess and provide suitable mitigation measures against vehicular congestion in the town centre.

### Old River Lane (Policy BISH8)

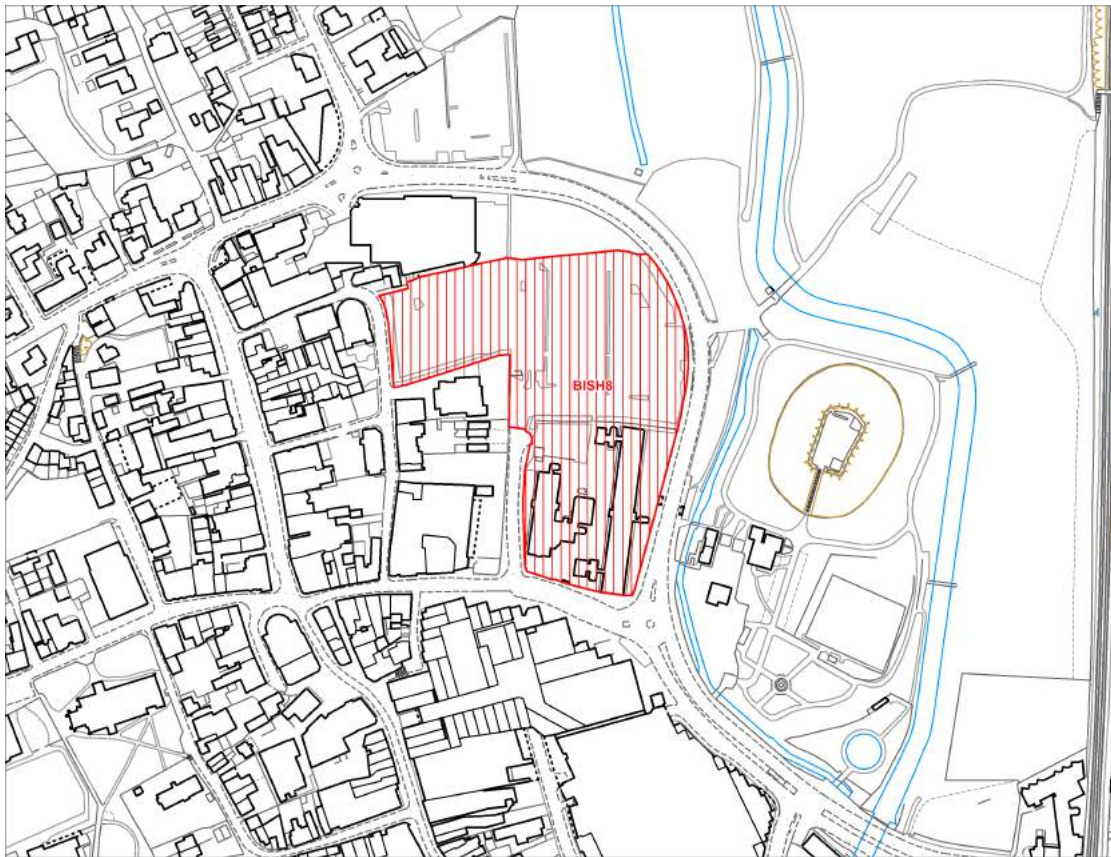
**5.3.17** This is an important site located within the town centre of Bishop's Stortford. As such it provides a valuable opportunity to create a range of new uses in the town as well as the potential for residential development. The masterplan for this site will need to ensure there is an appropriate balance between land uses, including parking, whilst creating an extension to the existing historic town centre. Subsequent to the delivery of this site, the Primary Shopping Area will be extended and primary and secondary frontages defined as appropriate through a review of the Plan.

**5.3.18** The Bishop's Stortford Town Centre Planning Framework will be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document and will be used to inform the masterplan for this site. The District Council, as landowner, will work proactively with key stakeholders in bringing this site forward.



**Figure 5.7 Site Location: Land at Old River Lane**

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### **Policy BISH8 Old River Lane**

I. The Bishop's Stortford Town Centre Planning Framework will form the basis of a Supplementary Planning Document, which will be used to inform the masterplanning of this site.

II. The site will provide for a mixed use development and around 100 new homes between 2022 and 2027.

III. The site will represent an extension of a historic market town. Therefore the masterplan will address the following:

- (a) the creation of a high quality mixed-use development of retail, leisure uses, along with a 'civic hub' of other commercial and community uses such as GP surgery and B1 office floorspace;
- (b) the creation of new streets and public spaces;
- (c) connections between the site and the existing town centre, towards Castle Gardens and to parking areas off Link Road;

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(d) a reduction in traffic speed along Link Road, with new or enhanced crossing points;

(e) a design and layout which respects the significance and relationship of the site with designated and un-designated heritage assets, within the Bishop's Stortford Town Centre Conservation Area;

(f) key frontages such as Coopers will be enhanced by new public realm and buildings that reflect locally distinctive materials and design;

(g) On-site car parking will need to be sufficient to meet the needs of the uses proposed, without encouraging travel to the town centre in order to avoid worsening traffic congestion and further impact on the Hockerill Air Quality Management Area. Parking will need to be provided to serve the town centre as well as commuters.

IV. In addition, the development is expected to address the following provisions and issues:

(a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing), including residential apartments on the upper floors of commercial uses;

(b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);

(c) new utilities infrastructure where necessary;

(d) planning obligations including on and off-site developer contributions where necessary and reasonably related to the development; and

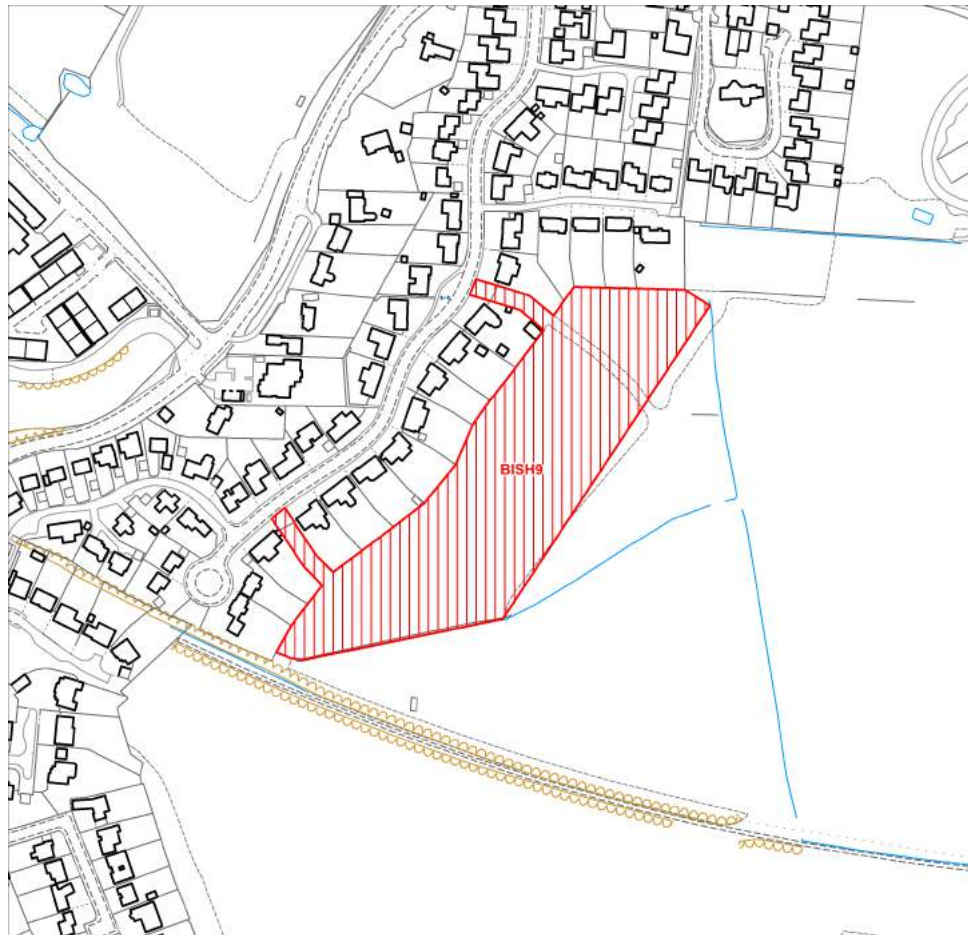
(e) other policy provisions of the District Plan, Bishop's Stortford Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan for Silverleys and Meads Wards and relevant matters, as appropriate.

### East of Manor Links (Policy BISH9)

**5.3.19** This site is located between the Golf Course and the existing urban area. A predominantly residential development in this location will contribute towards meeting short-term housing needs.

**Figure 5.8 Site Location: East of Manor Links**

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### **Policy BISH9 East of Manor Links**

I. Land to the east of Manor Links will provide around 50 new homes between 2017 and 2022.

II. The development is expected to address the following provisions and issues:

- (a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing), including the provision of bungalows to the rear of Manor Links itself;
- (b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);
- (c) access arrangements onto Manor Links, wider strategic and local highways mitigation measures, including improvements to Dunmow Road at the entrance to Manor Links;

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(d) sustainable transport measures which encourage walking and cycling through the site, including the provision of a new pedestrian crossing point on Dunmow Road;

(e) responding to the existing landform, incorporating existing landscaping within new streets, paths and spaces, creating quality local green infrastructure which maximises opportunities presented by existing landscape features including watercourses, to create net gains to biodiversity through additional planting and other measures;

(f) public amenity green space and play areas;

(g) sustainable drainage and provision for flood mitigation;

(h) necessary utilities, including integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home-working, and upgrades to the localised sewerage network in order to serve the proposed development;

(i) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure;

(j) other policy provisions of the District Plan, Bishop's Stortford Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan for All Saints, Central, South and parts of Thorley Wards and relevant matters, as appropriate.

### The Mill Site (Policy BISH10)

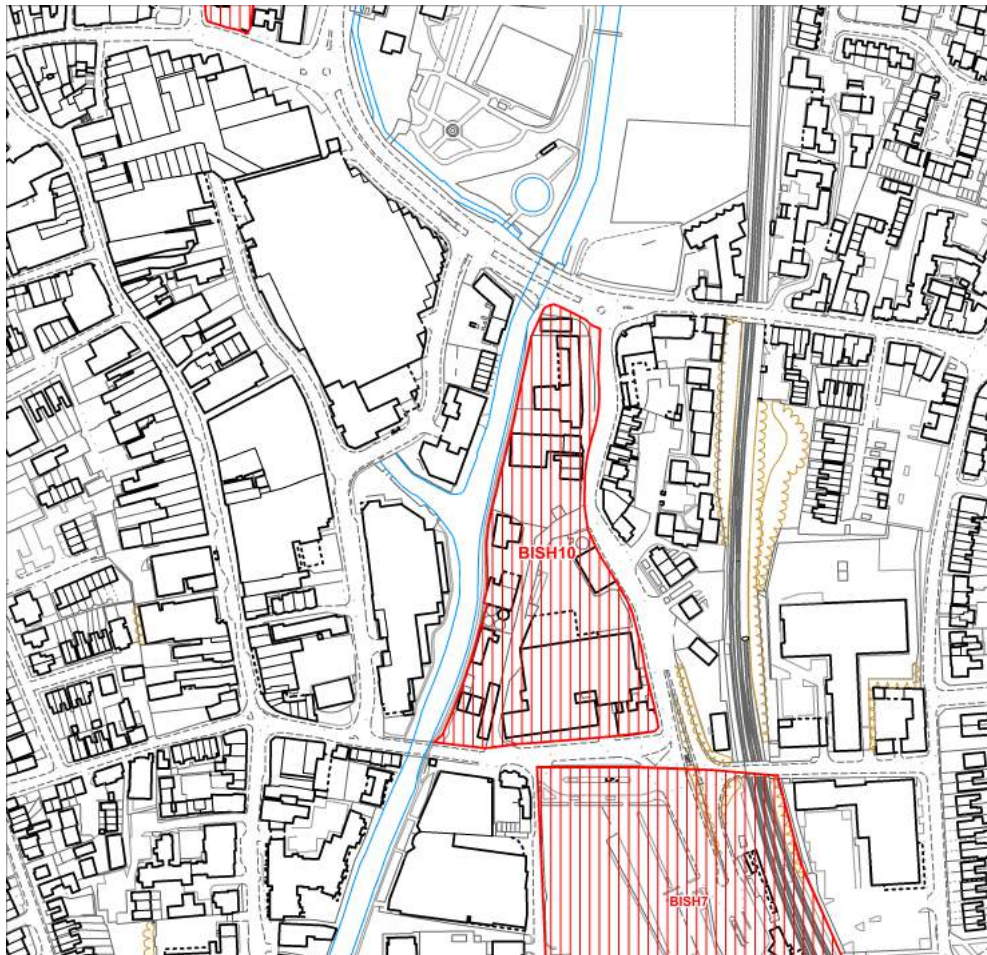
**5.3.20** The Mill Site occupies a strategic location between the railway station and the town centre and fronting the River Stort. While acknowledging that not all properties on the site are associated with or in mill usage, for ease of location, the site is collectively known as the Mill Site. At present there is no indication that the Mill owners are seeking to relocate to an alternative site. Therefore, Policy BISH10 (The Mill Site) covers two eventualities; if the current occupants of the Mill wish to relocate at some point during the plan period; and if the remaining non-mill land within the site comes forward for development. Proposals for development on this and the adjoining landholding should reflect a comprehensive approach to the whole site.

**5.3.21** Depending upon the masterplan and the consideration of uses on the site, it is anticipated that some residential uses could be provided on upper floors. At this stage therefore, it is not considered appropriate to allocate a particular number of homes for the site. However, Policy BISH10 provides a framework for the consideration of the site should the site come forward for development within the Plan period.



**Figure 5.9 Site Location: Land at the Mill Site**

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### **Policy BISH10 The Mill Site**

I. Reflecting the site's town centre location and proximity to the station, should the site come forward within or beyond the Plan period, the Bishop's Stortford Town Centre Planning Framework will be used to inform the masterplanning of this site, ensuring that partial redevelopment of the site does not prejudice the ongoing operation of the site for commercial purposes. Masterplanning of the site should be undertaken in a collaborative manner involving the District Council, Bishop's Stortford Town Council and other key stakeholders.

II. Should the whole site, or any part of the site, come forward for development, the Mill Site shall include:

- (a) access along the river frontage connecting to the town centre via a new footbridge over the River Stort towards which this site will contribute as appropriate;

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(b) a new riverside hub of leisure and commercial uses with active frontages on the ground floor with residential and/or B1 office space on upper floors. Such development will not prejudice the continued operation of the mill and residential uses will only be permissible if the Mill ceases to operate on the site and the employment land designation is subsequently removed;

(c) retention and enhancement of the most significant historic buildings, including improving the setting of the Registration Office and adjacent listed building, reflecting the site's location within the Conservation Area;

(d) high quality, vehicle-free public realm along the river frontage, enabling improved access to the town centre along the waterway. The orientation of buildings will retain an open riverside environment and building heights will avoid a 'canyon' effect;

(e) a direct pedestrian and cycle-friendly route between the station to the south of the site, along Dane Street towards a new bridge over the river, connecting to the town centre;

(f) high quality design which incorporates local material palettes and references the historic mill and industrial riverside heritage, incorporating sustainable design features;

(g) opportunities for mooring;

(h) landscaping and tree planting to reduce urban heat island effects;

(i) the retention of a suitable buffer strip adjacent to Station Road Bridge to enable bridge widening to provide safe and attractive access between the station and the town centre for pedestrians and cyclists;

III. If residential uses are proposed on upper floors, they should provide:

(a) a range of dwelling size, in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing), including some three-bed apartments;

(b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);

(c) necessary utilities, including integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home-working; and upgrades to the localised sewerage network;

(d) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure;

(e) other policy provisions of the District Plan, Bishop's Stortford Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan for Silverleys and Meads Wards and relevant matters, as appropriate.

### 5.4 Employment in Bishop's Stortford

- 5.4.1** Bishop's Stortford is recognised as being well placed to provide new employment land, drawing upon opportunities presented by its proximity to Stansted Airport and its location within the M11 corridor. The employment strategy for Bishop's Stortford is to protect and enhance the existing employment areas, and supplement these with new Employment Areas at Bishop's Stortford North and Bishop's Stortford South, and new employment generating uses at Old River Lane, the Mill Site and at the Goods Yard.
- 5.4.2** In addition, Millside Industrial Estate and Southmill Trading Estate have been formally designated as Employment Areas.
- 5.4.3** The Council will continue to work with Uttlesford District Council to explore the potential expansion of the Employment Area at Goodliffe Park off Stansted Road. Furthermore, the Council will continue to work with Bishop's Stortford Football Club to explore options for the relocation of the football club. In the event that the club is relocated successfully, land at Woodside, Dunmow Road, Bishop's Stortford is considered suitable for employment uses.

#### **Policy BISH11 Employment in Bishop's Stortford**

I. In accordance with Policy ED1 (Employment), the following locations are designated as Employment Areas:

- (a) Raynham Road/Dunmow Road Industrial Estate (incorporating Stortford Hall Industrial Estate, The Links Business Centre, Raynham Road/Myson Way, Raynham Road West, and Raynham Road East between The Links Business Centre and Raynham Close);
- (b) Haslemere Estate;
- (c) Twyford Road;
- (d) Stansted Road (incorporating Goodliffe Park, Stort Valley Industrial Estate, and Birchanger Industrial Estate);
- (e) Woodside;
- (f) Millside Industrial Estate;
- (g) Southmill Trading Estate.

II. New Employment Areas will be identified in the following locations:

- (a) Bishop's Stortford North, as set out in Policy BISH3;
- (b) Bishop's Stortford South, as set out in Policy BISH5.

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III. New employment opportunities will come forward through mixed-use development at the following locations:

- (a) The Goods Yard, as set out in Policy BISH7; and
- (b) Old River Lane, as set out in Policy BISH8.

IV. The Mill Site in Bishop's Stortford will remain as a designated Employment Area until such time that the land is presented as being available for redevelopment. The site will then be subject to the provisions of Policy BISH10 and should be brought forward for redevelopment as part of a comprehensive masterplan.

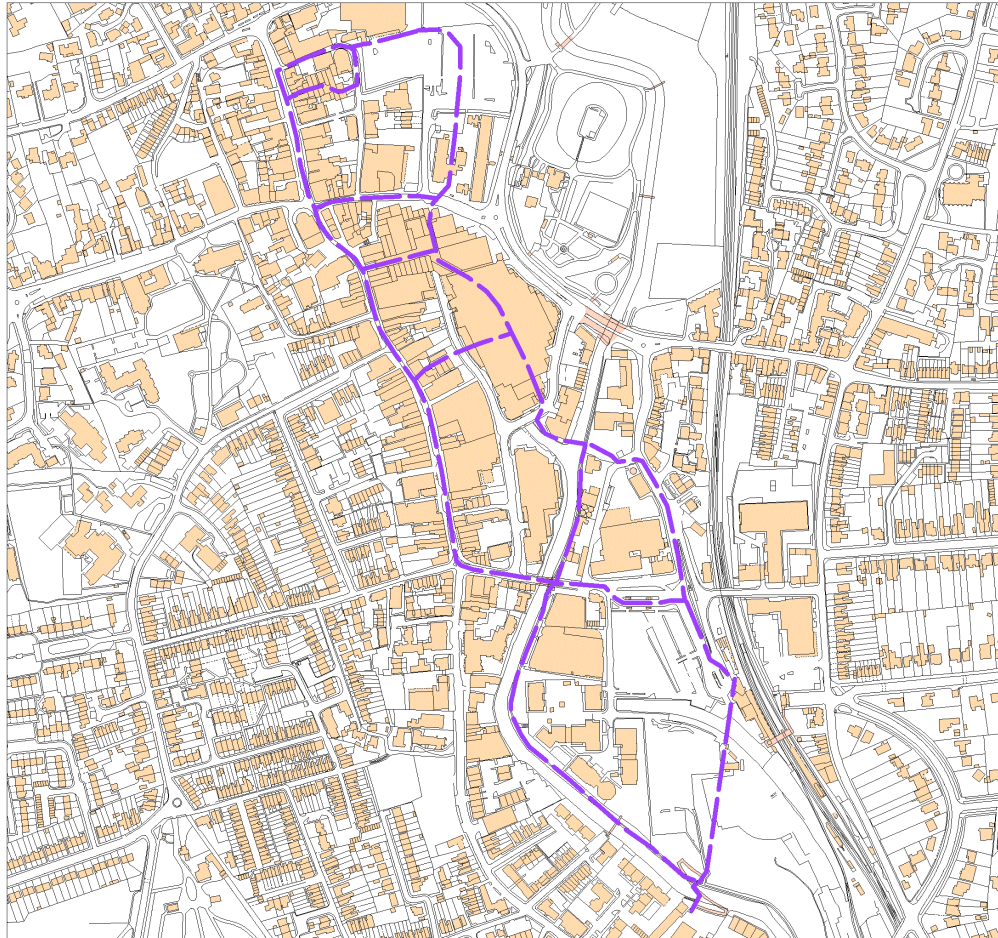
### 5.5 Retail, Leisure and Recreation in Bishop's Stortford

- 5.5.1** A key part of the Framework is the creation and extension of pedestrian and cycle links between the town's various retail, leisure and cultural facilities, in particular, connecting the river, station and town centre. Figure 5.10 illustrates a pedestrian circuit connecting the town centre, through the Mill Site and towards the station and beyond towards the Rhodes Centre.



**Figure 5.10 Pedestrian Circuit**

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- 5.5.2** Environmental enhancements will be sought to improve the attractiveness of the town centre as a retail and leisure destination. These could include a range of public realm enhancements including paving, signage and street furniture and an active river frontage. Supporting the town centre, local shopping needs will be addressed through the designation of new Neighbourhood Centres.
- 5.5.3** Development in Bishop's Stortford and the surrounding area will result in an increased demand for local services and community facilities including, for instance, healthcare and education. Development proposals should contribute to the enhancement of existing provision to ensure that both new and existing residents in the town are able to access community facilities and vital services within Bishop's Stortford, thereby reducing the need to travel to other settlements. Reflecting this, development proposals will be considered in accordance with Policies CFLR7 (Community Facilities), CFLR8 (Loss of Community Facilities) CFLR9 (Health and Wellbeing) and CFLR10 (Education).

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- 5.5.4** Improvements to local and strategic highway infrastructure and the creation of new public transport routes, cycleways and walking routes will increase connectivity through the town to the countryside beyond. While developments will protect and create new green infrastructure assets such as open spaces planting and sustainable drainage features.
- 5.5.5** For formal sport provision, new opportunities for indoor and outdoor sports will be created through the Council's Leisure Strategy and through Community Use Agreements with secondary schools. Development proposals will be considered in accordance with Policies CFLR1 (Open Space, Sport and Recreation) and in relation to the Council's most up-to-date evidence. The Council will also continue to work with Uttlesford District Council, together with other partners to identify opportunities to deliver new sports facilities for the town.
- 5.5.6** Bishop's Stortford's Green Wedges ('green fingers'), which penetrate the town, are a recognised local amenity, wildlife and leisure asset and have been designated as Local Green Spaces under Policy CFLR2 (Local Green Space). This designation provides protection for these valuable resources and ensures that development will not be allowed in such locations, other than in very special circumstances.

### Policy BISH12 Retail, Leisure and Recreation in Bishop's Stortford

I. New retail and leisure facilities will be focused within the town centre and within the following locations:

- (a) the Goods Yard, in accordance with Policy BISH7;
- (b) the Old River Lane site, in accordance with Policy BISH8; and
- (c) the Mill Site, in accordance with BISH10;

II. Development proposals in Bishop's Stortford should seek to enhance the public realm and create connections between existing and new retail and leisure facilities, including the Rhodes Centre.

III. Opportunities to link into and extend the pedestrian circuit will be supported in principle and proposals that jeopardise such connections will be resisted.

IV. To provide for day-to-day convenience retail and service needs, new Neighbourhood Centres will be designated in the following locations:

- (a) Bishop's Stortford North, west of Hoggate's Wood, in accordance with Policy BISH3 (I);
- (b) Bishop's Stortford North, between Hoggate's Wood and Farnham Road, in accordance with Policy BISH3 (II).
- (c) Bishop's Stortford South, in accordance with Policy BISH5;

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V. Opportunities to provide new indoor and outdoor sports facilities will be supported in principle in accordance with Policy CFLR1

VI. The Green Wedges in Bishop's Stortford are designated as Local Green Spaces, within which Policy CFLR2 (Local Green Space) applies.

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East Herts Council | East Herts District Plan (September 2018)

# Chapter 5 . Bishop's Stortford



## Chapter 6 Buntingford

### Chapter 6 Buntingford

#### 6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1** Buntingford is a small town located at the centre of a large rural area in the northern half of the District. The town has developed in a valley setting astride the River Rib and the Roman Road Ermine Street and is surrounded by open countryside.
- 6.1.2** Being surrounded by an extensive rural hinterland enables Buntingford to function as an important rural service centre for the outlying villages in the north of the District. Despite its small size, the town has an extensive range of services and facilities that serve the day-to-day needs of residents, and a vibrant local community demonstrated by the numerous clubs and societies that are active in the town.
- 6.1.3** The historic core of the town, centred on the High Street, is an attractive location which supports local independent traders and a weekly market. The town is served by two small supermarkets but residents have to travel to larger nearby towns for comparison shopping trips. Buntingford is therefore regarded as a Minor Town Centre.
- 6.1.4** The medieval town centre lies within a Conservation Area, with the evolution of the town's urban form being influenced by its historical role as an important coaching stop on the route from London to York. The town has numerous buildings which are listed for their historical significance providing a visual record of the history of the town.
- 6.1.5** Buntingford is the only town in East Herts that is not served by a railway, and bus service connections to other settlements are limited, resulting in a reliance on the private car as a means of transport to access larger nearby settlements for employment and leisure purposes. However, this relative remoteness has enabled the town to retain its Market Town character.
- 6.1.6** As there has been some loss of employment in the town in recent years, it is important that the town should seek to maintain and improve on its current employment provision, in order to provide local jobs for both existing and new residents of the town. Enhancements to the town's broadband infrastructure will support existing businesses in the town and help attract new businesses to locate in Buntingford.
- 6.1.7** As Buntingford is the only town in the District not constrained by Green Belt, it has been subject to a number of speculative planning applications in advance of the adoption of the District Plan. The development of approximately 1,100 dwellings has been approved across a number of sites in the town since 2011 and therefore, the development strategy for Buntingford is focused on seeking to ensure that the impacts of development can be mitigated and managed within the overall infrastructure of the town.
- 6.1.8** The main components of the development strategy for Buntingford are as follows:

- 6.1.9 Housing:** additional homes will be provided which will consist of a mix of dwelling types and sizes, including bungalows and specialist retirement accommodation, to ensure that Buntingford's population is able to access a balanced housing market catering for all life stages. The provision of affordable housing as part of new residential and mixed use development schemes will allow emerging households to be able to remain living in Buntingford in accommodation suited to their needs.
- 6.1.10 Education:** the town and surrounding villages are served by a three tier education system. Education provision at the upper level will be enhanced via the expansion of Freman College and the provision of new playing fields, which have been secured as part of the new development being constructed to the north of the town. At the middle tier, Edwinstree Middle School will be expanded to provide additional school places to meet the educational needs of the town and the surrounding villages at this level.
- 6.1.11** The educational needs of the town at the lowest tier, First Schools, will be met through the expansion of Millfield First and Nursery School to 2 forms of entry and through the provision of a new 2 form of entry First School in the town. Land to the east of London Road has been allocated for this purpose. In addition, expansion of Layston C of E School may also be required.
- 6.1.12 Transport:** as part of development proposals for the town, bus services will be enhanced to support travel around the town and to provide links to neighbouring towns. Financial contributions towards the implementation of a Community Transport project have been secured from some of the approved development schemes in the town which will, once established, provide a valuable service to the residents of the town and neighbouring villages. New developments will encourage the use of sustainable travel modes through the enhancement of walking and cycling links around the town. The impact of development on the local road network will be mitigated through upgrades to existing junctions, including widening of the exit links at the A10/London Road roundabout.
- 6.1.13 Other Infrastructure:** improvements to wastewater networks may be required to support existing and new developments whilst the broadband infrastructure of the town is due to be upgraded in 2017/18.
- 6.1.14 Employment and Retail:** the large rural hinterland surrounding the town makes Buntingford an ideal base for small businesses that have links to the town itself rather than those that rely on a proximity to major road networks. Existing employment sites in Buntingford will be retained and, where appropriate, extended and modernised. 2 hectares of employment land has been retained through the redevelopment of the former Sainsbury's Depot site, and an additional 3 hectares of employment land has been allocated as an extension to the Buntingford Business Park.
- 6.1.15** The town centre of Buntingford will retain its role as a minor town centre with a secondary shopping frontage which will continue to function as an important service centre for its large rural hinterland, whilst retaining its market town characteristics.



## Chapter 6 . Buntingford

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Economic and housing development will increase available expenditure to help support a good range of services including jobs, shopping, leisure and education, to meet the needs of residents of the town and surrounding villages.

**6.1.16 Leisure and Community Facilities:** Buntingford's leisure facilities will be supplemented by the provision of new playing pitches and a large area of public open space as part of development to the north of the town. Public access to the countryside that surrounds the town will be maintained and enhanced. New burial space will be provided in the town.

**6.1.17 Character:** Buntingford will preserve its market town character and the quality of the town's historic core will be respected in new development proposals. Development to the north and south of the town will enhance primary routes into the town, providing a visual transition between rural and urban, and development to the east will be appropriately landscaped, respecting the valley landscape of the town. To the south-west, the open character of the countryside between Aspenden and Buntingford will be preserved, thereby avoiding coalescence between the two communities.

### 6.2 Neighbourhood Plan

**6.2.1** The Buntingford Community Area Neighbourhood Plan was 'made' in May 2017. The Plan covers the market town of Buntingford and the surrounding villages of Aspenden, Buckland and Chipping, Cottered, Hormead and Wyddial. The Plan sets out policies on business and employment, environment and sustainability, housing development, infrastructure, leisure and recreation, and transport.

**6.2.2** The Plan forms part of the development plan and as such any proposals within the Neighbourhood Plan area must also accord with the policies set out in the Neighbourhood Plan.

### 6.3 Development in Buntingford

**6.3.1** The main features of the policy approach to development in Buntingford are shown on Figure 6.1 below:



**Figure 6.1: Key Diagram for Buntingford**



**6.3.2** Whilst no further site allocations for residential development are proposed as part of the District Plan Strategy, in order to reflect the fact that a substantial level of development has been granted planning permission in the town since 2011, these recently permitted sites have been included in Policy BUNT1.

**6.3.3** It is also expected that a proportion of the overall windfall allowance for the District will be accommodated in Buntingford. These sites will be determined on an individual basis, taking into account the policies of the Plan.

## Policy BUNT1 Development in Buntingford

Buntingford will accommodate a minimum of 1,074 homes, which will include:

- (a) around 26 homes on land off Longmead;
- (b) around 160 homes on land north of Hare Street Road;
- (c) around 280 homes on land south of Hare Street Road;
- (d) around 56 homes on land off Aspenden Road;

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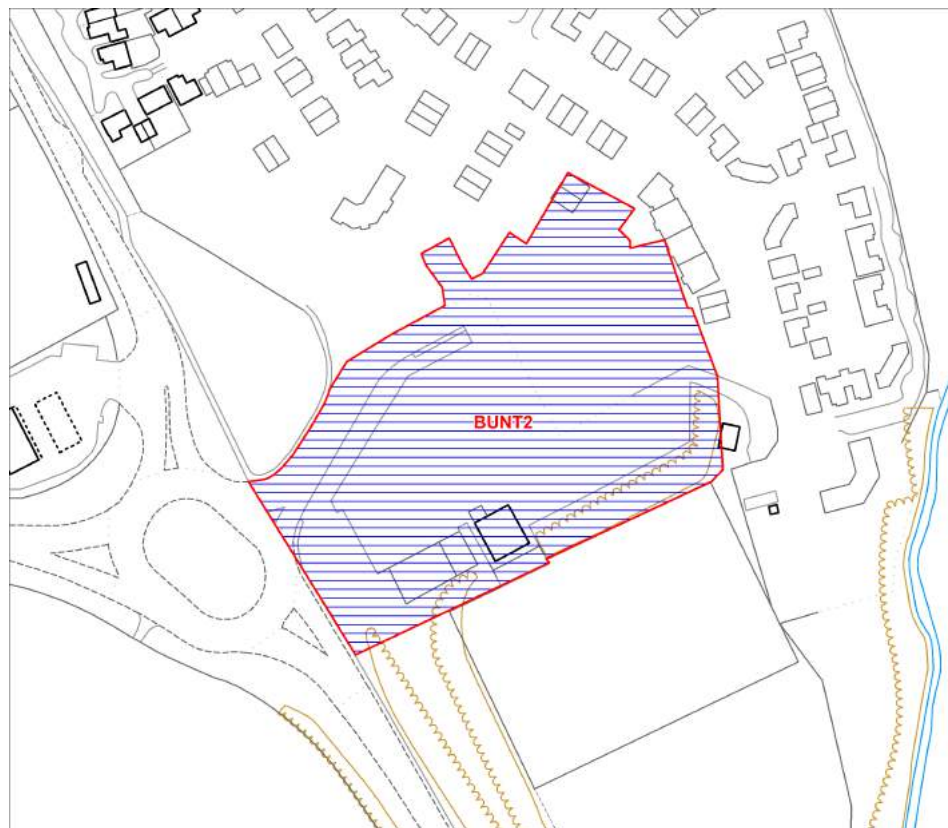
- (e) around 316 homes on land to the east of London Road;
- (f) around 236 homes on land north of Park Farm Industrial Estate; and
- (g) a proportion of the overall windfall allowance for the District.

### First School Site Allocation

- 6.3.4** Hertfordshire County Council, as Local Education Authority, is responsible for the planning of school places in the District, and has identified that a new 2 form of entry (2FE) First School is required in Buntingford.
- 6.3.5** In order to meet this need, land to the east of London Road has been allocated for the provision of a 2FE First School (see Figure 6.2). The site is strategically placed to meet future identified need and will ensure sufficient first school capacity in the town for the future to meet the anticipated demand in the Buntingford area.

**Figure 6.2 Site Location: Land east of London Road**

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### Policy BUNT2 First School Site Allocation

- I. Land to the east of London Road, as shown on the Policies Map, is allocated for the development of a 2 form of entry First School.
- II. Development of the site is expected to be in accordance with Policy CFLR10 Education and address the following provisions and issues:
- (a) suitable access arrangements and appropriate local highways mitigation measures;
  - (b) sustainable transport measures including the encouragement of walking and cycling;
  - (c) the extension of the existing footpath running along the western side of London Road;
  - (d) the retention of a playing pitch on the site for dual community use;
  - (e) quality local green infrastructure through the site including opportunities for preserving and enhancing on-site assets; and
  - (f) other policy provisions of the District Plan and relevant matters, as appropriate.

### 6.4 Employment in Buntingford

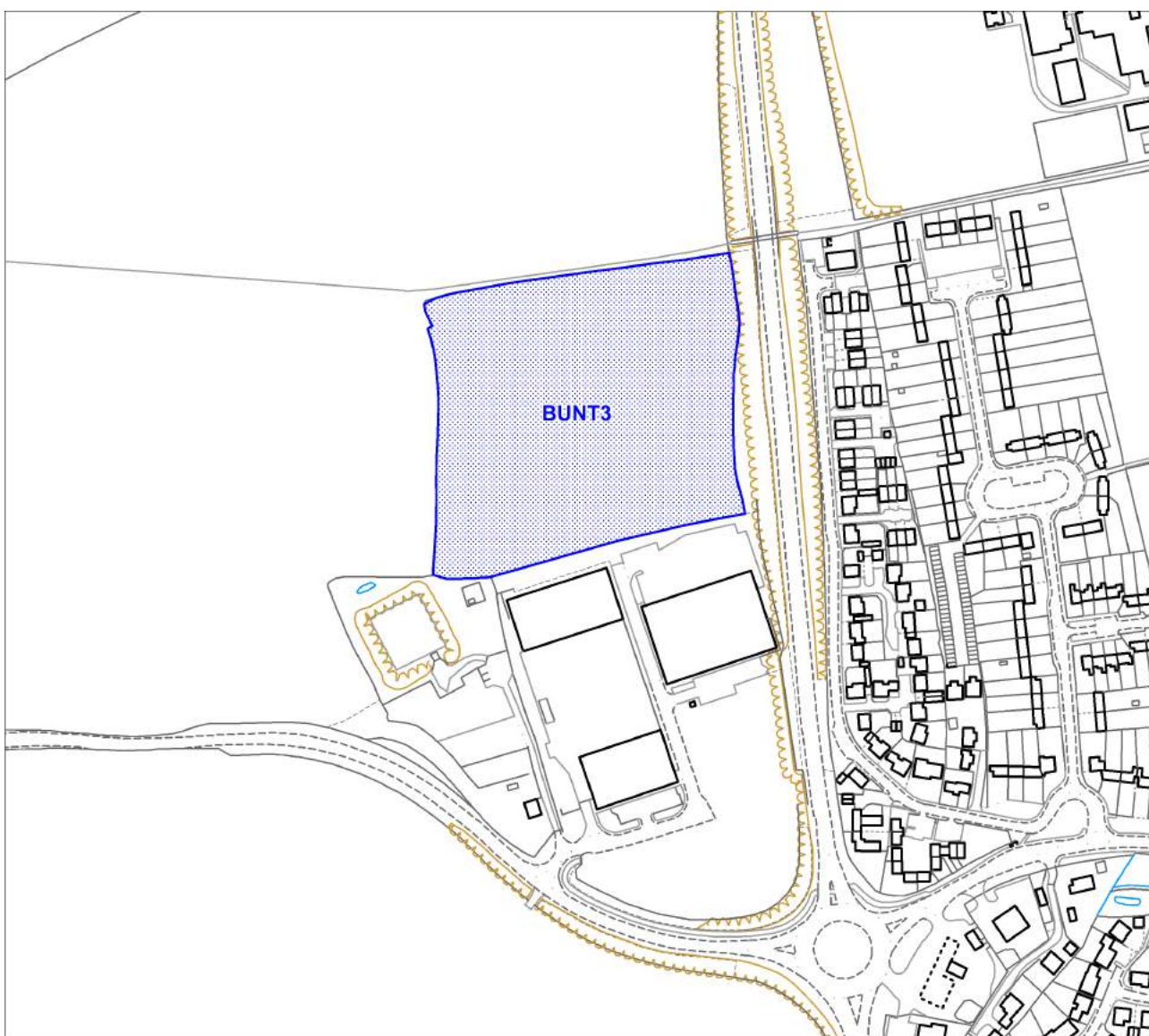
- 6.4.1** The relative isolation of Buntingford makes it an attractive place for new small scale employment allocations in order to provide opportunities for local businesses to serve the town and nearby settlements in the rural area. The town centre will be strengthened by an increase in expenditure generated by the growing population of the town.
- 6.4.2** The employment strategy for the town is to protect and enhance the existing employment areas in the town through the development of increased employment floorspace within the existing designated areas. 3 hectares of additional employment land has also been allocated to the north of Buntingford Business Park (see Figure 6.3).

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**Figure 6.3 Site Location: Land North of Buntingford Business Park**

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**6.4.3** In respect of the Watermill Industrial Estate, the access to the site along Aspenden Road is narrow in width and it is considered that the approval of planning permissions for significant traffic generating developments would exacerbate any current shortcomings in road access to this part of the town. Therefore, development proposals in this location will be limited to B1, B2 and small-scale B8 uses, where they are assessed as not having an adverse impact on the operation of the highway network.

### **Policy BUNT3 Employment in Buntingford**

I. In accordance with Policy ED1 (Employment), the following locations are designated as Employment Areas:

- (a) Park Farm;
- (b) Buntingford Business Park;
- (c) Watermill Industrial Estate (reserved for B1, B2 and small-scale B8 uses);

II. In addition, 3 hectares of land located to the north of Buntingford Business Park has been allocated as an extension to the existing Employment Area.

### 6.5 Retail in Buntingford

- 6.5.1** Buntingford has a small town centre, consisting of small units in a linear High Street, with two small supermarkets. Despite its size, the town centre provides a vital role for the residents of the town and for the rural hinterland. Recognising its size and its relatively limited retail offer, the High Street is designated as a minor town centre with only a secondary frontage. Within this frontage, it is necessary to retain a suitable mix of retail units and appropriate town centre uses in order to ensure the longer term viability and vitality of Buntingford's town centre. As such, retail development in Buntingford will be considered in accordance with Policy RTC1 (Retail Development) and RTC4 (Secondary Shopping Frontages).

### 6.6 Leisure and Community Facilities in Buntingford

- 6.6.1** Whilst Buntingford is located within a rural setting, public access to the countryside resource that surrounds the settlement could be improved. It is also important that improvements are made to existing open spaces for sport and recreation and play spaces for children and that new open spaces are provided to support existing and new communities in the town. The Bury Football Club will be retained on its existing site and improvements will be sought to the existing facilities, as appropriate. The Town Council are progressing plans to seek permission to develop a site on the edge of the town for a new cemetery and the provision of new burial spaces in the town will be supported. All development proposals will be considered in accordance with Policy CFLR1 (Open Space, Sport and Recreation).
- 6.6.2** New development in Buntingford will increase demand for local services and community facilities including healthcare and education. It is important that developments in Buntingford enhance existing and provide new community facilities in order to ensure existing and new communities can access vital services within Buntingford without the need to travel to neighbouring settlements. In this respect, development proposals will be considered in accordance with Policies CFLR7 (Community Facilities), CFLR8 (Loss of Community Facilities), CFLR9 (Health and Wellbeing) and CFLR10 (Education).



# Chapter 6 . Buntingford



## Chapter 7 Hertford

### Chapter 7 Hertford

#### 7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1** The County town of Hertford lies at the confluence of four rivers in a valley setting, which in the past has influenced its shape and form. Hertford's boundaries are characterised by areas of open land which penetrate towards the centre of the town. These 'Green Fingers' are an environmental asset of value to local people and visitors alike. The town also benefits from many cultural and recreational facilities.
- 7.1.2** Hertford's town centre retains much of its medieval core, includes many buildings of historic significance, and has high townscape quality which, combined with its river setting, presents both opportunities and constraints in shaping its future development. The town offers an attractive environment for leisure and business purposes and, with its retail offer characterised both by major multiples and independent outlets, Hertford is classed as a Secondary Town Centre. The Hertford Town Centre Urban Design Strategy, 2016, seeks to build on this and includes proposals to improve the commercial viability and vitality of the central area and to further enhance the quality of the built environment. The redevelopment of the Bircherley Green centre will be a key part of this approach.
- 7.1.3** The town has good transport connections, including a bus station, providing access to both local and long-distance destinations, and two railway stations, offering services into London and wider locales. Despite good road links, traffic congestion in Hertford is acute at peak times, both within the historic core and especially on the A414 Gascoyne Way, which bi-sects the town. It is important to ensure that future development should not exacerbate this situation, and mitigating measures should be identified and delivered, where possible.
- 7.1.4** Good use has been made in the past of brownfield opportunities in the town and, despite this being a shrinking resource, the vacant former gas works site in the Mead Lane area presents a prime redevelopment opportunity and is expected to be brought forward for mixed use development. The Mead Lane Urban Design Framework (December 2014) will guide the approach to development in this location.
- 7.1.5** As there has been some loss of employment in the town in recent years, it is important that the town should seek to maintain and improve on its current provision, to both internalise trips within the Hertford and Ware area to minimise out-commuting, and also to encourage new businesses to locate to the County town.
- 7.1.6** The main components of the development strategy for Hertford are as follows:
- 7.1.7** **Housing:** a mix of dwelling types and sizes will be constructed in appropriate locations to ensure that Hertford's population will be able to access a balanced housing market catering for all life stages. The provision of affordable housing as part of any new residential or mixed use development schemes will allow emerging households to be able to remain living in Hertford in accommodation suited to their needs.



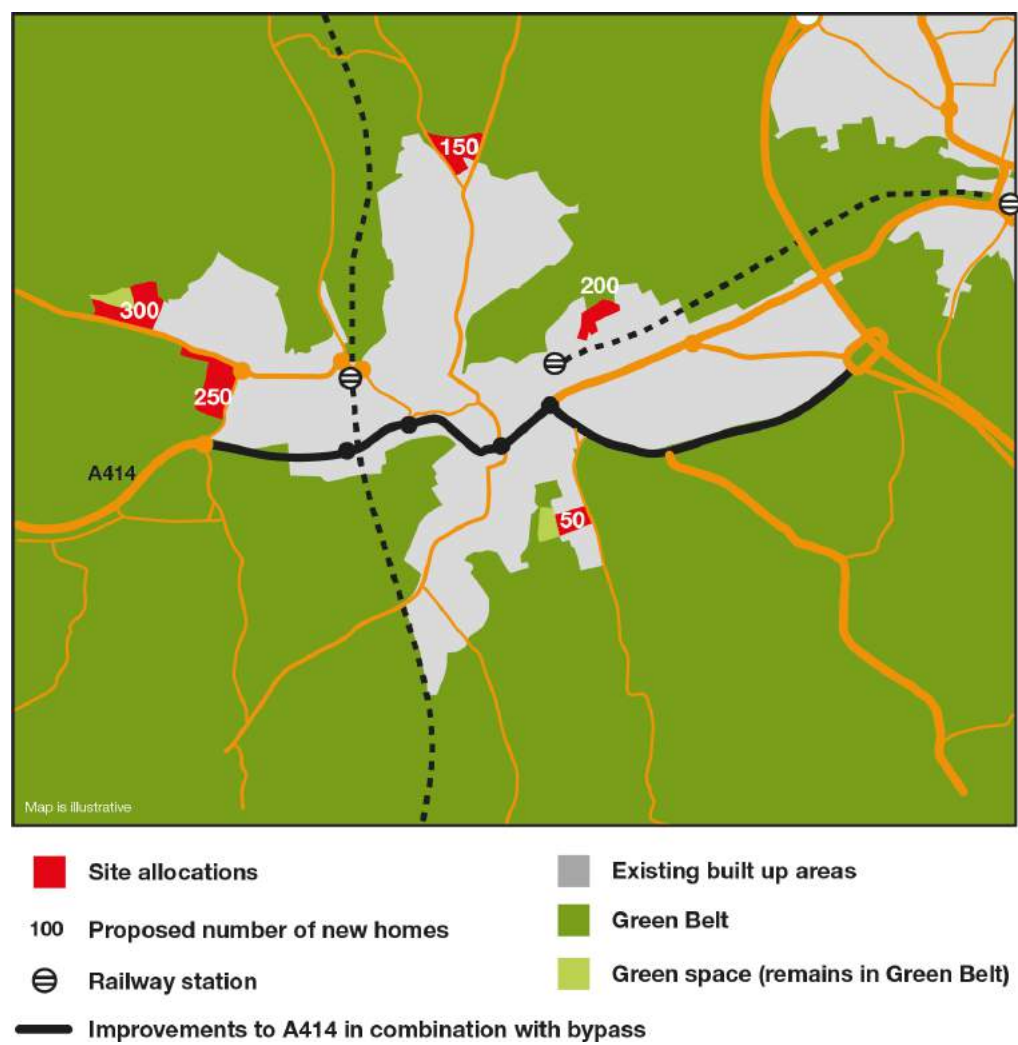
- 7.1.8 Design:** collaboratively prepared Masterplans for development in Hertford (at sites HERT2, HERT3, HERT4 and HERT5) will form an important part of the delivery of the site allocations. These Masterplans will provide a strong framework for the development, which will also embody the use of design codes. This will ensure the highest quality design and layout of each area and provide a comprehensive approach to the whole development, whilst reflecting different character areas across the sites. The Masterplans will accord with the provisions of Policy DES1 (Masterplanning).
- 7.1.9 Education:** since the provision of an all-through school facility at Simon Balle in 2015 addressed a previous shortfall of spaces in Hertford, any future additional primary level educational needs of the town will be achieved via the expansion of existing facilities. Secondary educational provision in the Hertford and Ware Schools Planning Area will be enhanced via the provision of a new secondary school as part of development to the North and East of Ware, and, where appropriate, by the expansion of one or more of the existing schools in the Schools Planning Area .
- 7.1.10 Transport:** the provision of enhanced bus services to support travel to and from new urban extensions to the town will provide links with the two existing railway stations and the central bus station. New development will support improved sustainable travel and will aid delivery of initiatives contained in Hertfordshire's Local Transport Plan 4 and daughter documents, particularly those schemes detailed in the Hertford and Ware Urban Transport Plan (or in subsequent HCC transport policy documents). Mitigating measures will help ameliorate congestion, particularly on the A414, where a bypass of the town and reassignment of one existing carriageway lane in each direction would enable prioritisation of sustainable transport modes and the ability for Hertford to become a Sustainable Travel Town.
- 7.1.11 Other Infrastructure:** improved utility infrastructure, such as to wastewater networks, will support existing and new developments.
- 7.1.12 Employment and Retail:** the Mead Lane Employment Area will be revitalised via the redevelopment of vacant areas to provide 3,000m<sup>2</sup> of B1 employment floorspace, as part of a mixed use development (see also the Mead Lane Urban Design Framework, December 2014). Other existing Employment Areas in the town will be maintained and, where appropriate, modernised. Where possible, the current employment offer should be supplemented by the creation of additional jobs in suitable locations. The retail function of the town will be maintained and supplemented within the central core, in line with the provisions of the Hertford Town Centre Urban Design Strategy, 2016.
- 7.1.13 Character:** Hertford will preserve its market town character and the quality of the town's historic core will be respected in new development proposals. Where development occurs in the town, this should ensure that the sense of place is created which allows for successful integration with existing features of character in the area. Where development involves river frontages, this will enable the provision of an enhanced setting and improvement of public access, as appropriate. The town's green infrastructure, particularly Hertford's Green Fingers which provide unique

character to the settlement, will be maintained and enhanced, as appropriate. Development will be expected to support the Panshanger Country Park, to enable protection of, and increased public access to, this valuable resource.

7.2 Development in Hertford

7.2.1 The main features of the policy approach to development in Hertford are shown on Figure 7.1 below:

Figure 7.1: Key Diagram for Hertford



7.2.2 Reflecting the District Plan Strategy, the following policies will apply to applications for new development in Hertford:

Policy HERT1 Development in Hertford

I. Hertford will accommodate a minimum of 950 new homes, which will include:

- (a) around 200 homes as part of mixed use development in the Mead Lane area, as set out in Policy HERT2 (Mead Lane Area);
- (b) around 550 homes to the west of the town, as set out in Policy HERT3 (West of Hertford);
- (c) around 150 homes to the west of B158 Wadesmill Road, as set out in Policy HERT4 (North of Hertford);
- (d) around 50 homes to the west of Mangrove Road, as set out in Policy HERT5 (South of Hertford); and
- (e) a proportion of the overall windfall allowance for the District.

II. Retail floorspace will be delivered primarily within the town centre.

III. 3,000m<sup>2</sup> of B1 employment floorspace or other employment generating uses that would be compatible with the uses on neighbouring land, will be delivered in the Mead Lane Area (HERT2).

### Development Sites in Hertford's Urban Area

- 7.2.3** It is expected that a proportion of the overall windfall allowance for the District will be accommodated in Hertford. These sites will be determined on an individual basis, taking into account the policies of the Plan.
- 7.2.4** For the allocated sites, the following policies will apply in addition to general policies in the Plan:

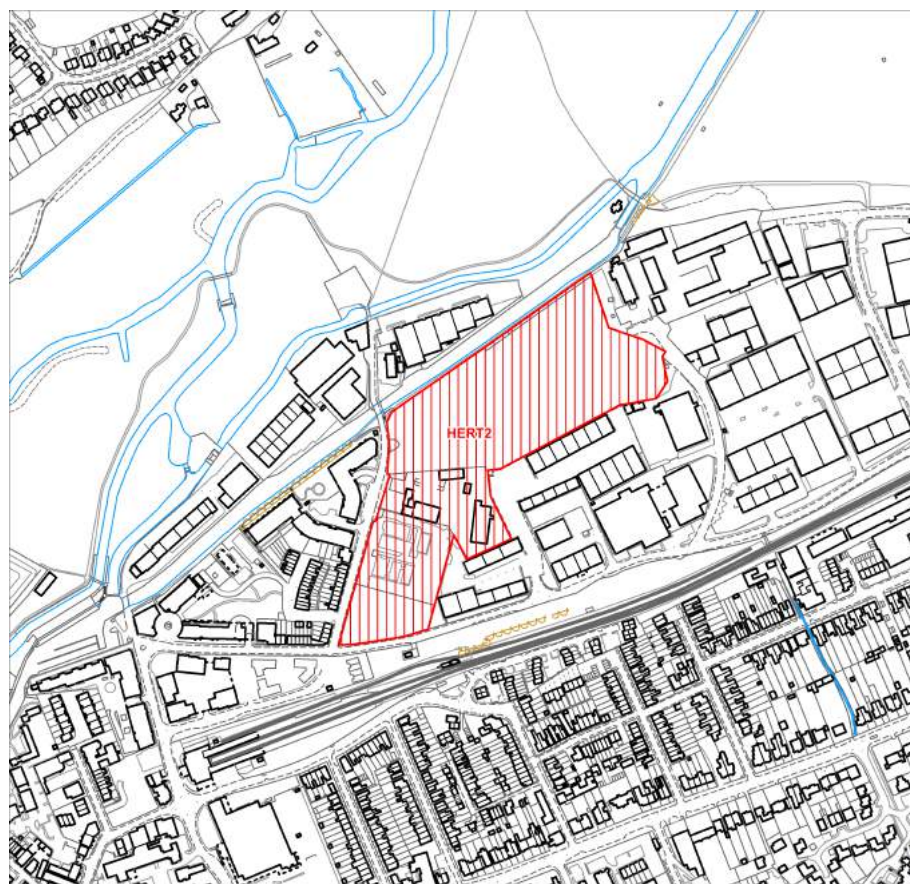
#### Mead Lane Area

- 7.2.5** In order to meet the District's short term housing requirement and to provide for the housing needs of Hertford, development of around 200 dwellings in the Mead Lane area is proposed as part of mixed-use development.
- 7.2.6** The Mead Lane area offers a unique opportunity to regenerate underused employment land through high quality, mixed-use, development which will revitalise this area and provide an enhanced river frontage. The Mead Lane Urban Design Framework, December 2014, sets parameters in terms of acceptable uses, necessary infrastructure, design, and other requirements, to support the redevelopment and revitalisation of the area. Any development in the Mead Lane area will therefore be subject to its provisions.

The Mead Lane Urban Design Framework is available to view at: [www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase)

**Figure 7.2 Site Location: The Mead Lane Area**

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### **Policy HERT2 Mead Lane Area**

I. Land in the Mead Lane Area, to the east of Marshgate Drive, is allocated to provide around 200 homes by 2027, as part of mixed-use development.

II. A Masterplan will be collaboratively prepared, involving site promoters, landowners, East Herts Council, Hertfordshire County Council, Hertford Town Council, and other key stakeholders. This document will further be informed by public participation in the process.

III. Subject to, and in accordance with, the provisions of the Mead Lane Urban Design Framework, December 2014, the development is expected to address the following provisions and issues:

- (a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing);
- (b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);



(c) delivery of 3,000m<sup>2</sup> B1 employment floorspace, or other employment generating uses that would be compatible with the uses on neighbouring land, which will provide appropriate opportunities to promote self-containment and sustainability and to assist in providing a buffer between existing employment uses and new residential provision;

(d) provision of appropriate mitigation measures on boundaries shared with existing employment uses within the overall Employment Area that should both ensure a good quality living environment for new residents and prevent existing or potential uses within the Employment Area being jeopardised;

(e) quality local green infrastructure throughout the site including maximising opportunities for linking into and improving existing assets and enhancing biodiversity, especially along the river corridor;

(f) necessary new utilities, including, inter alia: integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home working;

(g) sustainable drainage and provision for flood mitigation;

(h) access arrangements and appropriate local (with contributions towards wider, strategic,) highways mitigation measures, which, inter alia, should include: a segregated emergency access at Mill Road between Railway Street and Claud Hamilton Way; improvements to the Rowley's Road/Mead Lane level crossing for pedestrians and cyclists; and a link between Marshgate Drive and the existing spur road to the east of the site to facilitate pedestrian and cycle access, and which should also complete the circulatory route to allow for the extension of bus routes into the area. In the event that land ownership issues preclude this arrangement, provision should be made within the site for suitable access and turning arrangements to facilitate bus penetration to the north east part of the site;

(i) the widening of Marshgate Drive to allow for improved vehicular and pedestrian access and car parking/car share scheme to be delivered within a Green Streets approach;

(j) encouragement of sustainable transport measures, both through improvements to the existing walking and cycling networks in the locality and through new provision, which should include, inter alia, a 3m pedestrian/cycleway to the south side of Mead Lane in addition to improvements to the towpath and links with the adjoining area and the town centre (in particular addressing links to Hartham Common and Kings Meads) and enhanced passenger transport services;

(k) remediation of land contamination resulting from former uses;

(l) public open space/s within the site, including the provision of a play area and opportunities for public art interventions and space for wildlife;

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(m) landscaping and planting, both within the site and peripheral, which responds to the existing landscape and complements development, as appropriate;

(n) development will protect or, where appropriate, enhance heritage assets and their settings, including the Grade II listed Hertford East Station and Signal Box, through appropriate mitigation measures;

(o) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure;

(p) other policy provisions of the District Plan and relevant matters, as appropriate.

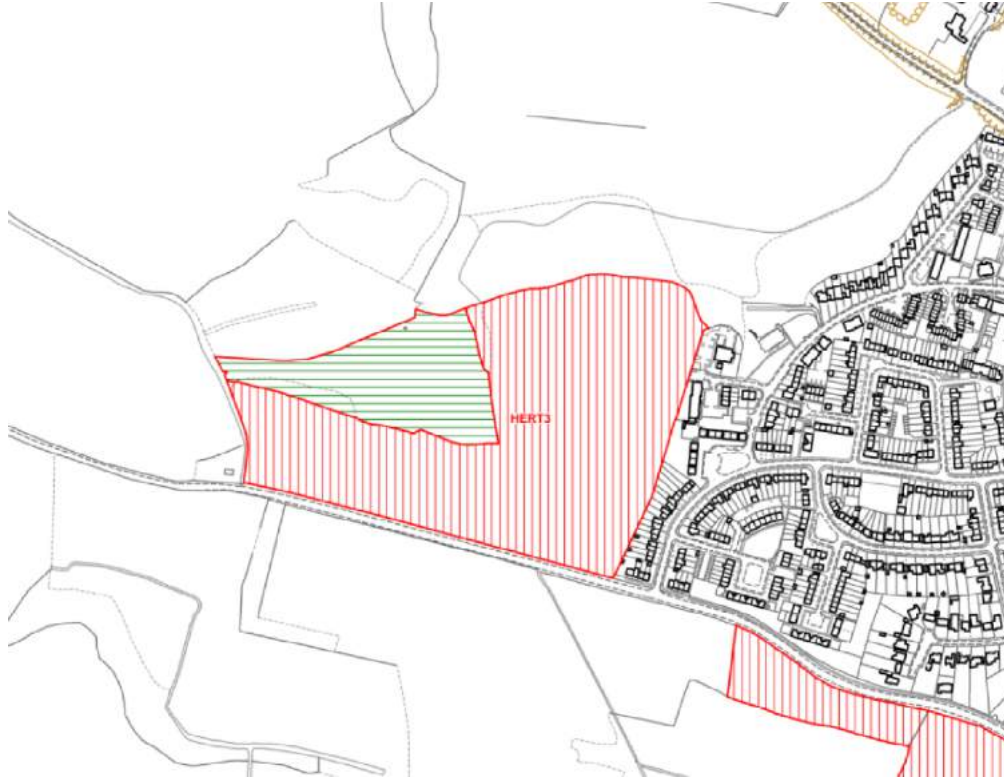
### West of Hertford

**7.2.7** In order to meet the District's short term housing requirement and to provide for the housing needs of the town, development of around 550 homes is proposed on land to the west of Hertford.

**7.2.8** Development of the area will need to ensure the enhancement of sustainable transport provision; the continued protection of Archer's Spring, Ancient and other woodland, wildlife, and other natural assets; and also respect and contribute to the Panshanger Country Park. The phasing of development will also need to ensure that any underlying mineral deposits within the site can be satisfactorily extracted as part of development.

**Figure 7.3 Site Location: Land West of Hertford (North of Welwyn Road)**

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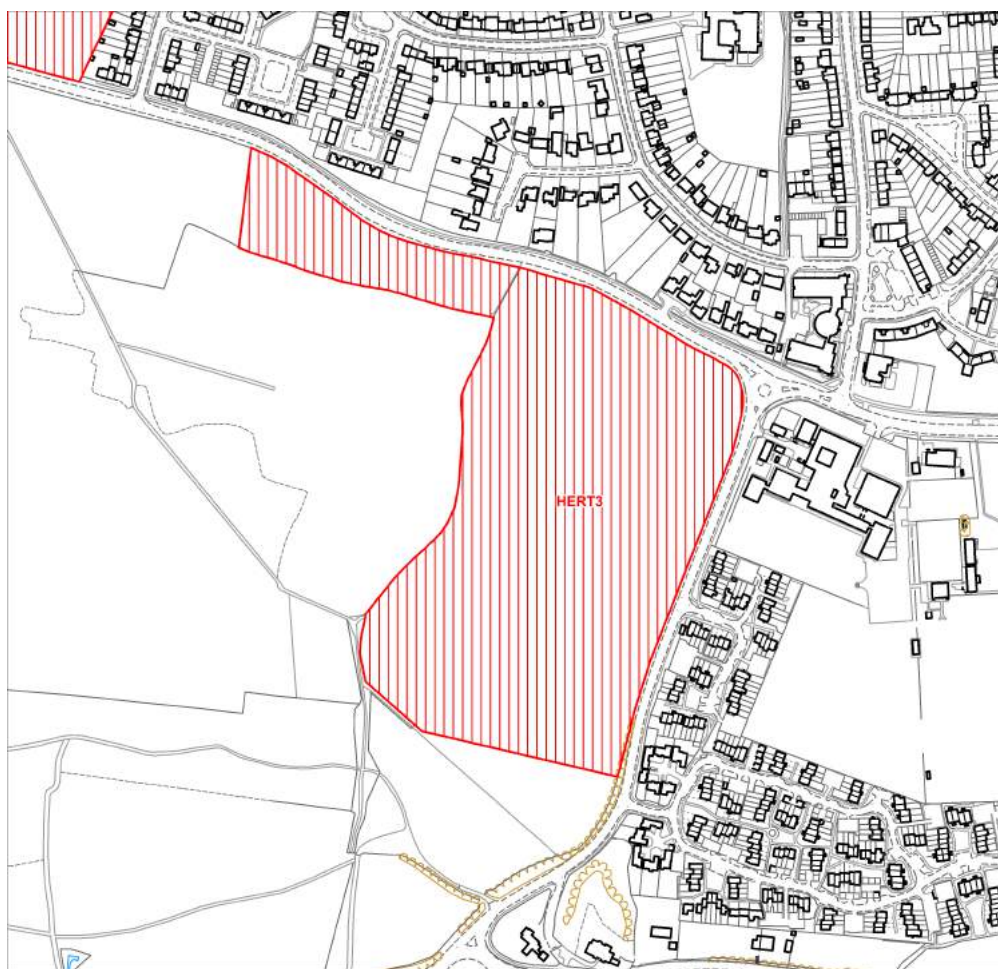


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**Figure 7.4 Site Location: Land West of Hertford (South of Welwyn Road/West of Thieves Lane)**

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### **Policy HERT3 West of Hertford**

I. Land to the west of Hertford is allocated as a residential site, to accommodate a minimum of 550 homes by 2022, with around 300 homes being provided to the north of Welwyn Road and around 250 homes south of Welwyn Road/west of Thieves Lane.

II. A Masterplan will be collaboratively prepared, involving site promoters, landowners, East Herts Council, Hertfordshire County Council, Hertford Town Council, and other key stakeholders. This document will further be informed by public participation in the process.

III. The development of around 300 dwellings to the north of Welwyn Road is expected to address the following provisions and issues:

- (a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing);



- (b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);
- (c) Self-Build and Custom Build Housing in accordance with Policy HOU8 (Self-Build and Custom Build Housing);
- (d) demonstration of the extent of the mineral that may be present and the likelihood of prior extraction in an environmentally acceptable way has been fully considered. As a minimum, an assessment of the depth and quality of mineral, together with an appraisal of the consequential viability for prior extraction without prejudicing the delivery of housing within the plan period should be provided;
- (e) necessary new utilities, including, inter alia: integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home working, and necessary upgrades to the sewerage system;
- (f) sustainable drainage and provision for flood mitigation;
- (g) access arrangements and appropriate local (with contributions towards wider, strategic) highways mitigation measures;
- (h) encouragement of sustainable transport measures, both through improvements to the existing walking, cycling and bridleway networks in the locality and through new provision, which should also provide links with the adjoining area and the town centre (which should include, inter alia, the improvement of pedestrian and cycle access to Perrett Gardens and links from the Sele Farm estate to public footpaths and bridleways in the locality); shared use cycle/pedestrian way alongside Welwyn Road; enhanced passenger transport services (including, inter alia, improved service provision and the provision of new bus stops and shelters on B1000 Welwyn Road);
- (i) protection of public rights of way and other public access routes running through or on the boundaries of the site;
- (j) landscaping and planting, both within the site and peripheral, which responds to the existing landscape and complements development, as appropriate, including the provision of a suitable buffer between the development and existing woodland areas and a defined, recognisable boundary to the Green Belt;
- (k) public open spaces across the site, including the provision of play areas and opportunities for outdoor health and fitness activities, as well as space for wildlife;
- (l) quality local green infrastructure through the site including opportunities for preserving and enhancing on-site assets, maximising opportunities to link into existing assets and enhance biodiversity including the protection of Local Wildlife Site 59/077; Archers Spring; and other woodland and wildlife interests in the area, including a suitable buffer between woodland and development;

(m) taking into account the contents of the 'Panshanger Park and its environs Heritage Impact Assessment, July 2016' and including measures to ensure that any impact on views affecting the Panshanger Country Park and Goldings are successfully mitigated;

(n) contributions towards the Panshanger Country Park;

(o) social infrastructure including contributions towards education, health services and other community facilities;

(p) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure; and

(q) other policy provisions of the District Plan and relevant matters, as appropriate.

IV. The development of around 250 homes to the south of Welwyn Road/west of Thieves Lane is expected to address the following provisions and issues:

(a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing);

(b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);

(c) Self-Build and Custom Build Housing in accordance with Policy HOU8 (Self-Build and Custom Build Housing);

(d) demonstration of the extent of the mineral that may be present and the likelihood of prior extraction in an environmentally acceptable way has been fully considered. As a minimum, an assessment of the depth and quality of mineral, together with an appraisal of the consequential viability for prior extraction without prejudicing the delivery of housing within the plan period should be provided;

(e) necessary new utilities infrastructure including, inter alia: integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home working, and necessary upgrades to the sewerage system;

(f) sustainable drainage and provision for flood mitigation;

(g) access arrangements and appropriate local (with contributions towards wider, strategic) highways mitigation measures;

(h) encouragement of sustainable transport measures, both through improvements to the existing walking, cycling and bridleway networks in the locality and through new provision, which should also provide links with the adjoining area and the town centre; shared use cycle/pedestrian way alongside Welwyn Road; enhanced passenger transport services (including, inter alia, improved service provision and the provision of new bus stops and shelters on B1000 Welwyn Road);

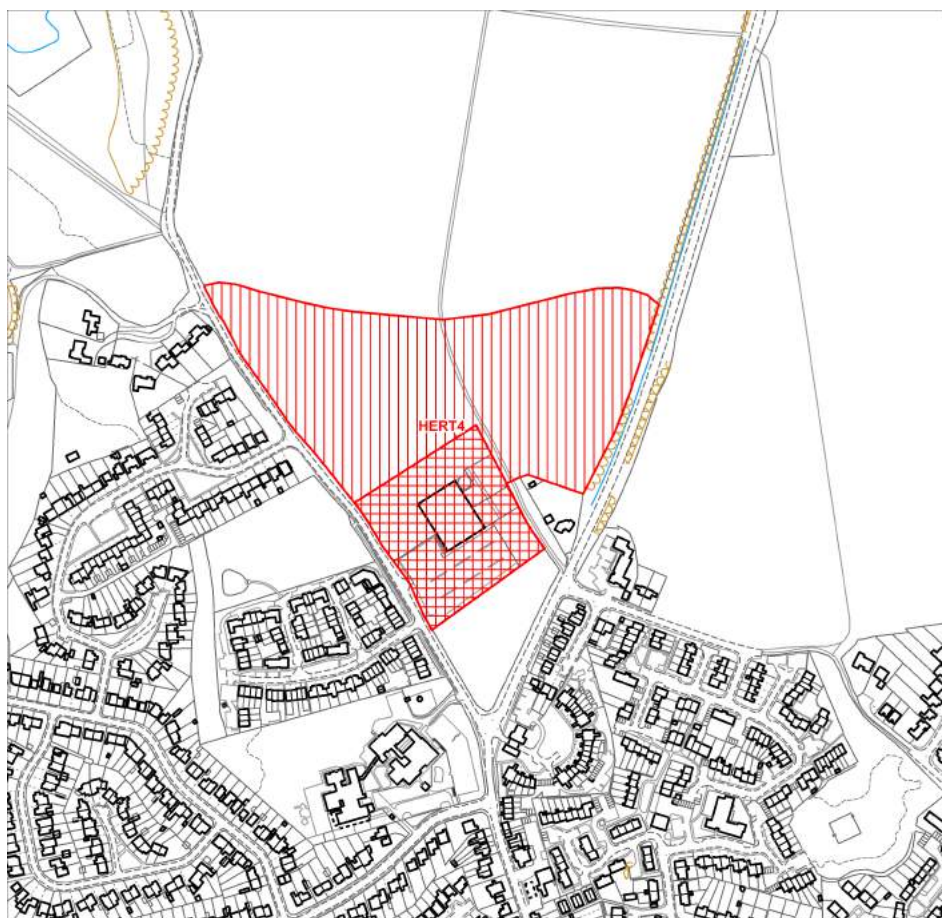
- (i) protection of all public rights of way and other public access routes running through or on the boundaries of the site;
- (j) landscaping and planting, both within the site and peripheral, which responds to the existing landscape and complements development, as appropriate, including, inter alia, the provision of a suitable buffer between the development and the existing woodland and a defined, recognisable boundary to the Green Belt;
- (k) taking into account the contents of the 'Panshanger Park and its environs Heritage Impact Assessment, July 2016' and including measures to ensure that development respects the relationship with this sensitive location. Such measures should include, inter alia, the creation of gateway landscaping to the south of the site, which protects key views into and from within the Panshanger Country Park and ensures that the development is successfully mitigated;
- (l) contributions towards the Panshanger Country Park;
- (m) public open spaces across the site, including the provision of play areas and opportunities for outdoor health and fitness activities, as well as space for wildlife;
- (n) quality local green infrastructure through the site including opportunities for preserving and enhancing on-site assets, maximising opportunities to link into existing assets and enhance biodiversity including the protection of Local Wildlife Site 58/025; Ancient and other woodland and wildlife interests in the area, including a suitable buffer between woodland and development;
- (o) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure; and
- (p) other policy provisions of the District Plan and relevant matters, as appropriate.

### North of Hertford

- 7.2.9** In order to meet the District's short and medium term housing requirement and to provide for the housing needs of the town, a development of around 150 new homes is proposed to the North of Hertford.

**Figure 7.5 Site Location: Land North of Hertford**

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### **Policy HERT4 North of Hertford**

I. Land to the north of Hertford is allocated as a residential development site to accommodate a minimum of 150 homes, with around 50 dwellings being provided to the north of Sacombe Road by 2022; and, subject to the satisfactory previous phased extraction of mineral deposits on the neighbouring site, around 100 homes to the west of B158 Wadesmill Road between 2022 and 2027.

II. A Masterplan will be collaboratively prepared, involving site promoters, landowners, East Herts Council, Hertfordshire County Council, Hertford Town Council, and other key stakeholders. This document will further be informed by public participation in the process.

III. The development is expected to address the following provisions and issues:

- (a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing);
- (b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);

- (c) demonstration of the extent of the mineral that may be present and the likelihood of prior extraction in an environmentally acceptable way has been fully considered. As a minimum, an assessment of the depth and quality of mineral, together with an appraisal of the consequential viability for prior extraction without prejudicing the delivery of housing within the plan period should be provided;
- (d) necessary new utilities, including, inter alia: integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home working;
- (e) necessary upgrades to the sewerage system;
- (f) sustainable drainage and provision for flood mitigation;
- (g) access arrangements and appropriate local (with contributions towards wider, strategic) highways mitigation measures;
- (h) encouragement of sustainable transport measures, both through improvements to the existing walking, cycling and bridleway networks in the locality and through new provision, which should also provide links with the adjoining area and the town centre and enhanced passenger transport services;
- (i) protection of all public rights of way (including, inter alia, the protection of the restricted byway) and other public access routes running through or on the boundaries of the site;
- (j) landscaping and planting, both within the site and peripheral, which responds to the existing landscape and complements development, as appropriate and provides a defined, recognisable boundary to the Green Belt;
- (k) public open spaces across the site, including the provision of play areas and opportunities for outdoor health and fitness activities, as well as space for wildlife;
- (l) quality local green infrastructure through the site including opportunities for preserving and enhancing on-site assets, maximising opportunities to link into existing assets and enhance biodiversity;
- (m) measures to ensure that any impact on wildlife within the site and at the nearby Waterford Heath nature reserve is successfully mitigated;
- (n) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure; and
- (o) other policy provisions of the District Plan and relevant matters, as appropriate.



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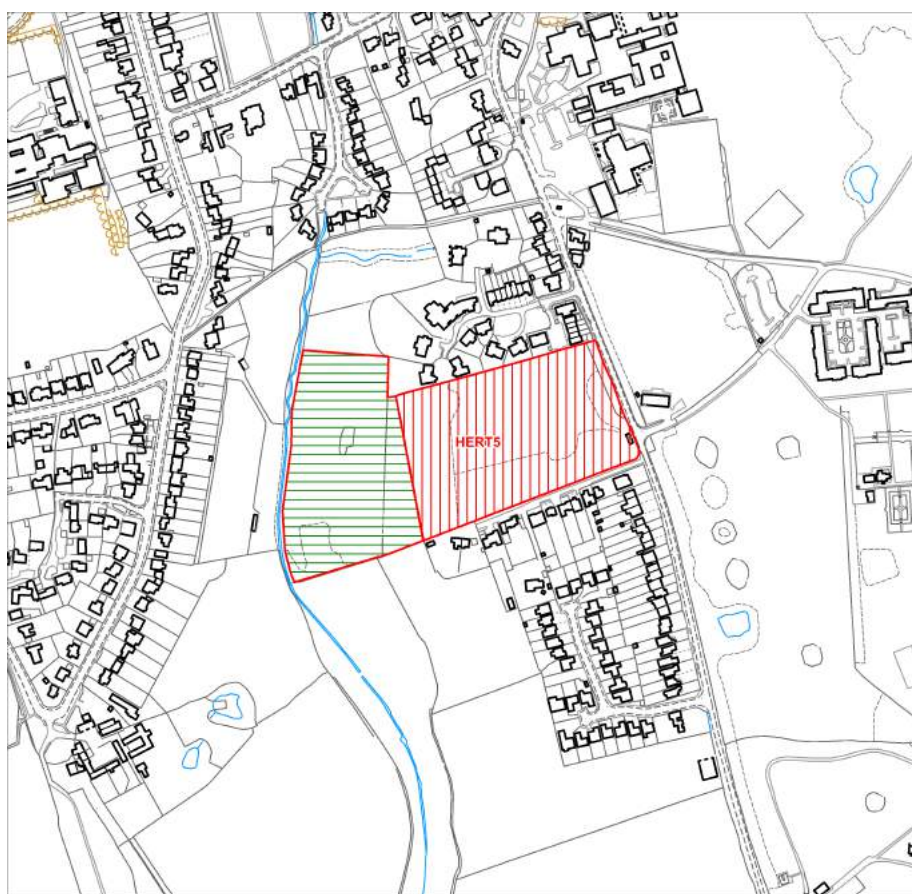
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### South of Hertford

- 7.2.10** In order to contribute towards the District's short term housing requirement and to provide for the housing needs of the town, development of around 50 dwellings is proposed to the South of Hertford.
- 7.2.11** The site provides an opportunity to deliver a range of housing types and tenures in a location that benefits from excellent access to educational facilities, historic assets, and other town centre amenities. Development of the area will ensure the continued protection of the Green Finger at the western part of the site, including the existing treed area at the higher level, the tree belt at the lower level, and the sloped area of land between them leading towards Hagsdell Stream, while allowing public access to this valuable resource.

**Figure 7.6 Site Location: Land to the South of Hertford**

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### Policy HERT5 South of Hertford

- I. Land to the south of Hertford is allocated as a residential development site to accommodate around 50 homes to the west of Mangrove Road by 2022.

II. A Masterplan will be collaboratively prepared, involving site promoters, landowners, East Herts Council, Hertfordshire County Council, Hertford Town Council, and other key stakeholders. This document will further be informed by public participation in the process.

III. The development is expected to address the following provisions and issues:

- (a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing);
- (b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);
- (c) demonstration of the extent of the mineral that may be present and the likelihood of prior extraction in an environmentally acceptable way has been fully considered. As a minimum, an assessment of the depth and quality of mineral, together with an appraisal of the consequential viability for prior extraction without prejudicing the delivery of housing within the plan period should be provided;
- (d) development that is compatible with, and complements, the character of local heritage assets and designations, including, inter alia, the adjacent Grade I Balls Park and its Grade II Registered Garden;
- (e) necessary new utilities including, inter alia: integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home working;
- (f) access arrangements and appropriate local (with contributions towards wider, strategic) highways mitigation measures;
- (g) encouragement of sustainable transport measures, both through improvements to the existing walking and cycling networks in the locality and through new provision, which should also provide links with the adjoining area and the town centre (including, inter alia, an upgraded pedestrian and cycle way along Mangrove Road to Simon Balle School), and enhanced passenger transport services;
- (h) landscaping and planting, both within the site and peripheral, which responds to the existing landscape and complements development, as appropriate;
- (i) public open space within the site, including the provision of a play area and opportunities for outdoor health and fitness activities, as well as space for wildlife;
- (j) quality local green infrastructure through the site including opportunities for preserving and enhancing on-site assets, maximising opportunities to link into existing assets and enhance biodiversity. This should include, but not be limited to, the provision of a public amenity greenspace buffer (which will remain in the Green Belt) between the development and Hagsdell Stream to allow for the preservation of that part of the Hertford Green Finger. This shall include the existing treed area at the higher level, the tree belt at the lower level, and the sloped area of land between them leading towards Hagsdell Stream, and should also provide

for public pedestrian access from Mangrove Road along with the protection of any public rights of way and other public access routes running through or on the boundaries of the site;

(k) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure; and

(l) other policy provisions of the District Plan and relevant matters, as appropriate.

### 7.3 Employment in Hertford

**7.3.1** The county town of Hertford retains its traditional brewing role, albeit on a reduced basis from that of bygone times. The town has evolved its employment base over time to reflect changing needs and currently contains a broad spectrum of employment from industrial to prestige office accommodation with varying sized enterprises in its employment areas.

**7.3.2** Hertford's location in relation to accessing the major road network means that it is an attractive place for businesses to locate; however, the A414 has a propensity towards congestion, especially at peak times, which can affect ease of access to some areas and will require mitigation in line with the provisions of Hertfordshire County Council's Local Transport Plan 4. It is currently proposed that this will include provision of a Hertford bypass to address identified constraints on the A414 in combination with Sustainable Travel Town initiatives.

**7.3.3** Hertford benefits from having the District's largest local authority employer, Hertfordshire County Council, located in the town. Other public and private sector employment premises also lie in close proximity to County Hall.

**7.3.4** In order to continue to provide opportunities for businesses to serve the town and nearby settlements in the surrounding area, the strategy will be to protect and enhance the existing employment areas in Hertford and to supplement this by the formal designation of the Pegs Lane area which has long been in employment use.

#### Policy HERT6 Employment in Hertford

I. In accordance with Policy ED1 (Employment), the following locations are designated as Employment Areas:

(a) Caxton Hill;

(b) Foxholes Business Park;

(c) Hartham Lane;



(d) Mead Lane - East of Marshgate Drive (including the provisions of Policy HERT2 Mead Lane Area);

(e) Mimram Road;

(f) Warehams Lane;

(g) Windsor Industrial Estate, Ware Road.

II. In addition, in accordance with Policy ED1 (Employment), the following location is designated as an Employment Area reserved primarily for B1 use:

(a) Pegs Lane.

### 7.4 Retail in Hertford

**7.4.1** Classed as a Secondary Town Centre, Hertford provides a wide range of comparison and convenience shopping in addition to other service needs. This offer serves both its own residents and those of surrounding settlements. Hertford's markets, food and drink facilities and successful night-time economy also draw patronage from wider locations.

**7.4.2** However, its historic development pattern, while providing a unique character which acts as an attractor, also limits the potential of the town to expand its retail function in its central core.

**7.4.3** Within some of its residential areas, Hertford also benefits from local parades and individual shops, which provide valuable resources for local people and passing trade, in addition to the retail offer in the town centre.

#### Hertford Town Centre Urban Design Strategy

**7.4.4** The Hertford Town Centre Urban Design Strategy was devised to guide future development in the town centre and to increase the viability and vitality of its commercial operations. It provides a long-term coherent vision for the area; proposes design approaches for key sites and areas within the town centre; and aims to guide developers by providing a framework for determining planning applications. The Strategy further seeks to engender a sense of community, to provide opportunities to reinforce or improve the sense of place associated with Hertford Town Centre and its environs, in line with the sustainability principles outlined in section 2 of the NPPF (ensuring the vitality of town centres).

**7.4.5** The Strategy, which is underpinned by robust technical evidence and two rounds of public consultation, has been agreed by East Herts Council, Hertfordshire County Council and Hertford Town Council, which will continue to work together to help bring its proposals to fruition. While provisions are included for improvements across Hertford's entire central core, of particular note is the Bircherley Green key site area,

which is viewed as being the most important development opportunity site in the town centre. Key use and urban design principles for the mixed use redevelopment of this area, based around a revitalised retail offer, are included in the Strategy. Therefore, where any redevelopment proposals emerge for Bircherley Green or other town centre sites, these should respond positively to the detailed provisions of the Strategy. It is intended that the Strategy will be adopted by East Herts Council as a Supplementary Planning Document in due course.

The Hertford Town Centre Urban Design Strategy is available to view at: [www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase)

- 7.4.6** To ensure that the aims of the Hertford Town Centre Urban Design Strategy can be met, where development is proposed in town centre locations in Hertford, Policy HERT7 will apply.

### **Policy HERT7 Hertford Town Centre Urban Design Strategy**

Development proposals in Hertford Town Centre will be expected to take account of, and positively contribute to, proposals contained within the Hertford Town Centre Urban Design Strategy, as appropriate.

## **7.5 Leisure and Community Facilities in Hertford**

- 7.5.1** Hertford is located within an extremely attractive rural setting with unique areas of open land, known as ‘Green Fingers’, which penetrate towards the centre of the town. While benefiting from these assets, Hertford’s provision of public access, as well as the provision of space for children could be improved. Therefore, where possible, better public access to the countryside that surrounds the settlement should be created to support both existing and new communities in the town. Proposals for the development of the HERT3, HERT4 and HERT5 policy areas should therefore assist in this respect, through increased public access to countryside/green space provision. The river corridors have also been identified as areas where the improvement of both habitat and physical links connecting settlements should be sought, especially between Hertford and Ware and the wider countryside. Cycling provision is another area that would benefit from improvement. It is anticipated that the implementation of district-wide and settlement specific policies relating to development sites in and around Hertford, will result in increased access, as appropriate.

- 7.5.2** In respect of formal indoor and outdoor sport provision, any under provision of junior football and mini-soccer pitches identified in the Hertford and Ware area should also be addressed. Development proposals will therefore be considered in accordance with Policies CFLR1 (Open Space, Sport and Recreation) and contributions sought towards on or off-site provision, as appropriate.
- 7.5.3** Hertford's Green Fingers, which penetrate the town, are a recognised local amenity, wildlife and leisure asset and have been designated as Local Green Spaces under Policy CFLR2 (Local Green Space). This designation provides protection for these valuable resources and ensures that development will not be allowed in such locations, other than in very special circumstances.
- 7.5.4** All new development in Hertford will result in an increased demand for local services and community facilities including, inter alia, healthcare and education. Development proposals should contribute to the enhancement of existing provision to ensure that both new and existing residents in the town are able to access community facilities and vital services within Hertford, thereby reducing the need to travel to other settlements. In this respect, development proposals will be considered in accordance with Policies CFLR7 (Community Facilities), CFLR8 (Loss of Community Facilities), CFLR 9 (Health and Wellbeing) and CFLR10 (Education).

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## Chapter 8

# Sawbridgeworth

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### Chapter 8 Sawbridgeworth

#### 8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1** Sawbridgeworth is an attractive and historic market town lying to the west of the River Stort, which forms part of the County boundary with neighbouring Essex. Although located in close proximity to Bishop's Stortford to the north and Harlow to the south, Sawbridgeworth has a strong and distinct identity. Nevertheless, the town has strong links with these neighbouring settlements, particularly in terms of employment opportunities, with a number of residents also commuting to London and Cambridge using the town's railway link.
- 8.1.2** Residents of Sawbridgeworth benefit from access to high quality public green spaces, particularly Pishiobury Park, a designated parkland which was one of Capability Brown's final projects. The historic commercial core of the town is centred on Bell Street, which lies on an east-west axis running from the 13th Century church of St Mary's to London Road, the old stage-coach route that runs north to south. Much of the town centre lies within a Conservation Area and many of the buildings are listed for their historic significance and date from the Tudor, Stuart and Georgian periods.
- 8.1.3** The medieval core of the town is an attractive location which supports local independent retailers, but it also acts as a constraint to larger retailers. The town has only one small supermarket, meaning that a lot of larger shopping trips are conducted outside the town. Sawbridgeworth is therefore regarded as a Minor Town Centre.
- 8.1.4** Being one of the smaller towns in the District, with a predominance of residential development, there is not much potential for brownfield redevelopment within Sawbridgeworth. Therefore, any large scale residential development would of necessity involve Green Belt release. To meet the need for additional housing in Sawbridgeworth, two sites are proposed for development to the west of the town, and one to the north.
- 8.1.5** The main components of the development strategy for Sawbridgeworth are as follows:
- 8.1.6** **Housing:** additional homes will be provided which will consist of a mix of dwelling types and sizes to ensure that Sawbridgeworth's population is able to access a balanced housing market catering for all life stages. The provision of affordable housing will allow emerging households to remain living in Sawbridgeworth in accommodation suited to their needs.
- 8.1.7** **Education:** the educational needs of the town will be met at primary level via the expansion of Mandeville School to 2 forms of entry. Secondary educational provision will be enhanced by the construction of a new school, in the Bishop's Stortford School Planning Area within which Sawbridgeworth falls.

- 8.1.8 Transport:** new development will encourage the use of sustainable travel, particularly through the enhancement of walking and cycling links. The impact of development on the local road network will be mitigated through upgrades to existing junctions and the provision of a new Junction 7a on the M11 which will reduce pressure on the A1184. Consideration will need to be given to the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) which is located in the London Road area. The AQMA is supported by an action plan which seeks to improve air quality in this location.
- 8.1.9 Economic Development:** Sawbridgeworth's limited employment offer will be maintained to support local scale employment opportunities. As a Minor Town Centre, Sawbridgeworth's retail offer in the central core will be maintained and strengthened if suitable opportunities arise to serve both the town's residents and its local rural hinterland.
- 8.1.10 Character:** Sawbridgeworth's market town character and the heritage qualities of the town's historic core will be maintained. New development will respect both the local and wider landscape character and will enhance Sawbridgeworth's green infrastructure, through the provision of new public open space.
- 8.1.11 Design:** collaboratively prepared Masterplans for development in Sawbridgeworth (at sites SAWB2, SAWB3 and SAWB4) will form an important part of the delivery of the site allocations. These Masterplans will provide a strong framework for the development, which will ensure the highest quality design and layout of each area and provide a comprehensive approach to the development as a whole, whilst reflecting different character areas across the sites. The Masterplans will accord with the provisions of Policy DES1 (Masterplanning).

### 8.2 Development in Sawbridgeworth

- 8.2.1** The main features of the policy approach to development in Sawbridgeworth are shown on Figure 8.1 below:

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Figure 8.1: Key Diagram for Sawbridgeworth



**8.2.2** Reflecting the District Plan Strategy, the following policies will apply to applications for new development in Sawbridgeworth:

### Policy SAWB1 Development in Sawbridgeworth

I. Sawbridgeworth will accommodate a minimum of 500 new homes, which will include:

- (a) around 125 homes to the west of the town on land to the north of West Road, as set out in Policy SAWB2 (Land to the North of West Road);
- (b) around 175 homes to the west of the town on land to the south of West Road, as set out in Policy SAWB3 (Land to the South of West Road);
- (c) around 200 homes to the north of the town, as set out in Policy SAWB4 (Land to the North of Sawbridgeworth); and
- (d) a proportion of the overall windfall allowance for the District.

II. New retail and employment development will be directed to the town centre to maintain the vitality and viability of the town.



### Development Sites in Sawbridgeworth's Urban Area

**8.2.3** It is expected that a proportion of the overall windfall allowance for the District will be accommodated in Sawbridgeworth. These sites will be determined on an individual basis, taking into account the policies of the Plan.

**8.2.4** For the allocated sites, the following policies will apply in addition to general policies in the Plan:

#### Land North of West Road

**8.2.5** In order to contribute towards the District's short term housing requirement, and to provide for the housing needs of Sawbridgeworth, development of around 125 homes is proposed on land to the north of West Road.

**8.2.6** The site provides an opportunity to deliver a range of housing types and tenures in a location that benefits from excellent access to town centre amenities. In addition, the site will provide enhanced walking and cycling links and high quality green space including a new play area.

**8.2.7** Development in this location will offer benefits for the wider community by providing 1.2 hectares of land in order to facilitate the permanent expansion of Mandeville Primary School to two forms of entry. The school will also benefit from the provision of new off road parking spaces which will help reduce existing congestion on West Road at peak times.

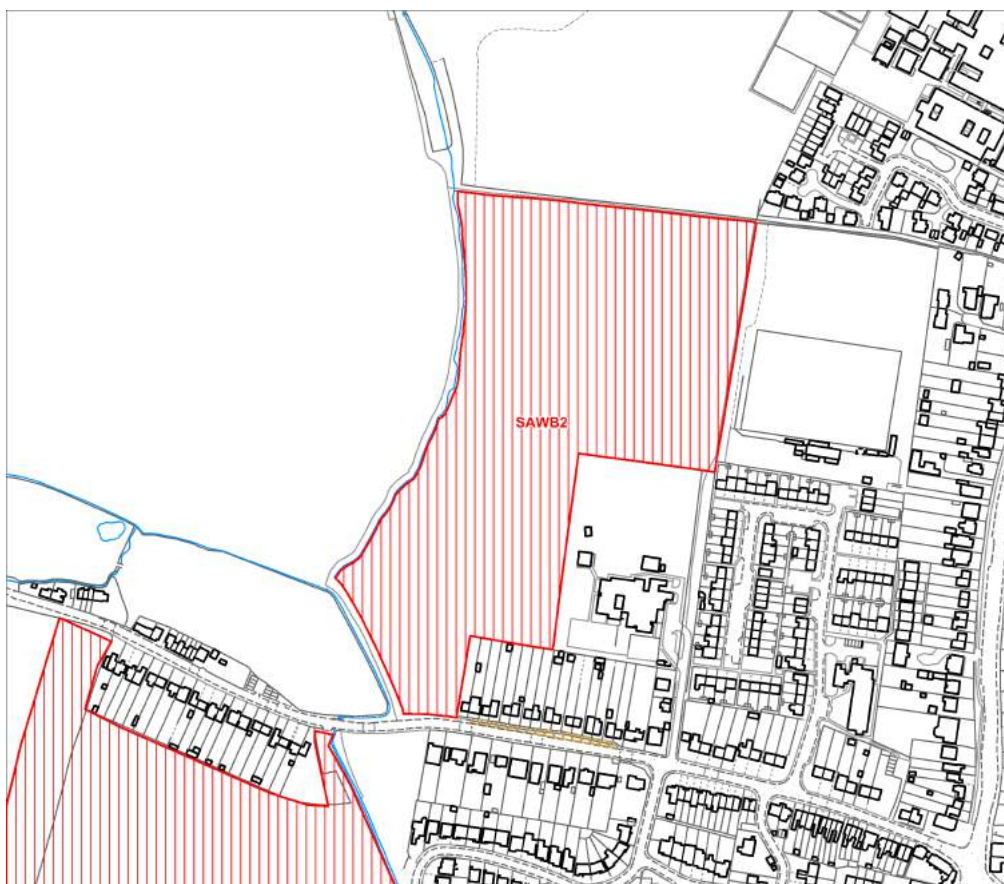
**8.2.8** In order to help mitigate the impact of development in this location, financial contributions towards the signalisation of the A1184/West Road/Station Road junction will be required along with other schemes as required.

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**Figure 8.2 Site Location: Land North of West Road**

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### **Policy SAWB2 Land to the North of West Road**

- I. Land to the north of West Road will accommodate around 125 homes by 2022.
- II. A Masterplan will be collaboratively prepared, involving site promoters, landowners, East Herts Council, Hertfordshire County Council, Sawbridgeworth Town Council, and other key stakeholders. This document will further be informed by public participation in the process.
- III. The development is expected to address the following provisions and issues:
  - (a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing);
  - (b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);
  - (c) sustainable transport measures including the encouragement of walking and cycling, in particular to the town centre and railway station, and enhanced passenger transport services;

- (d) an enhanced public footpath and cycleway from West Road to enable direct pedestrian and cycle access to Mandeville School and Leventhorpe School;
- (e) the setting aside of 1.2ha of land to facilitate the expansion of Mandeville School to two forms of entry, including the provision of a new access route;
- (f) off road parking spaces to serve Mandeville School;
- (g) necessary utilities, including integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home working, and upgrades to the localised sewerage network;
- (h) sustainable drainage and provision for flood mitigation;
- (i) access arrangements and local highways mitigation measures, including junction improvements at the West Road/A1184 junction;
- (j) quality local green infrastructure throughout the site including opportunities for preserving and enhancing on-site assets, maximising opportunities to link into existing assets and enhancing biodiversity;
- (k) new public amenity space;
- (l) landscaping and planting, both within the site and peripheral, to complement development, as appropriate;
- (m) enhanced landscaping along the western boundary of the site to provide a soft edge to the development and define the new Green Belt boundary;
- (n) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure;
- (o) other policy provisions of the District Plan and relevant matters, as appropriate.

### Land South of West Road

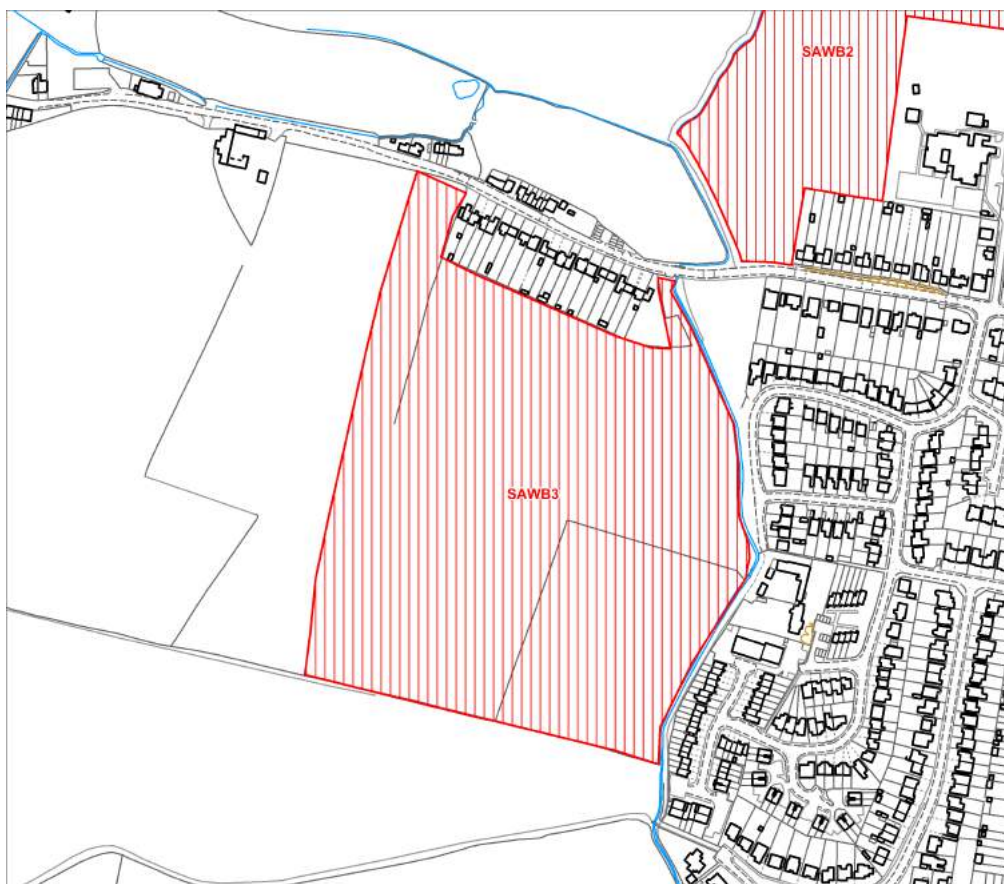
- 8.2.9** In order to contribute towards the District's short term housing requirement and to provide for the housing needs of Sawbridgeworth, development of around 175 homes is proposed on land to the south of West Road.
- 8.2.10** As with land to the north of West Road (SAWB2), the site provides an opportunity to deliver a range of housing types and tenures in a location that benefits from excellent access to town centre amenities.
- 8.2.11** In order to help mitigate the impact of development in this location, financial contributions towards the signalisation of the A1184/West Road/Station Road junction will be required along with other schemes as required.

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**Figure 8.3 Site Location: Land South of West Road**

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### **Policy SAWB3 Land to the South of West Road**

- I. Land to the south of West Road will accommodate around 175 homes by 2022.
- II. A Masterplan will be collaboratively prepared, involving site promoters, landowners, East Herts Council, Hertfordshire County Council, Sawbridgeworth Town Council, and other key stakeholders. This document will further be informed by public participation in the process.
- III. The development is expected to address the following provisions and issues:
  - (a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing);
  - (b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);
  - (c) quality local green infrastructure through the site including opportunities for preserving and enhancing on-site assets (such as Sawbridgeworth Brook), maximising opportunities to link into existing assets and enhance biodiversity;

- (d) necessary utilities, including integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home working, and upgrades to the localised sewerage network;
- (e) sustainable drainage and provision for flood mitigation;
- (f) access arrangements and local highways mitigation measures, including junction improvements at the West Road/A1184 junction;
- (g) sustainable transport measures including the encouragement of walking and cycling, in particular to the town centre and railway station, and enhanced passenger transport services;
- (h) the extension of the existing footpath running along the southern side of West Road to serve the new development;
- (i) new public amenity space;
- (j) landscaping and planting, both within the site and peripheral, to complement development, as appropriate;
- (k) provision of an appropriate structural landscape belt and public open space along the western and southern boundaries of the site to provide a soft edge to the development and define the new Green Belt boundary;
- (l) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure;
- (m) other policy provisions of the District Plan and relevant matters, as appropriate.

### Land North of Sawbridgeworth

- 8.2.12** In order to contribute towards the District's longer term housing requirement and to provide for the housing needs of Sawbridgeworth, development of around 200 homes is proposed on land to the north of Sawbridgeworth.
- 8.2.13** A range of housing mix and tenures and new public green space will be provided in a location that is in close proximity to primary and secondary education and sustainable transport opportunities. In addition, enhanced walking and cycling opportunities will encourage sustainable travel to town centre amenities.

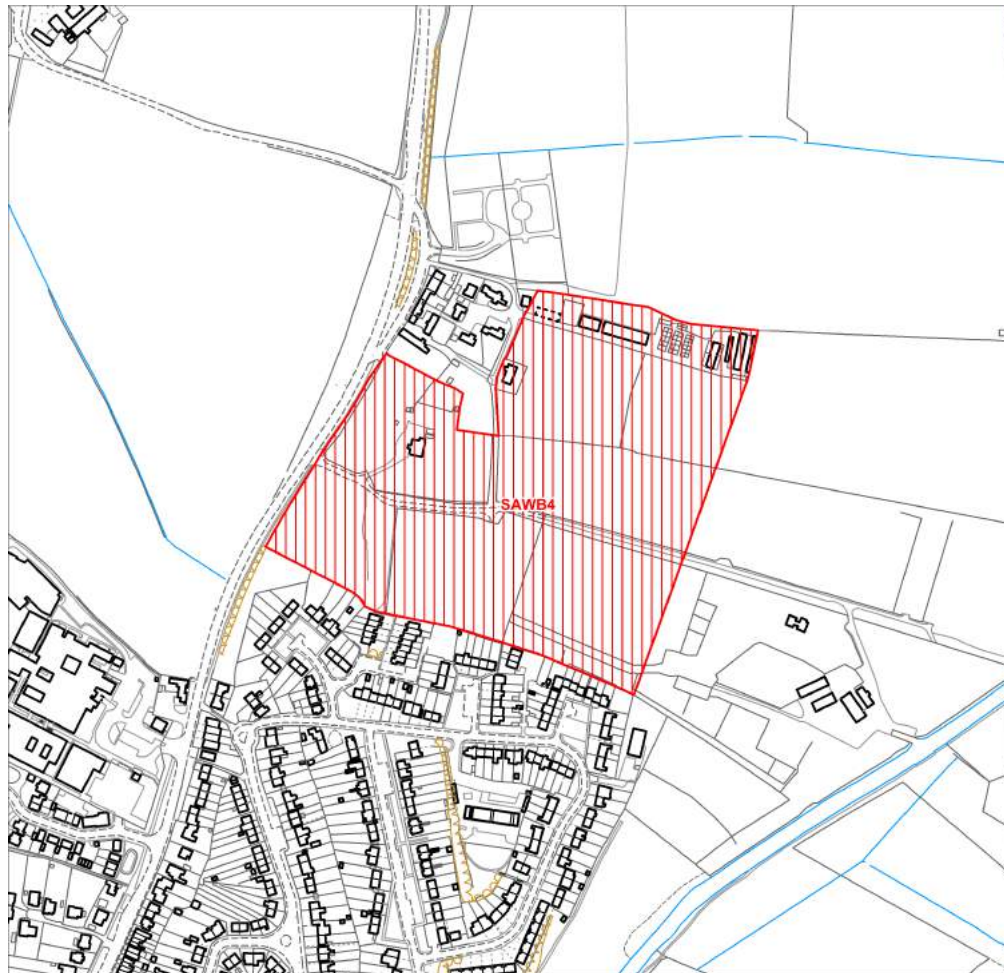


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**Figure 8.4 Site Location: Land North of Sawbridgeworth**

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### **Policy SAWB4 Land to the North of Sawbridgeworth**

- I. Land to the north of Sawbridgeworth will accommodate around 200 homes by 2027.
- II. A Masterplan will be collaboratively prepared, involving site promoters, landowners, East Herts Council, Hertfordshire County Council, Sawbridgeworth Town Council, and other key stakeholders. This document will further be informed by public participation in the process.
- III. The development is expected to address the following provisions and issues:
  - (a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing);
  - (b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);

- (c) Self-Build and Custom Build Housing in accordance with Policy HOU8 (Self-Build and Custom Build Housing);
- (d) necessary utilities, including integrated communications to facilitate home working, and upgrades to the localised sewerage network;
- (e) sustainable drainage and provision for flood mitigation;
- (f) access arrangements and local highways mitigation measures;
- (g) sustainable transport measures including the encouragement of walking and cycling, in particular to the town centre and railway station, and enhanced passenger transport services;
- (h) quality local green infrastructure throughout the site including opportunities for preserving and enhancing on-site assets, maximising opportunities to link into existing assets and enhancing biodiversity;
- (i) new public amenity space;
- (j) landscaping and planting, both within the site and peripheral, to complement development, as appropriate;
- (k) provision of an appropriate structural landscape belt and public open space along the eastern boundary of the site to provide a soft edge to the development and define the new Green Belt boundary;
- (l) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure;
- (m) other policy provisions of the District Plan and relevant matters, as appropriate.

### 8.3 Employment in Sawbridgeworth

- 8.3.1** Sawbridgeworth is unique in that it is the only town in the District that doesn't have any designated Employment Areas. This reflects its position between two higher order settlements which are considered to be more attractive employment locations.
- 8.3.2** In order to continue to support the town's local commercial, retailing and service businesses, the strategy will seek to maintain Sawbridgeworth's existing employment offer.

### 8.4 Retail in Sawbridgeworth

- 8.4.1** Sawbridgeworth has a small town centre, consisting predominantly of small independent units and a modest supermarket. Despite its size, the town centre provides a vital role for the residents of the town and its immediate rural hinterland.

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- 8.4.2** Recognising its size and relatively limited retail offer, the area centred on Bell Street is designated as a Minor Town Centre with only a secondary frontage. Within this frontage, it is necessary to retain a suitable mix of retail units and appropriate town centre uses in order to ensure the longer term vitality and viability of Sawbridgeworth's town centre. As such, retail development in Sawbridgeworth will be considered in accordance with Policies RTC1 (Retail Development) and RTC4 (Secondary Shopping Frontages).

### 8.5 Leisure and Community Facilities in Sawbridgeworth

- 8.5.1** New development in Sawbridgeworth will increase demand for local services and community facilities including healthcare and education. It is important that developments in Sawbridgeworth enhance existing, and provide new community facilities in order to ensure existing and new communities can access vital services without the need to travel to neighbouring settlements. In this respect, development proposals will be considered in accordance with Policies CFLR7 (Community Facilities), CFLR8 (Loss of Community Facilities), CFLR9 (Health and Wellbeing) and CFLR10 (Education).





## Chapter 9 Ware

### Chapter 9 Ware

#### 9.1 Introduction

- 9.1.1** Ware is an ancient historic market town, which has developed in a valley setting around a crossing point of the River Lea. Much of the town's historic town centre originates from medieval times, with the Grade I listed buildings St Mary's Church (13th Century) and Ware Priory (also a Scheduled Monument) being located at the western end of the High Street, and many other listed buildings in the central core. Past coaching and malting industry ties particularly influenced the evolution of the town's urban form and led to the emergence of its burgage plots and famous 18th Century gazebos along the river.
- 9.1.2** In the past, the river has underpinned the town's economic function, but is now more widely used as a leisure resource. Ware also benefits from other excellent sporting and leisure facilities including, but not limited to: Wodson Park sports centre; Fanshawe Pool and Gym; Ware Lido; Place House; Ware Arts Centre and Fletcher's Lea at The Priory. The Lee Valley Regional Park, which bounds the south of the town, along with other woodland and countryside access opportunities are also available to Ware's residents and visitors.
- 9.1.3** Within the town centre, while the town's historic pattern of development coupled with traffic congestion and servicing constraints on the High Street limit future town centre development opportunities (in particular for retail), it does provide a unique, picturesque, environment which offers enjoyment for both residents and visitors alike and is an attractive setting for its businesses. Ware benefits from the presence of two superstores (Tesco and, since 2015, Asda) and, in addition, also has several smaller convenience stores and a range of comparison high street names and local independent retailers. The central core also reflects its historical past by the presence of a significant amount of dwellings, which are accommodated both above retail premises and in yards behind.
- 9.1.4** Ware benefits from good transport connections to both local and wider destinations, with road links to the closely located A10, A414 and A602, and a station providing services to London Liverpool Street and Stratford. While these links enable a significant amount of out-commuting for workers, Ware also has a good employment base; most notably, with the district's largest single employer, GSK, being located in the town and through other employment sites of varying age and quality which offer a range of accommodation to businesses. It is considered important that the town's existing employment sites are retained in order to provide local jobs in sustainable locations for residents of Ware and its surrounding areas.
- 9.1.5** In respect of housing, outside of the immediate historic central area, the majority of the town's residential areas were largely erected during or after the Victorian period, with much development occurring towards the latter half of the 20th Century. In latter decades, the construction of new homes on greenfield sites has been balanced by the conversion of former maltings and other redundant industrial premises. While

this has been a particularly successful approach, it means that brownfield opportunities have largely been exhausted. Therefore, Green Belt release for any large scale residential development is necessitated.

- 9.1.6 In order to meet the need for additional housing in Ware and to provide a range of employment, retail, educational, community and other infrastructure, one site is therefore proposed to the north and east of the town. This development will ensure that Ware's infrastructure will be able to satisfactorily absorb the additional population and its requirements, whilst ensuring that the town's unique historic character and sense of place is maintained.
- 9.1.7 The main components of the development strategy for Ware are as follows:
- 9.1.8 **Housing:** additional homes will be provided, the majority to the North and East of Ware (WARE2), which will consist of a mix of dwelling types and sizes that will have been constructed in appropriate locations to ensure that Ware's population is able to access a balanced housing market catering for all life stages. The provision of affordable housing as part of any new residential or mixed use development scheme/s will allow emerging households to be able to remain living in Ware in accommodation suited to their needs. The site will also provide for the accommodation needs of Travelling Showpeople and make provision for self-build and/or custom-build opportunities.
- 9.1.9 **Design:** a collaboratively prepared Masterplan for the development of the North and East of Ware (WARE2) will form an important part of the delivery of the site allocation. This Masterplan, incorporating Garden City design principles, will provide a strong framework for the development, which will also embody the use of design codes. This will ensure the highest quality design and layout of the area and provide a comprehensive and unified approach to the whole development, whilst reflecting different character areas across the site. The Masterplan will accord with the provisions of Policy DES1 Masterplanning.
- 9.1.10 **Education:** the educational needs of the town will be achieved at primary level via the provision of one or more new schools commensurate with the level of development delivered to the North and East of Ware (WARE2), and, potentially, by the expansion of existing facilities. Secondary educational provision will be enhanced via the expansion of one or more of the existing schools in the Hertford and Ware Schools Planning Area and via the construction of a new school (which could potentially be an all-through facility) of at least six forms of entry to the North and East of the town. Hertford Regional College will continue to provide further educational opportunities for students from both Ware and wider locales.
- 9.1.11 **Community Facilities:** in addition to the continuation of existing facilities, new homes to the North and East of Ware (WARE2) will be supported by a range of community facilities which will be located around a neighbourhood centre.

- 9.1.12 Transport:** as part of development to the North and East of Ware (WARE2) bus services will be improved so that they support travel between residential areas and the town centre and its railway station. Pedestrian and cycle links, routes and facilities will be improved and extended. In addition to supporting improved sustainable travel, a new link road between the A10/A1170 junction and the Widbury Hill area will be constructed to minimise local trips, help relieve the town centre of extraneous traffic, and assist in alleviating congestion.
- 9.1.13 Waste Water and other Infrastructure:** as part of development to the North and East of Ware (WARE2), waste water will drain to Rye Meads Waste Water Treatment Works, and new waste water services will be created as part of the development to ensure that the efficiency of the network is maintained and there are no adverse effects on surrounding watercourses. A new sewer will also be required to serve this area of the town and link into the existing network to the east of Ware.
- 9.1.14 Retail and Employment:** as a Minor Town Centre, Ware's retail offer in the central core will be maintained and strengthened, as suitable opportunities arise, to serve both the town's residents and its hinterland settlements. As part of development to the North and East of the town (WARE2), the town centre's retail offer will be enhanced by the provision of additional retail facilities within a new neighbourhood centre as part of comprehensive development in that location. Such provision should be appropriate to support the local development without prejudicing the existing retail offer in the town centre.
- 9.1.15** Existing employment sites in Ware will be retained and, where appropriate, modernised. These will be supplemented via the creation of a new employment site of around 3ha as part of development to the North and East of Ware (WARE2), which should be located close to the new neighbourhood centre.
- 9.1.16 Leisure:** Ware's leisure facilities will be supplemented by the provision of additional indoor and outdoor sports facilities (which may be shared use) and other informal leisure provision as part of the development of the area to the North and East of Ware (WARE2). Green corridors will feature as part of this provision, which will also act to mitigate the environmental impact of development in this location.
- 9.1.17 Open Spaces:** open spaces will be provided as part of the development to the North and East of Ware (WARE2) which provide multi-functional drainage solutions in addition to space for recreation, creating connections to green infrastructure corridors, including the Ash and Lea Valleys. Formal open spaces will form part of the development and provision for playing pitches and play spaces. Areas of ecological importance will be protected and enhanced through appropriate buffer planting and an appropriate land management strategy.
- 9.1.18 Heritage:** important heritage assets, both within the existing town and in the vicinity of the allocation to the North and East of Ware (WARE2) will continue to be protected. Furthermore, such heritage assets will be respected as part of development proposals and, where appropriate, adequate mitigation employed, which will also

include maintaining open or landscaped areas where necessary. Land uses should contribute towards maintaining or enhancing existing buffers, and providing new green infrastructure, as appropriate.

**9.1.19 Character:** Ware's unique market town character and the heritage qualities of the town's historic core will be maintained. In new developments a sense of place will be respected and allow for successful integration with existing assets of character in the area. Ware's green infrastructure, including its open spaces and river corridors, will be maintained and will continue to contribute to the town's unique character. Further green space provision will be made as part of development to the North and East of the town (WARE2). Where development involves river frontages, this will ensure the provision of an enhanced setting and, where possible, improve public access. The Lee Valley Regional Park will continue to provide a valuable resource to enhance the area.

**9.1.20 Minerals:** for development to the North and East of Ware (WARE2), and to conform with the requirements of national policy and the Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan which aim to prevent the unnecessary sterilisation of mineral resources, where underlying mineral deposits of sufficient depth and quality are identified, prior extraction will be required in advance of the commencement of development and, where possible, should be used locally in the construction phase. Detailed phasing and the approach to land remediation and subsequent development will be set out in the Masterplan.

### 9.2 Development in Ware

**9.2.1** The main features of the policy approach to development in Ware are shown in Figure 9.1 below:

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Figure 9.1: Key Diagram for Ware



**9.2.2** Reflecting the District Plan Strategy, the following policies will apply to applications for new development in Ware:

### Policy WARE1 Development in Ware

I. Ware will accommodate:

- (a) at least 1,000 homes to the North and East of Ware, as set out in Policy WARE2; and
- (b) a proportion of the overall windfall allowance for the District.

II. 600sqm retail floorspace will be delivered, primarily to the North and East of Ware, as set out in Policy WARE2, and within the town centre.

III. 3ha of B1 employment floorspace will be delivered to the North and East of Ware, as set out in Policy WARE2.

### Development Sites in Ware's Urban Area

**9.2.3** It is expected that a proportion of the overall windfall allowance for the District will be accommodated in Ware. These sites will be determined on an individual basis, taking into account the policies of the Plan.

**9.2.4** For the allocated site, the following policies will apply in addition to general policies in the Plan:

### North and East of Ware

**9.2.5** In order to contribute towards the District's medium to long-term housing requirement, and to provide for the housing needs of Ware, a development of 1,000 homes is identified to the North and East of Ware to be delivered by 2033, with the intention to provide for a further 500 dwellings, should satisfactory mitigation to identified highway constraints in both the local, and wider strategic, road networks prove achievable and deliverable.

**9.2.6** Development at this scale would require new access and highways infrastructure including the provision of a link road between the A10/A1170 junction and the Widbury Hill area, along with other hard and soft measures, to both mitigate traffic generation and help alleviate town centre congestion issues. The necessary strategic infrastructure would be determined through the evolution of a deliverable site wide Masterplan.

**9.2.7** It is anticipated that development could commence on site during 2022-27 period which would continue through the remaining plan period and beyond.

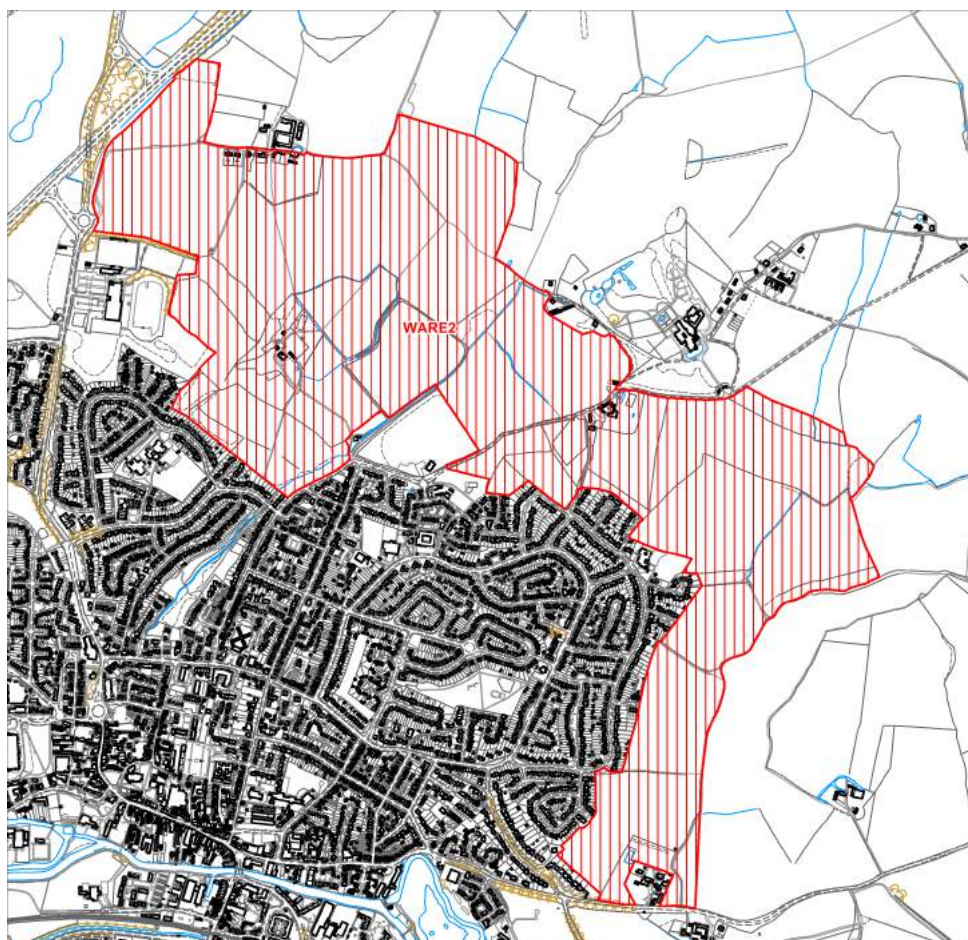


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**Figure 9.2 Site Location: North and East of Ware**

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### **Policy WARE2 Land North and East of Ware**

I. Land to the North and East of Ware is allocated as a mixed-use development site, to accommodate at least 1,000 new homes by 2033.

II. In the event that suitable mitigation measures to identified constraints on both the local and wider strategic road networks can be identified and agreed by Hertfordshire County Council as Transport Authority, a further 500 dwellings will also be delivered in this location.

III. A Masterplan setting out the quantum and distribution of land uses; access; sustainable high quality design and layout principles; necessary infrastructure; the relationship between the site and other nearby settlements; landscape and heritage assets; and other relevant matters, will be collaboratively prepared involving site promoters, landowners, East Herts Council, Hertfordshire County Council, town and parish councils and key stakeholders. This document will further be informed by public participation in the process.



IV. The site will incorporate Garden City principles and be planned comprehensively to create a new sustainable community which connects well with and complements the existing town and its existing historic centre.

V. The development is expected to address the following provisions and issues:

- (a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing);
- (b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);
- (c) Self-Build and Custom Build Housing in accordance with Policy HOU8 (Self-Build and Custom Build Housing);
- (d) a care home/flexi-care or sheltered properties in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU6 (Specialist Housing for Older and Vulnerable People);
- (e) provision of a site for Travelling Showpeople, in accordance with Policy HOU9 (Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople) which should deliver 4 serviced plots within the plan period (each of sufficient size to allow for the provision of accommodation and equipment plus storage/maintenance), to be provided within a larger area that should be safeguarded to allow for future expansion to a total of 8 plots, as evidence of need dictates;
- (f) demonstration of the extent of the mineral that may be present and the likelihood of prior extraction in an environmentally acceptable way has been fully considered. As a minimum, an assessment of the depth and quality of mineral, together with an appraisal of the consequential viability for prior extraction without prejudicing the delivery of housing within the plan period should be provided;
- (g) quality local green infrastructure throughout the site including opportunities for preserving and enhancing on-site assets, maximising opportunities to link into existing assets and enhancing biodiversity (including, inter alia, the protection of wildlife sites 46/004 and 60/001 and the Historic Parks and Gardens at Fanhams Hall and Poles Park, Hanbury Manor);
- (h) necessary new utilities, including, inter alia: integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home working, and a new foul sewer to link the development from the north of Ware to existing infrastructure to the east of the town and any necessary pumping station/s;
- (i) satisfactory water supply, including acceptable water pressure for occupants;
- (j) sustainable drainage and provision for flood mitigation;

(k) access arrangements and local highways and wider strategic mitigation measures which, inter alia, should include a link road between the Widbury Hill area and the A10/A1170 to both serve the development and mitigate congestion elsewhere in the town, and further should contribute to addressing impacts in the town centre and on the A10 between Ware and Hertford and the A414 in Hertford;

(l) encouragement of sustainable transport measures, both through improvements to the existing walking, cycling and bridleway networks in the locality and through new provision, which should also provide links with the adjoining area and the town centre (which should also include a direct public footpath and cycleway from the High Oak Road area to enable direct pedestrian and cycle access to Wodson Park and the A1170), together with enhanced passenger transport services (particularly in respect of bus provision and access to the town centre and railway station);

(m) land for up to three forms of entry primary school/s provision (including early years provision). The schools should provide for the dual use of facilities for community purposes;

(n) land for up to eight forms of entry secondary school provision. The school should provide for the dual use of facilities for community purposes;

(o) a neighbourhood centre in an accessible location, providing local retail and community uses, including healthcare facilities to meet the day-to-day retail and health needs of new residents;

(p) employment area/s (of around 3ha), within visible and accessible location/s close to the neighbourhood centre, which provides appropriate opportunities to promote self-containment and sustainability;

(q) indoor and outdoor sports facilities (which may be shared use) to include, inter alia, junior football and mini soccer pitches;

(r) a variety of public open spaces across the site, including the provision of play areas, allotments, and opportunities for outdoor health and fitness activities, as well as space for wildlife;

(s) consideration of need for cemetery provision;

(t) landscaping and planting, both within the site and peripheral, which responds to the existing landscape and complements development, as appropriate, and a defined and recognisable boundary to the Green Belt;

(u) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure in accordance with Policy DEL1 (Infrastructure and Service Delivery);

(v) other policy provisions of the District Plan and relevant matters, as appropriate.

VI. In order to ensure that the site is planned and delivered comprehensively, any application for development on part of the site will be assessed against its contribution to the Masterplan, and will ensure that such development would not prejudice the implementation of the site allocation as a whole.

### 9.3 Employment in Ware

- 9.3.1** The location of Ware in relation to accessing the major road network means that it is an attractive place for businesses to locate. Ware is home to the District's largest private employer, GlaxoSmithKline, and other varying sized enterprises within its employment areas.
- 9.3.2** In order to continue to provide opportunities for businesses to serve the town and nearby settlements in the surrounding area, the strategy will be to protect and enhance the existing employment areas in Ware.

#### Policy WARE3 Employment in Ware

I. In accordance with Policy ED1 (Employment), the following locations are designated as Employment Areas:

- (a) Broadmeads;
- (b) Crane Mead;
- (c) Ermine Point/Gentlemen's Field\*;
- (d) Marsh Lane;
- (e) Park Road/Harris's Lane;
- (f) Star Street.

II. Development to the North and East of Ware will further deliver a new employment site of around 3ha in conjunction with provision of residential and other uses. The precise location of the new Employment Area will be brought forward through the masterplanning process, as set out in Policy WARE2.

\*N.B. This site lies within the Green Belt outside the main settlement boundaries.

### 9.4 Retail in Ware

- 9.4.1** Classed as a Minor Town Centre, Ware caters for a mixture of shopping and other service needs, both for its own residents and those of surrounding settlements. While it has a low preponderance of national multiple A1 retailers (Tesco, Boots and Peacocks) and therefore lacks the draw that these stores bring (ASDA lies outside of the town centre boundary), Ware is supported by the high quality of its independent stores, weekly market, and also on its higher than average food and drink offer.
- 9.4.2** Ware also benefits from local parades and individual shops within some of its residential areas, which provide valuable facilities for local people and passing trade in addition to the retail offer in the town centre.
- 9.4.3** There is considered to be limited opportunity for expanding the retail offer in Ware other than via the provision of local shopping facilities within the proposed development to the North and East of Ware allocation. It is vital that such facilities should be of a local nature with enough provision to ensure a sustainable community, without diverting trade from the town centre, where the retail offer will continue to be safeguarded.

### 9.5 Leisure and Community Facilities in Ware

- 9.5.1** Whilst Ware is located within a rural setting, public access to the countryside resource that surrounds the settlement, including the Ash, Lee and Rib Rivers, could be improved, as well as provision of space for children and young people. The provision of additional space for children and young people should be created to support both existing and new communities in the town. Proposals for the development of the WARE2 policy area should assist to some degree in this respect, through increased public access to the countryside and green space provision in the locality.
- 9.5.2** The improvement of river corridors in terms of both habitat and physical links connecting settlements, especially between Hertford and Ware and the wider countryside will be supported.
- 9.5.3** In respect of formal indoor and outdoor sport provision, any under provision of junior football and mini-soccer pitches identified in the Hertford and Ware area should also be addressed. Development proposals will therefore be considered in accordance with Policy CFLR1 (Open Space, Sport and Recreation) and contributions will be sought towards on-site or off-site provision, as appropriate. For development to the North and East of Ware, provision will be considered through the Masterplanning process and could involve shared-use facilities.
- 9.5.4** The Lee Valley Regional Park penetrates the town providing a valuable leisure resource and any proposals within its boundaries should accord with Policy CFLR5 (The Lee Valley Regional Park).

- 9.5.5** As any new residential development in Ware will result in an increased demand for local services and community facilities, including, for instance, healthcare and education, development proposals should therefore contribute to the enhancement of existing provision. This will ensure that both new and existing residents in the town are able to access community facilities and vital services within Ware, thereby reducing the need to travel to other settlements. In this respect, development proposals will be considered in accordance with Policies CFLR7 (Community Facilities), CFLR8 (Loss of Community Facilities), CFLR9 (Health and Wellbeing) and CFLR10 (Education).

## Chapter 9 . Ware



## Chapter 10 Villages

### Chapter 10 Villages

#### 10.1 Introduction

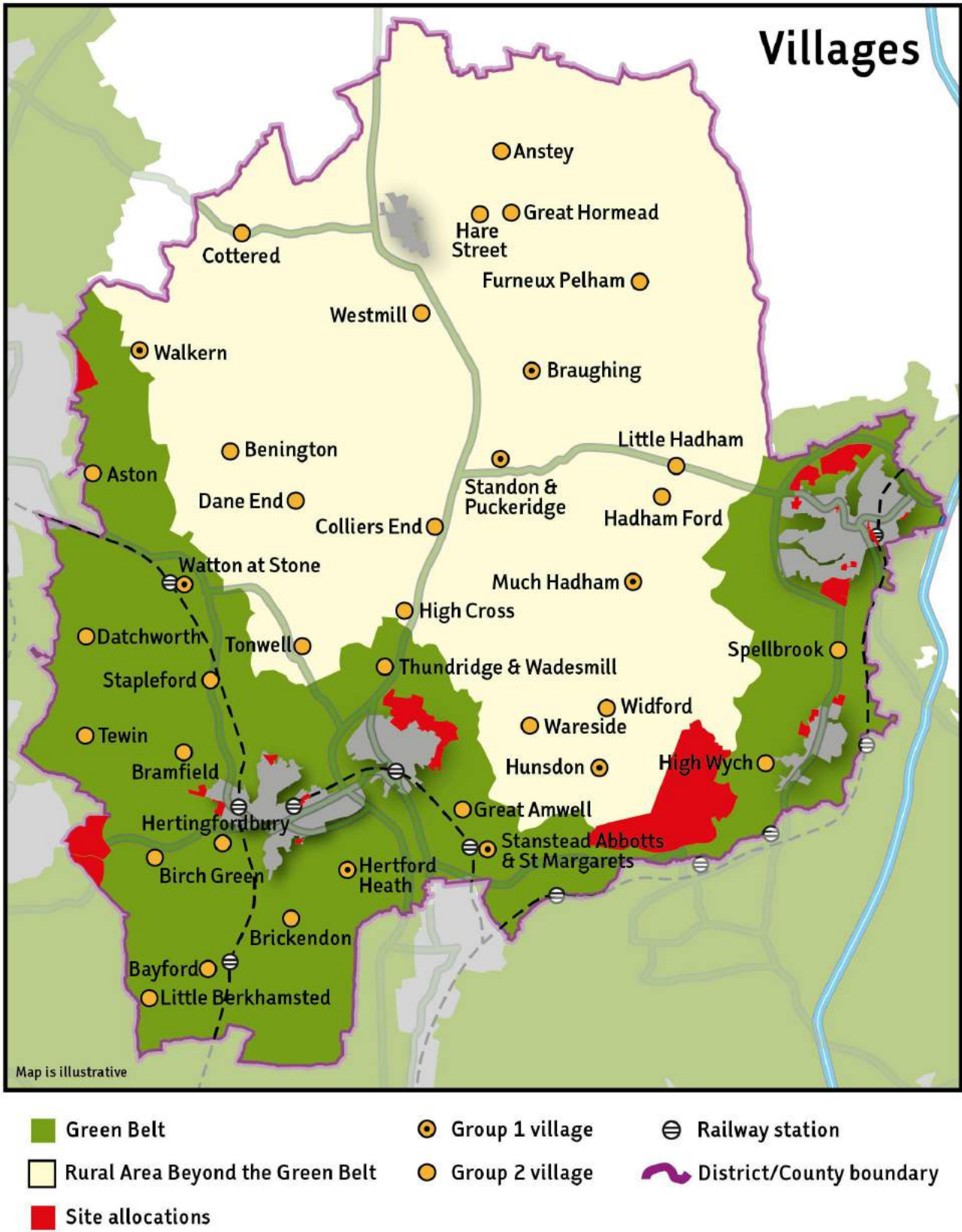
- 10.1.1** East Herts is a rural district, characterised by a dispersed settlement pattern of market towns, and over a hundred villages and hamlets reflecting thousands of years of human activity in the area. This has resulted in a valuable heritage in terms of the built environment, with 37 villages benefitting from designated Conservation Areas which befit their unique historic character.
- 10.1.2** Whilst villages originally grew as farming settlements, changes in agricultural practice have meant that there are fewer jobs on the land and many villages have become dormitory or commuter villages that house residents who work and socialise elsewhere.
- 10.1.3** Historically, the planning system has viewed villages in the context of the wider countryside and as such, has applied a general policy of restraint that seeks to protect the countryside (and therefore villages) from development.
- 10.1.4** This policy of restraint, whilst preserving the setting of the villages in open countryside by limiting their growth has resulted in housing affordability in the villages becoming particularly acute, with many younger residents unable to afford a home in the village that they grew up in. In addition, many villages have seen a decline in local services and facilities in recent years and the retention of the remaining services and facilities is crucial to maintaining a thriving rural community. Rural housing is considered to be essential to ensure viable use of local facilities.
- 10.1.5** Therefore, the development strategy for the villages seeks to balance the need to ensure vital and viable rural communities, with the desire to conserve the countryside. The Plan classifies villages into three groups, through a village hierarchy, reflecting their relative sustainability. This is an important element of the strategy, helping to direct housing development of an appropriate scale to the most sustainable locations.
- 10.1.6** Villages have been classified following an assessment of:
- the range of services and facilities that are present in each village;
  - the village's accessibility to higher order settlements; and
  - the level of public transport provision available.

Further information regarding the village classification process can be found in The Final Village Hierarchy Study, August 2016. This can be viewed at: [www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase)

- 10.1.7** Figure 10.1 below illustrates the key diagram for villages:



Figure 10.1: Key Diagram for the Villages



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### 10.2 Neighbourhood Plans

- 10.2.1** Neighbourhood planning is a key part of the Government's localism agenda. It aims to give local communities greater power to shape their neighbourhood by taking a more active role in the development of planning policies at a local level.
- 10.2.2** A Neighbourhood Plan allows communities to create both a vision and planning policies for the use and development of land in their village. For example, communities can identify where new homes should be built, what they should look like and identify local infrastructure needs.
- 10.2.3** The District Council wants to give Parish Councils the opportunity to empower local people to take a proactive role in shaping the future of the areas in which they live, and give local people greater ownership of the plans and policies that affect their local area. In accordance with Policy VILL1 (Group 1 Villages), Parish Councils will therefore be encouraged to prepare Neighbourhood Plans, in accordance with the provisions of the District Plan, to allocate land for development or to introduce additional policy requirements aimed at ensuring that development contributes toward local distinctiveness or other community objectives. Other Parish Councils may also wish to consider producing a Neighbourhood Plan to shape development in their villages.

### 10.3 Development in the Villages

- 10.3.1** In accordance with Policy DPS3 (Housing Supply 2011-2033) Group 1 Villages will together accommodate at least 500 new homes, between 2017-2033.
- 10.3.2** Group 1 Villages are the most sustainable villages in the District. In these villages development for housing, employment, leisure, recreation and community facilities will be permitted. Growth in these areas will help to sustain existing shops, services and facilities, deliver affordable housing, provide local job opportunities and deliver community benefits.
- 10.3.3** Having regard to the need to promote sustainable patterns of development, and to ensure delivery of the overall housing requirement for the villages, Group 1 Villages will need to accommodate at least a 10% increase in housing stock (based on the 2011 Census) over the 16-year period between 1st April 2017 and 31st March 2033. This is a level of housing growth that is considered fair, achievable and sustainable for each of the settlements concerned and that will make a meaningful contribution towards alleviating future housing demands, addressing local housing needs and supporting the village economy. Table 10.1 shows the minimum number of homes that each village will need to accommodate. However, development in excess of the minimum number indicated, may be considered appropriate, depending on site availability, site suitability and upon the capacity of infrastructure to meet the additional demand that arises.

**Table 10.1 10% growth in new homes at Group 1 Villages based on 2011 Census figures**

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| Village Name                    | Number of Households | 10% growth 2017-2033 |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Braughing                       | 347                  | 35                   |
| Hertford Heath                  | 836                  | 84                   |
| Hunsdon                         | 367                  | 37                   |
| Much Hadham                     | 535                  | 54                   |
| Standon & Puckeridge            | 1,456                | 146                  |
| Stanstead Abbots & St Margarets | 938                  | 94                   |
| Walkern                         | 551                  | 55                   |
| Watton-at-Stone                 | 917                  | 92                   |

Note: the figures shown are based on 2011 Census figures interpreted by Hertfordshire County Council.

- 10.3.4** Parish Councils will be encouraged to produce a Neighbourhood Plan to develop a shared vision for their village and to deliver the sustainable development they need (including housing, employment and leisure, recreation and community facilities). Neighbourhood Plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies in this Plan.
- 10.3.5** In order to accommodate at least a 10% increase in housing stock, village development boundaries in Group 1 Villages located in the Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt may need to be amended through Neighbourhood Plans.
- 10.3.6** The villages of Hertford Heath, Stanstead Abbots & St Margarets, and Watton-at-Stone are inset from the Green Belt. These villages will be encouraged to consider accommodating development in their Neighbourhood Plans, especially where it contributes to wider sustainability objectives and the delivery of community benefits. Where such proposals would involve changes to Green Belt boundaries, the District Council will consider making these amendments either through the next review of the District Plan or through a separate Site Allocations Development Plan Document.

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- 10.3.7** The District Council will monitor the progress of Neighbourhood Plans in its Authority Monitoring Report. Where Parish Councils in Group 1 Villages have not submitted a Draft Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 16) by 31st March 2021, the District Council will consider whether it is necessary to identify sites for development through a Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD).

### Policy VILL1 Group 1 Villages

I. The following villages are identified as Group 1 Villages:

| Group 1 Villages |             |                                 |                 |
|------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Braughing        | Hunsdon     | Standon & Puckeridge            | Walkern         |
| Hertford Heath   | Much Hadham | Stanstead Abbots & St Margarets | Watton-at-Stone |

II. Within the Group 1 Villages of Braughing, Hunsdon, Much Hadham, Standon & Puckeridge, and Walkern, as defined on the Policies Map, development for housing, employment, leisure, recreation and community facilities will be permitted subject to (VII) below and all other relevant policies in this Plan. These villages will need to accommodate at least a 10% increase in housing stock (based on the 2011 Census) over the 16-year period between 1st April 2017 and 31st March 2033.

III. Within the Group 1 Villages of Hertford Heath, Stanstead Abbots & St. Margarets, and Watton-at-Stone, as defined on the Policies Map, development for housing, employment, leisure, recreation and community facilities will be permitted subject to (VII) below and all other relevant policies in this Plan. These villages will be encouraged to consider whether it is appropriate, through the formulation of a Neighbourhood Plan, to accommodate additional development especially where it contributes to wider sustainability objectives and the delivery of community benefits. Where such proposals would involve changes to Green Belt boundaries, the District Council will consider making these amendments either through the next Review of the District Plan or through a separate Site Allocations Development Plan Document if necessary.

IV. Parish Councils are encouraged to prepare Neighbourhood Plans to allocate land for development or to introduce additional policy requirements aimed at ensuring that development contributes toward local distinctiveness or other community objectives.

V. The District Council will monitor the progress of Neighbourhood Plans in its Authority Monitoring Report. Where Parish Councils have not submitted a Draft Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 16) by 31st March 2021, the District Council will consider whether it is necessary to identify sites for development through a Site Allocations Development Plan Document if necessary.

VI. Prior to a Parish Council preparing a Neighbourhood Plan, development in the villages listed above will be limited to the built up area as defined on the Policies Map.

VII. All development should:

- (a) Relate well to the village in terms of location, layout and connectivity;
- (b) Be of a scale appropriate to the size of the village having regard to the potential cumulative impact of development in the locality;
- (c) Be well designed and in keeping with the character of the village;
- (d) Not represent the loss of a significant open space or gap important to the form and/or setting of the village;
- (e) Not represent an extension of ribbon development or an addition to an isolated group of buildings;
- (f) Not unacceptably block important views or vistas and/or detract from the openness of the countryside;
- (g) Not be significantly detrimental to the amenity of neighbouring occupiers.

**10.3.8** Group 2 Villages are generally smaller villages where limited infill development, together with small-scale employment, leisure, recreation and community facilities will be permitted. This development should take place within the village development boundary as defined on the Policies Map.

**10.3.9** As with Group 1 Villages, Parish Councils may consider that the most appropriate way to plan for their community's needs is by preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. Therefore, in addition to limited infill development, small-scale development identified in an adopted Neighbourhood Plan will be permitted. In villages located in the Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt, this may include development on the periphery of the main built up area of the village.

**10.3.10** No specific housing target has been identified for Group 2 villages. Where housing development does take place, this will contribute towards the Council's windfall allowance.

### Policy VILL2 Group 2 Villages

I. The following villages are identified as Group 2 Villages:



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### Group 2 Villages

|             |                |                 |                    |                        |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Anstey      | Brickendon     | Great Amwell    | High Wych          | Thundridge & Wadesmill |
| Aston       | Colliers End   | Great Hornead   | Little Berkhamsted | Tonwell                |
| Bayford     | Cottered       | Hadham Ford     | Little Hadham      | Wareside               |
| Benington   | Dane End       | Hare Street     | Spellbrook         | Westmill               |
| Birch Green | Datchworth     | Hertingfordbury | Stapleford         | Widford                |
| Bramfield   | Furneux Pelham | High Cross      | Tewin              |                        |

II. Within Group 2 Villages, as defined on the Policies Map, limited infill development, together with small-scale employment, leisure, recreation and community facilities will be permitted subject to (V) below and all other relevant policies in this Plan.

III. In addition, small-scale development identified in an adopted Neighbourhood Plan will be permitted.

IV. Prior to a Parish Council preparing a Neighbourhood Plan, development in the villages listed above will be limited to the built up area as defined on the Policies Map.

V. All development should:

- (a) Relate well to the village in terms of location, layout and connectivity;
- (b) Be of a scale appropriate to the size of the village having regard to the potential cumulative impact of development in the locality;
- (c) Be well designed and in keeping with the character of the village;
- (d) Not represent the loss of a significant open space or gap important to the form and/or setting of the village;
- (e) Not represent an extension of ribbon development or an addition to an isolated group of buildings;
- (f) Not unacceptably block important views or vistas and/or detract from the openness of the countryside;
- (g) Not be significantly detrimental to the amenity of neighbouring occupiers.

- 10.3.11** Group 3 Villages are generally amongst the smallest in East Herts. These villages have a poor range of services and facilities and it is often necessary for local residents to travel outside the village for most of their daily needs. These villages generally lack a primary school or local convenience shop and may not have a permanent post office or a village hall or meeting place. However, whilst Group 3 Villages are viewed as the least sustainable locations for development in the District, limited infill development identified in an adopted Neighbourhood Plan will be permitted.

### Policy VILL3 Group 3 Villages

- I. Those villages/settlements not identified as either Group 1 or Group 2 Villages are identified as Group 3 Villages.
- II. Within Group 3 Villages, limited infill development identified in an adopted Neighbourhood Plan will be permitted.
- III. All development should:
  - (a) Relate well to the village in terms of location, layout and connectivity;
  - (b) Be of a scale appropriate to the size of the village having regard to the potential cumulative impact of development in the locality;
  - (c) Be well designed and in keeping with the character of the village;
  - (d) Not represent the loss of a significant open space or gap important to the form and/or setting of the village;
  - (e) Not represent an extension of ribbon development or an addition to an isolated group of buildings;
  - (f) Not unacceptably block important views or vistas and/or detract from the openness of the countryside;
  - (g) Not be significantly detrimental to the amenity of neighbouring occupiers.

## 10.4 Village Development Boundaries

- 10.4.1** Village development boundaries have been defined for all Group 1 and Group 2 Villages, both within and beyond the Green Belt, and are shown on the Policies Map. These have generally been drawn quite tightly around the main built up area of villages. Development within the village development boundaries of Group 1 and 2 Villages is acceptable in principle.

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**10.4.2** It is anticipated however, that through Neighbourhood Plans, village development boundaries in Group 1 Villages may need to be amended to accommodate at least a 10% increase in housing stock in accordance with Policy VILL1. In addition, village development boundaries in Group 2 Villages located in the Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt may also be amended through the formulation of a Neighbourhood Plan to identify sites to accommodate small-scale development proposals. Group 2 Villages located within (washed over by) the Green Belt will not be permitted to amend their village development boundary through the Neighbourhood Planning process.

**10.4.3** Where Group 1 Villages are inset from the Green Belt, Parish Councils will be encouraged to consider whether it is appropriate to amend their Green Belt boundary (which defines the village development boundary) through the formulation of a Neighbourhood Plan to accommodate additional development. Where such proposals would involve changes to Green Belt boundaries, the District Council will consider making these amendments either through the next review of the District Plan or through a separate Site Allocations Development Plan Document if necessary.

### 10.5 Employment in the Villages

**10.5.1** The District Council provides support for rural businesses and the rural economy through its planning policies and through implementation of its Economic Development Vision and Action Plan. Employment areas within the rural area have a key role to play in providing accessible and affordable employment and business opportunities. The Local Plan Second Review 2007 designated several Employment Areas in the villages, all of which have been retained.

**10.5.2** In addition, the following two sites have been designated as Employment Areas reflecting the market demand for these premises:

1. Leaside Works, Stanstead Abbots
2. Riverside Works, Amwell End, Stanstead St. Margarets

#### Policy VILL4 Village Employment Areas

In accordance with Policy ED1 (Employment) the following locations are designated as Employment Areas:

- (a) Silkmead Industrial Estate, Hare Street;
- (b) Oakley Horseboxes, High Cross;
- (c) Langley House, Station Road, Standon;
- (d) Standon Business Park, Standon;



- (e) Leaside Works, Stanstead Abbotts;
- (f) Riverside Works, Amwell End, Stanstead St. Margarets;
- (g) The Maltings, Stanstead Abbotts;
- (h) Warrenwood Industrial Estate, Stapleford;
- (i) Thundridge Business Park, Thundridge.

**10.5.3** Sensitive small scale employment development can help sustain the rural economy and achieve a wider range of local employment opportunities. It can enhance the vitality of villages and reduce the need to travel. Proposals must however be in scale with the location. This means that larger proposals are more likely to be considered favourable in Group 1 Villages, whilst only very small scale proposals are likely to be acceptable in Group 2 Villages.

**10.5.4** The District Council also recognises that in order to ensure the continued viability of existing rural businesses there may be a need for premises to expand. Applications for small-scale extensions or alterations to premises, which provide an important source of local employment and cannot be relocated without damage to the local economy or community, will therefore be viewed sympathetically.

**10.5.5** New employment development in the villages will be considered in accordance with Policies GBR1, GBR2, ED2, VILL1 and VILL2.

### 10.6 Retail, Leisure and Community Facilities in the Villages

**10.6.1** Village shops, post offices and pubs play a vital role in rural areas helping to maintain villages as viable communities. They are often a focus of community life, providing a wide range of services. The District Council wishes to support the continued provision of these facilities recognising in particular that they are of value to less mobile members of society and those without access to a car.

**10.6.2** Planning applications that result in the loss of village shops, post offices and pubs will not be permitted unless the Council is satisfied that every effort has been made to retain them in accordance with Policy CFLR8 (Loss of Community Facilities).

**10.6.3** Small-scale extensions/alterations to existing village shops, post offices and pubs may be permitted in Group 1, 2 and 3 Villages in accordance with Policy CFLR7 (Community Facilities), where the use is considered essential to the vitality and viability of the village and is of a scale and use appropriate to the size and location of the village.

# Chapter 10 . Villages



## Chapter 11

# The Gilston Area

## Chapter 11 . The Gilston Area

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### Chapter 11 The Gilston Area

#### 11.1 Introduction

- 11.1.1** The Gilston Area is located to the north of the Stort Valley, in close proximity to the New Town of Harlow. It is characterised by an area of undulating countryside with a number of features including small streams, woods, hedgerows, and the historically important Gilston Park. A number of small settlements are located adjacent to the Gilston Area, including the villages of Hunsdon, Eastwick and Gilston.
- 11.1.2** Development in this location provides a unique opportunity to deliver a strategic sized sustainable development that will provide for a significant proportion of the District's housing needs, both within this Plan period and beyond. As such, the Gilston Area is allocated for a total of 10,000 new homes, with approximately 3,000 homes to be delivered in the Plan period, along with a significant amount of supporting infrastructure including roads and sustainable transport provision, schools, health centres and public open space. Providing a significant amount of development beyond 2033 will help to ensure that Green Belt boundaries will not need to be reviewed again in this location, and will also reduce pressure to provide development in and around existing settlements in the next Plan period.
- 11.1.3** Given its proximity to Harlow and its railway stations, residents of the Gilston Area will have access to substantial employment opportunities both within the town itself, and further afield. As well as providing benefits to East Herts, the development will support the regeneration of Harlow by helping to draw investment to the town and enhance its economic performance.
- 11.1.4** A Concept Framework is being jointly prepared by the landowners, the Council and the local community, which identifies design principles, potential land uses, infrastructure requirements and phasing, and will be used as a benchmark in reviewing proposals for development.

#### 11.2 Harlow and Gilston Garden Town

- 11.2.1** East Herts Council, Harlow Council and Epping Forest District Council are working in partnership together with Hertfordshire County Council, Essex County Council, Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, South East Local Enterprise Partnership, land owners and promoters to bring forward transformational growth in the Harlow area.
- 11.2.2** On 2 January 2017, the Government announced its support for the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town. The Councils share a bold vision and set of objectives, recognising that areas in and around Harlow present a number of opportunities to deliver growth of considerable scale and significance. Such growth is key, not only to meet growing pressures of housing and infrastructure need locally, but also to delivering broader regeneration and change for Harlow.

**11.2.3** The Councils are committed to delivering sustainable growth to support the economic ambitions of the London Stansted Cambridge Corridor (LSCC) through the delivery of housing, supported by good access to social, leisure, community, health facilities, education and jobs, that meet the needs of local people and support sustainable economic growth, whilst ensuring it remains an attractive place for people to live and locate to.

**11.2.4** The Garden Town will comprise various new developments in the wider Harlow area, within the three local authority areas. The Gilston Area forms a key part of this ambitious project. As such, the proposals for the Gilston Area should complement, and have regard to, ongoing work relating to the Garden Town.

### 11.3 Development in the Gilston Area

**11.3.1** The main components of the development strategy for the Gilston Area are as follows:

**11.3.2 Housing:** development in this location will provide a mixture of house sizes and tenures across seven distinct villages, including affordable housing and homes for older people. The site will also provide for the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople and make provision for self-build and/or custom build opportunities.

**11.3.3 Education:** the site will deliver land for twenty forms of entry for both primary and secondary education in order to fully cater for the needs arising from the development. Early Years Education will also be provided for.

**11.3.4 Transport:** a wide range of small and large scale interventions including sustainable transport measures, will be required to ensure that development in the wider Harlow area, including the Gilston Area, is able to proceed without causing unacceptable congestion in Harlow and the surrounding towns and villages, as well as the wider strategic transport network. These interventions include a new Junction 7a on the M11, upgrades to Junctions 7 & 8, a second River Stort crossing, widening of the existing crossing, and upgrades to the Amwell Roundabout. Sustainable transport measures will also be required including new bus services, connecting to Harlow and the wider area, as well as provision for walking and cycling.

**11.3.5 Community Facilities:** the Gilston Area will provide new community facilities based around a network of village centres. The facilities will include community meeting spaces, libraries and sport and recreation facilities. A range of local shops will also be provided, along with healthcare centres which will accommodate both family doctors and other health services such as dentists, pharmacies, physiotherapy and outpatient services. Consideration will also be given to the potential of the site to facilitate the re-location of the Princess Alexandra Hospital.

**11.3.6 Employment:** the development will provide local employment, including small scale office space. This will be in the form of either a business park of 5ha or distributed across the village centres having regard to Garden City principles. Residents will

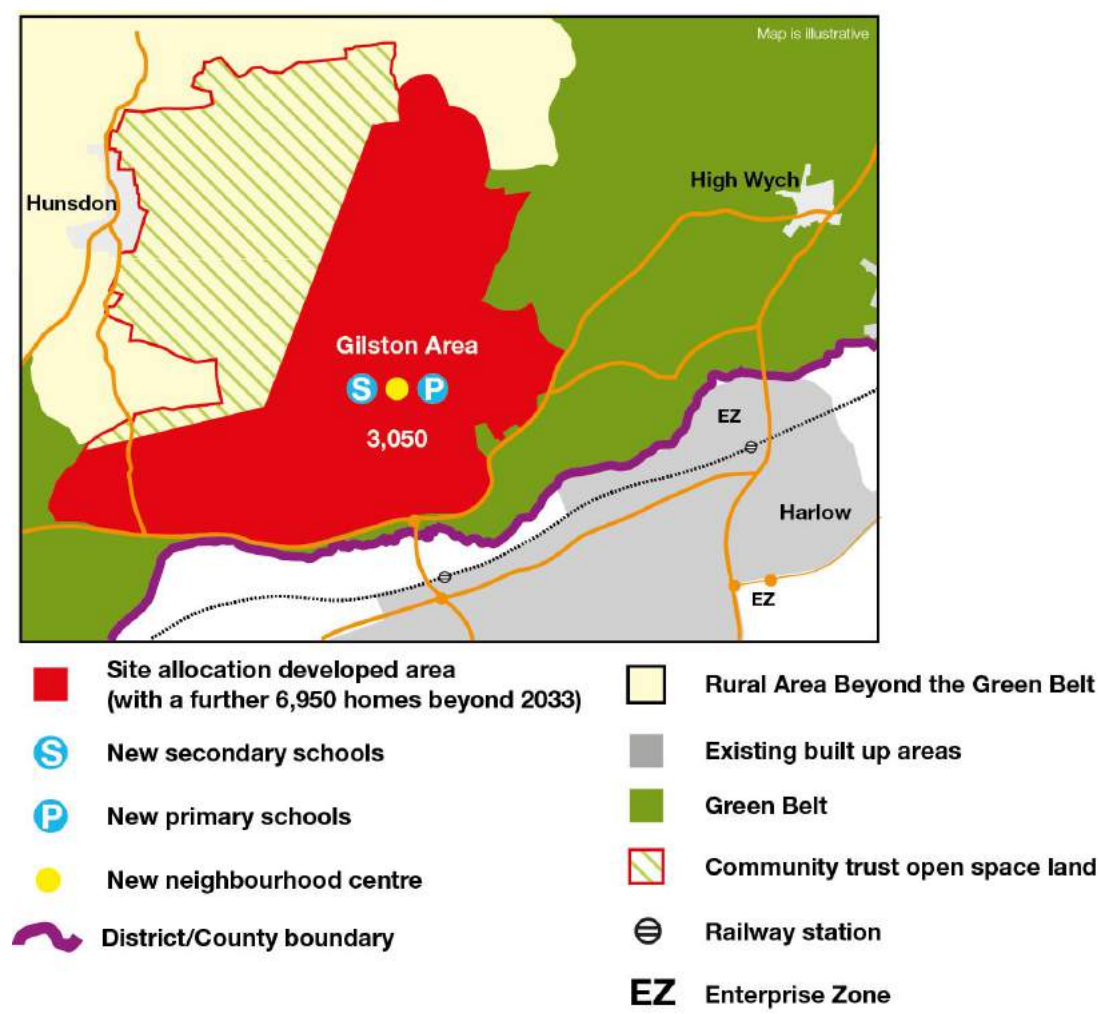
## Chapter 11 . The Gilston Area

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also be able to access more substantial employment opportunities within Harlow, including the Enterprise Zone. The proximity of the site to Harlow Town station will also enable sustainable access to employment opportunities further afield, including Stansted Airport, Cambridge, Bishop's Stortford and London.

- 11.3.7 Open Space:** The site allocation covers a large geographical area. However, only the south and south eastern sections of the site will be developed. In addition to development, this part of the site will deliver new green spaces including sports pitches, parks and recreation areas. Within the north and north western sections of the site, a substantial amount of public open space as part of wider managed parklands including continuing farming will be provided. This area will therefore remain undeveloped, with the exception of a small number of buildings associated with its recreational use. A community land trust, or other governance mechanism as appropriate, will be established in order to deliver local ownership and management of these assets. This should take place early in the overall development programme. In addition, the environment of the Stort Valley will be enhanced through the provision of new green infrastructure links, and woodland areas to the north of the site will be enhanced by planting and management schemes.
- 11.3.8 Character:** The development will be of high quality design, with careful consideration given to layout, architecture, building heights and materials. It will also be sensitively integrated visually in the wider context of the surrounding landscape. Landscape buffers will be provided in order to maintain the distinct identities of Eastwick and Gilston villages within the context of the overall development.
- 11.3.9 Heritage:** The site contains a number of heritage assets, including listed buildings and Scheduled Monuments. The development will be designed in order to ensure that these assets and their settings are conserved and, where appropriate, enhanced within the context of the overall development, through appropriate mitigation measures, having regard to the Heritage Impact Assessment (Montagu Evans, October 2017). Gilston Park (the designed landscape), a locally important historic asset, is also located within the Gilston Area. Development will be designed to respect this asset.
- 11.3.10 Ecology and Environment:** The development will retain and protect important hedgerows, Local Wildlife sites and ancient woodlands. New habitats will be created in order to achieve an overall net gain in biodiversity. A Sustainable Drainage (SuD's) network will be integrated to provide additional planting and biodiversity and to facilitate drainage and water retention having regard to the objectives of the River Stort Catchment Management Plan.
- 11.3.11** The main features of the policy approach to development in the Gilston Area are shown on Figure 11.1 below:

Figure 11.1: Key Diagram for the Gilston Area



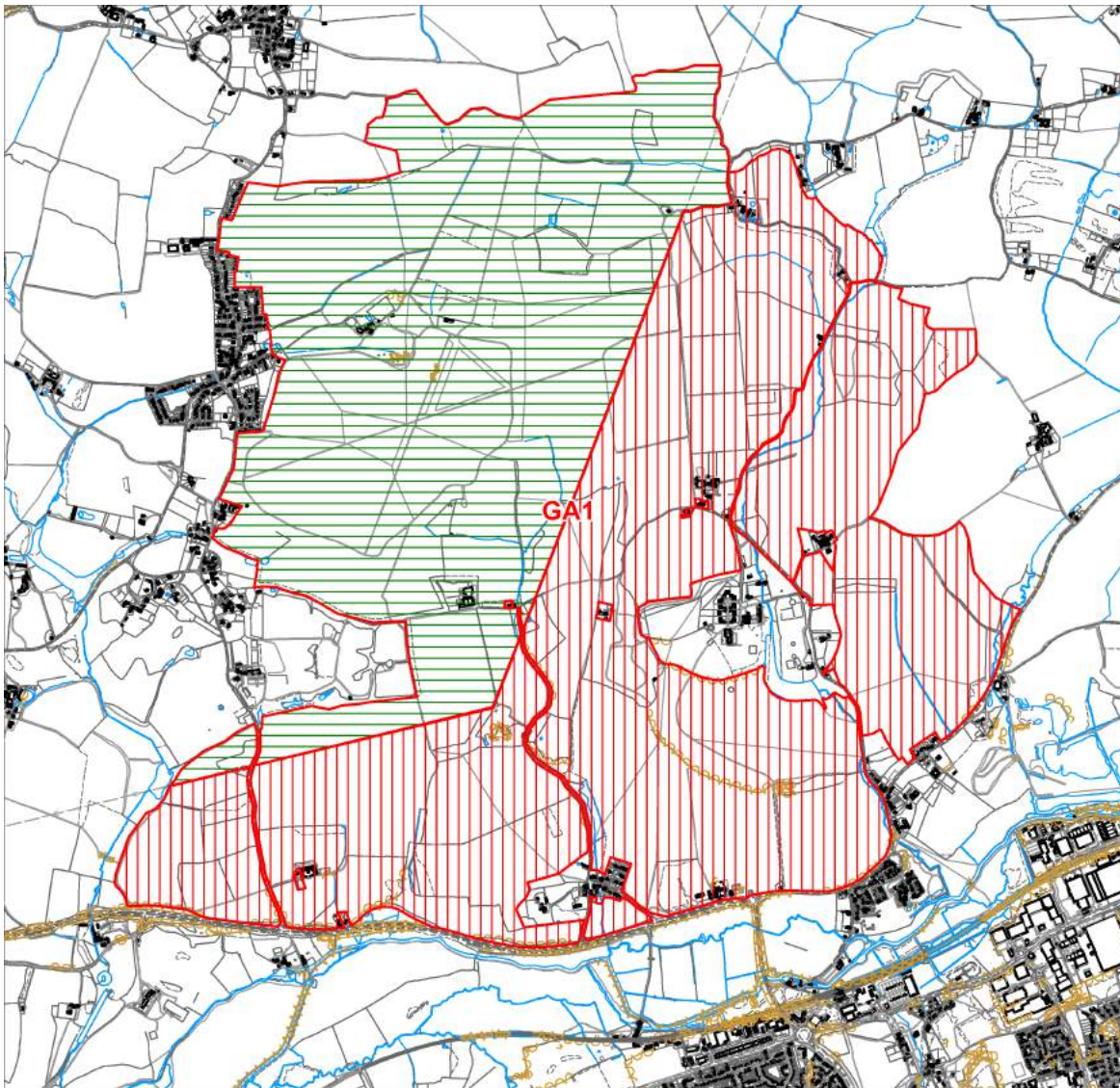


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Figure 11.2 Site Location Plan: The Gilston Area

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### Policy GA1 The Gilston Area

I. In accordance with Policy DPS3 (Housing Supply 2011-2033), land at the Gilston Area is allocated for development to accommodate 10,000 homes, to be delivered within this Plan period and beyond. It is anticipated that at least 3,000 homes will be delivered by 2033.

II. A Concept Framework is being jointly prepared by the landowners, the Council and the local community. The Concept Framework identifies design principles, potential land uses, infrastructure requirements and phasing, and will be used as a benchmark in reviewing proposals for development. Prior to the submission of any planning



application(s) further design work through the pre-application engagement process will be required in order to agree, among other things, the quantum and distribution of land uses, access and layout principles.

III. The Gilston Area will provide for 10,000 homes across distinct villages, each based on Garden City principles respecting the following:

- strong vision, leadership and community engagement;
- land value capture to deliver the social and physical infrastructure for the benefit of the community;
- long-term community ownership of land and stewardship of assets;
- mixed-tenure homes and housing types including those that are genuinely affordable;
- a wide range of local jobs within easy commuting distance of homes;
- beautifully and imaginatively designed homes with access to open space, combining the best of town and country to create healthy communities, and including opportunities to grow food;
- development that enhances the natural environment, providing a comprehensive green infrastructure network and net biodiversity gains, and that uses energy-positive technology to ensure climate resilience;
- strong cultural, recreational and shopping facilities in walkable, vibrant, sociable communities; and
- integrated and accessible sustainable transport systems, with walking, cycling and public transport designed to be the most attractive forms of local transport for new residents to travel within the Gilston Area and to key local destinations.

IV. A community engagement strategy will be prepared, working with the two local parishes, which will include consideration of managing the effects on local residents, and opportunities for them to participate in the emerging new community. Engagement with the local communities and other relevant stakeholders shall take place through the planning application process and through the development of village Masterplans.

V. The development is expected to address the following provisions and issues:

- (a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing);
- (b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);
- (c) a care home/ flexi-care or sheltered properties in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU6 (Homes for Older and Vulnerable People);

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(d) Self-Build and Custom Build Housing in accordance with Policy HOU8 (Self-Build and Custom Build Housing);

(e) the provision of a serviced site for Gypsy and Travellers, in accordance with Policy HOU9 (Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople) which should deliver 15 pitches for longer term needs beyond the Plan period;

(f) the provision of a serviced site for Travelling Showpeople in accordance with Policy HOU9 (Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople) which should deliver 8 plots for longer term needs beyond the Plan period; (each of sufficient size to allow for the provision of accommodation and equipment plus storage/maintenance);

(g) quality local green infrastructure throughout the site including opportunities for preserving and enhancing on-site assets, maximising opportunities to link into existing assets and enhancing biodiversity. This will include the protection of Local Wildlife Sites and other assets of environmental value;

(h) the provision of significant managed open space and parklands, and a limited number of buildings associated with that use, on the northern section of the site as identified in Figure 11.2, the ownership of which will be transferred to a community trust or other mechanism that ensures long term stewardship and governance for the benefit of the community;

(i) a variety of public green spaces across the site, including the provision of play areas and opportunities for outdoor health and fitness activities, as well as space for wildlife;

(j) access arrangements and local highways measures and commensurate financial contributions to addressing impacts on the wider strategic highways network, including the provision of additional crossings to the River Stort;

(k) land for twenty forms of entry for both primary and secondary education, including Early Years facilities, subject to more detailed modelling. All schools should provide for the dual use of facilities for community purposes;

(l) sustainable transport measures which encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport including:

- the provision of cycleways and footways that provide links throughout the site and into Harlow;
- enhancement of existing bridleways and footpaths;

- enhanced passenger transport services including the creation of a sustainable transport route through the site which will link into a sustainable transport corridor which links the Gilston Area to the urban area of Harlow; and;
- the setting of objectives and targets for the use of sustainable transport modes.

(m) consideration of the potential of the site to facilitate the delivery of a re-located Princess Alexandra Hospital;

(n) the use of appropriate landscape buffers in order to protect the individual character and integrity of Eastwick and Gilston villages within the context of the development;

(o) the protection and enhancement of heritage assets and their settings, both on-site and in the wider area through appropriate mitigation measures, having regard to the Heritage Impact Assessment. Gilston Church and the Johnston Monument (both grade I listed), the moated site Scheduled Monuments at Eastwick, the Mount Scheduled Monument, and Gilston Park house (grade II\*) are of particular significance and sensitivity and any planning application should seek to ensure that these assets and their settings are conserved and, where appropriate, enhanced, through careful design; landscaping; open space; buffer zones; protection of key views; and, better management and interpretation of assets, where appropriate;

(p) neighbourhood centres in accessible locations, providing local retail and community uses, including healthcare facilities to meet the day-to-day retail and health needs of new residents;

(q) employment area/s (of around 5ha), within visible and accessible location/s, which provides appropriate opportunities to promote self-containment and sustainability;

(r) consideration of opportunities for local supply chains as well as opportunities for local employment and training including apprenticeships and improving skills base for local people;

(s) indoor and outdoor sports facilities (which may be shared use) taking into account the Council's evidence on sports and open space needs;

(t) consideration of need for cemetery provision;

(u) landscaping and planting, both within the site and peripheral, which responds to the existing landscape and complements development, as appropriate, and a defined recognisable boundary to the Green Belt;

(v) assisting the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure;

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(w) necessary new utilities, including integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home working;

(x) satisfactory water supply, including acceptable water pressure for occupants;

(y) sustainable drainage and provision for flood mitigation;

(z) other policy provisions of the District Plan and relevant matters, as appropriate.

VI. Any application for development will include an indicative phasing plan for the delivery of infrastructure and utilities across the villages.

VII. The delivery of the Gilston Area will include a mechanism for:

- securing the long term stewardship, protection and maintenance of the parkland, open spaces, play areas and community assets;
- managing the construction process to address potential impacts on existing and future communities;
- encouraging a successful and active community, including an innovative approach to create the conditions for local resident participation in the design and stewardship of their new communities.

VIII. Proposals for the Gilston Area should complement, and have regard to, ongoing work in relation to the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town.

### 11.4 The River Stort Crossings

**11.4.1** The greater Harlow area is forecast to experience significant housing and employment growth during the plan period. The A414 corridor is already under pressure. Potential improvements are being explored along the wider corridor, and a new junction on the M11 is being promoted by Essex County Council (Junction 7a). In order to provide capacity to meet the wider needs of the existing residents and businesses, and future growth, the connectivity over the River Stort needs to be improved. Schemes have previously been designed for improvements to the existing A414 crossing at Eastwick.

**11.4.2** Additional crossing options are also being reviewed, both to the east and the west of the existing crossing. New crossings both to the east and west are feasible, but deliver different benefits. The eastern crossing is the option preferred by Essex County Council as it provides relief to junctions along the western end of the A414 Edinburgh Way in Harlow, and enhances access to the Enterprise Zone and links through, potentially, to the proposed new motorway Junction 7a. Any application proposals will need to address environmental factors such as visual impact, ecology and flooding.

- 11.4.3** In accordance with the NPPF the Council considers it appropriate for the crossings to be located across Green Belt land. The Council, Harlow Council, Hertfordshire County Council and Essex County Council are exploring the land ownership associated with delivering additional transport capacity and, if necessary, are able to use CPO powers to bring forward works needed to support the growth and regeneration of the area.
- 11.4.4** Widening of the existing River Stort Crossing will help facilitate the provision of a sustainable transport corridor which will connect the Gilston Area to the urban area of Harlow.

### Policy GA2 The River Stort Crossings

I. The Council will work with key stakeholders including Hertfordshire County Council, Essex County Council, Harlow Council, Hertfordshire LEP, and others as appropriate, to facilitate the delivery of the following transport improvements to crossings of the River Stort:

- A widening of the existing A414 crossing to enable a dualling of the northbound and southbound carriageways and provision of a new footway/cycleway, which will form part of a north-south sustainable transport corridor through Harlow; and
- A new vehicular, cycle and pedestrian crossing either to the east of the existing crossing (connecting the A414 to the River Way), or to the west of the existing crossing (connecting the A414 to Elizabeth Way).

II. Development proposals for both Stort Crossings should protect and, where appropriate, enhance heritage assets and their settings through appropriate mitigation measures, having regard to the Heritage Impact Assessment.

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## Chapter 12

# East of Stevenage

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### Chapter 12 East of Stevenage

#### 12.1 Introduction

- 12.1.1** Stevenage is a Mark I New Town designated in 1946 as part of the Abercrombie plan for the establishment of settlements around London. The town has grown in several stages, shaped originally around six distinct neighbourhoods, each with a neighbourhood centre and local schools. The town is bordered to the west by the A1(M), which facilitated the growth of an extensive employment corridor at Gunnel Wood. As such, Stevenage is home to many large corporations and a wide variety of small to medium sized employers, making the town a key destination and employment centre.
- 12.1.2** A site of approximately 37 hectares of land to the east of Gresley Way, Stevenage is therefore allocated for development in the East Herts District Plan, to deliver at least 600 homes within the first six years of the Plan period. The site will be referred to as Gresley Park.
- 12.1.3** As the development abuts the edge of Stevenage, the site will need to be planned in collaboration with Stevenage Borough Council. However, as the site is wholly within the administrative boundary of East Herts District, East Herts Council is the relevant Local Planning Authority. Nonetheless, the Council will work with Stevenage Borough Council, Hertfordshire County Council (in its capacity as education and highways authority), landowners and other key stakeholders to produce a masterplan for Gresley Park.

#### 12.2 Development East of Stevenage

- 12.2.1** The main components of the development strategy for land to the east of Stevenage at Gresley Park are as follows:
- 12.2.2 Housing:** Stevenage is home to many large employers and is a key employment destination for residents in East Herts. As such, housing to the east of Stevenage is well located in relation to the services and employment in the town and would contribute towards meeting the East Herts District housing needs. The site will provide a new neighbourhood comprising a mixture of house sizes and tenure, including affordable homes, a care home and homes for older people. Stevenage Borough Council's regeneration ambitions would be supported by dwellings which are attractive to workers who would otherwise look outside the town for their housing needs. The site will also provide for the accommodation needs of Travelling Showpeople and make provision for self-build and/or custom-build opportunities.
- 12.2.3 Education:** the site will provide a two form entry primary school with Early Years Education facilities. This will meet the educational needs arising from the development as well as providing additional capacity to address wider needs. Secondary education will be provided within the wider Stevenage Education Planning Area, towards which the development will contribute financially.



- 12.2.4 Transport:** the site is well located for access in to Stevenage and beyond via Gresley Way and the A602. The site is also well located in terms of connecting to existing bus services to the town centre and station. A route running through the site for bus uses will ensure that all residents are within easy walking distance of bus stops. The establishment of a bus route through the site at the start of occupation will encourage use of the network. Cycle and foot links will be provided to connect with the existing network in Stevenage and to the wider countryside.
- 12.2.5** Mitigation will be required on the highway network, including improvements to the Gresley Way/A602 junction and other local roads as necessary. The development will need to ensure that existing Bridleways (Aston 004 and Aston 021) are maintained and new routes are provided to connect the site to Stevenage to the west and to the wider countryside to the east.
- 12.2.6 Other Infrastructure:** waste water will drain to Rye Meads, and new waste water services will be created as part of the development to ensure that the efficiency of the network is maintained and there are no adverse effects on surrounding watercourses. Sustainable drainage features will also be required on the site. In addition, a serviced area of land will be required to accommodate a site for Travelling Showpeople. If required, a healthcare facility can be provided within the neighbourhood centre.
- 12.2.7 Employment and Retail:** The site is well located in terms of access to the Pin Green Industrial Estate to the east of the town and Gunnels Wood to the west via the A602. Gresley Way is well connected to the town centre via Martins Way. There will also be employment and retail opportunities within the neighbourhood centre, school and care home provided as part of the development.
- 12.2.8 Character and design:** The site is well screened from the wider landscape by the surrounding woodland belts and a ridgeline to the east of the site will shield the site from within and opposite the Beane Valley. The site's gentle undulations and existing tree belts and hedgerows will help to define the character of areas within the site. Further planting to define open spaces and outer boundaries would be incorporated into the development.
- 12.2.9** A collaboratively prepared Masterplan will form an important part of the delivery of this site allocation. The Masterplan will provide a strong framework for the development, which may also embody the use of design codes. The Masterplan will set out a hierarchy of roads differentiating between the central tree-lined avenue, secondary streets and estate roads. The Masterplanned approach will be landscape-led to ensure good quality place-making and the highest quality design and layout across the development resulting in a distinctive character. An attractive network of connecting paths and cycleways which connect in to the existing Stevenage cycle network will be integral to the character of Gresley Park along with visible and physical connections that provide access to the Beane Valley without prejudicing the strength of the outer boundaries of the site. This will also enable a

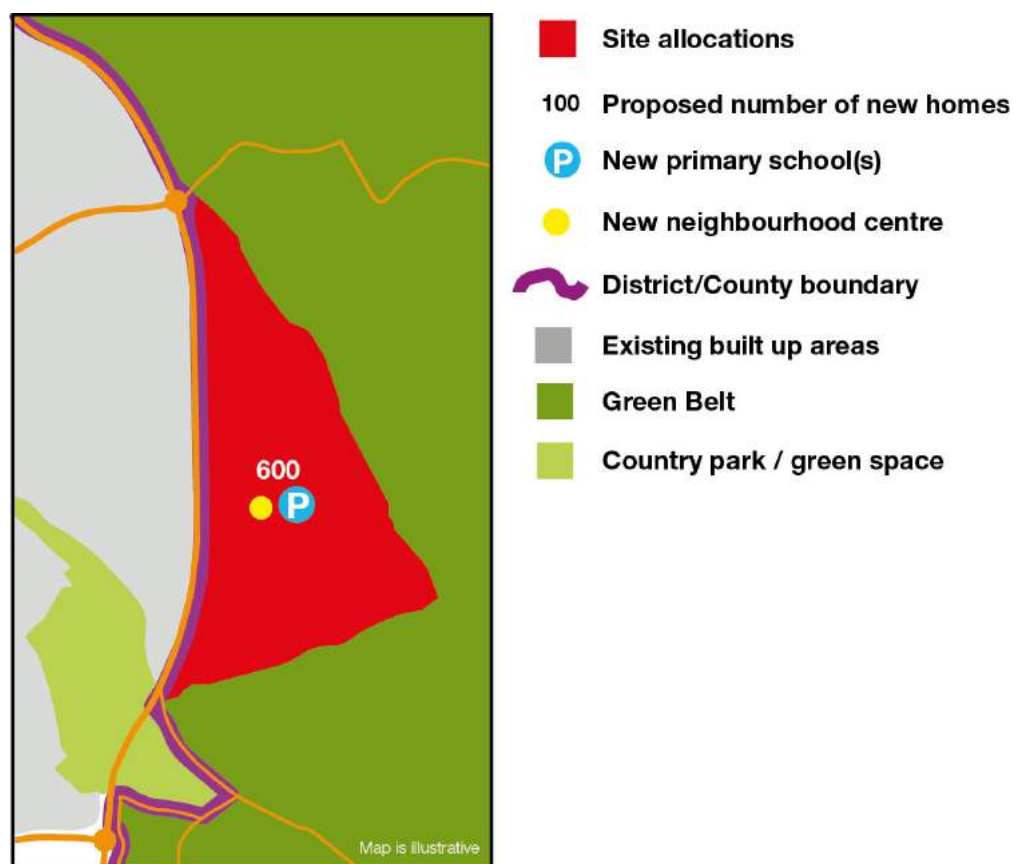
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range of journeys to be made by foot and cycle providing opportunities for health and leisure activities. The Masterplan will accord with the provisions of Policy DES1 (Masterplanning).

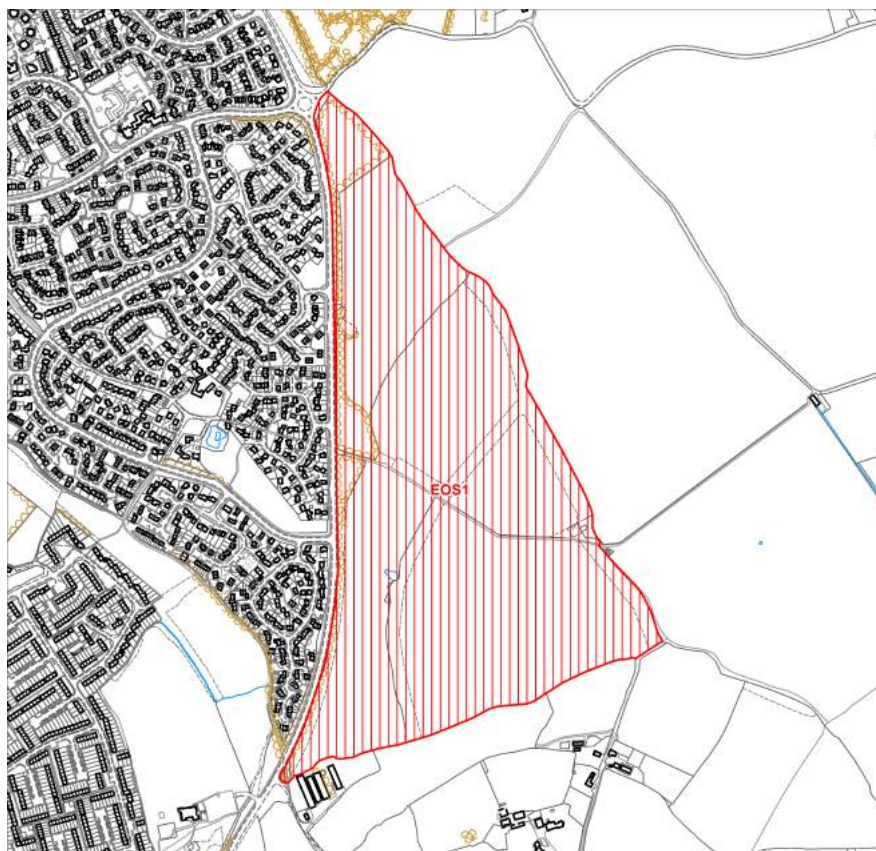
**12.2.10** The main features of the policy approach to development East of Stevenage are shown in Figure 12.1 below.

**Figure 12.1: Key Diagram for East of Stevenage**



**Figure 12.2 Site Location: East of Stevenage**

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### **Policy EOS1 Land East of Stevenage**

I. Land at Gresley Park is allocated for development to accommodate around 600 new homes by 2023.

II. A landscape-led Masterplan setting out the quantum and distribution of land uses; access; sustainable high quality design and layout principles; necessary infrastructure; the relationship between the site and other nearby settlements; landscape and heritage assets; and other relevant matters, will be collaboratively prepared, involving site promoters, landowners, East Herts Council, Stevenage Borough Council, parish councils and key stakeholders. This document will further be informed by public participation in the process.

III. The development is expected to address the following provisions and issues:

- (a) a range of dwelling type and mix, in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing);
- (b) Affordable Housing in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing);

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(c) a care home/ flexi-care or sheltered properties in accordance with the provisions of Policy HOU6 (Specialist Housing for Older and Vulnerable People);

(d) Self-Build and Custom Build Housing in accordance with Policy HOU8 (Self-Build and Custom Build Housing);

(e) provision of a serviced site for Travelling Showpeople which should deliver five plots (each of sufficient size to allow for the provision of accommodation and equipment plus storage/maintenance) in accordance with Policy HOU9 (Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople);

(f) education facilities, including land for a two-form entry primary school with an Early Years facility and financial contribution towards secondary education within the Stevenage Education Planning Area;

(g) a neighbourhood centre in an accessible location, providing local retail and community uses including a healthcare facility;

(h) access arrangements and highways and wider strategic mitigation measures, including improvements to the A602/Gresley Way junction and other local roads as necessary, taking account of the Stevenage Mobility Strategy;

(i) sustainable transport measures which encourage walking and cycling through the site, including:

- the provision of cycleways and footways that provide links into Stevenage including existing cycle networks and the provision of a high quality cycle route along Gresley Way between Six Hills Way and Fairlands Way, with links to Six Hills Way;
- enhancement of existing bridleways and footpaths connecting the site to the Beane Valley to the east of the site;
- enhanced passenger transport services including the creation of a sustainable transport route through the site;

(j) responds to the existing landform to define individual character areas, incorporating existing landscaping within the new streets, paths and spaces, enhances the outer boundary of the site; retains and enhances, where required, the existing hedgerows within and around the site, punctuating where access into the site is required; and creates a net gain to biodiversity through additional planting;

(k) incorporates sustainable drainage and provision for flood mitigation;

(l) a variety of public open spaces across the site, including the provision of play areas and opportunities for outdoor health and fitness activities, as well as space for wildlife;

(m) necessary utilities, including integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home-working, and upgrades to the localised sewerage network;

(n) the delivery of all other necessary on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure;

(o) other policy provisions of the District Plan and relevant matters, as appropriate.

IV. In order to ensure that the site is planned and delivered comprehensively, any application for development on part of the site will be assessed against its contribution to the masterplan, and will ensure that such development would not prejudice the implementation of the site allocation as a whole.

**12.2.11** Figure 12.3 is an illustrative strategy diagram which will be used as a basis for masterplanning and will also help inform decisions on planning applications.



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Figure 12.3: Strategy Diagram for East of Stevenage





## Chapter 13

# East of Welwyn Garden City

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### Chapter 13 East of Welwyn Garden City

#### 13.1 Introduction

- 13.1.1** Welwyn Garden City which immediately adjoins East Herts to the west of the district is the Country's second Garden City and therefore has a long history as an innovative and distinctive town. The town's location within the A1(M) corridor means it is highly accessible and as such is home to regionally important employment areas and national headquarters of large businesses. The town and the borough is a key workplace and retail destination for East Herts residents. This results in strong economic and housing market links between Welwyn Hatfield and East Herts.
- 13.1.2** Land to the East of Welwyn Garden City was assessed through the Plan-making process and was identified as a Broad Location for Development. This meant that the principle of development in this location was reserved subject to further detailed assessments which would be considered through the production of a Development Plan Document.
- 13.1.3** Since the Preferred Options consultation, East Herts and Welwyn Hatfield Council Officers have undertaken technical assessments to assess the feasibility and suitability of development in this location. This is documented in the Settlement Appraisal.
- 13.1.4** Consequently, land to the East of Welwyn Garden City at Birchall Garden Suburb is allocated for development in both the East Herts District Plan, and the Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan to accommodate 2,550 new homes over the Plan period. 1,350 homes will be in East Herts and 1,200 homes will be in Welwyn Hatfield Borough.
- 13.1.5** As the development straddles the boundary between the two authorities the site will be planned in a comprehensive and co-ordinated manner. East Herts Council, Welwyn Hatfield Council and Hertfordshire County Council (in its capacity as minerals and waste planning, education and highways authority) will work together with landowners and other key stakeholders to produce a masterplan for Birchall Garden Suburb, which can be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document to provide a clear basis upon which future planning applications will be considered. The masterplan will set out the detailed phasing of delivery across the site, but development will commence within the first five years of the Plan period.

#### 13.2 Development East of Welwyn Garden City

- 13.2.1** The main components of the development strategy for land to the East of Welwyn Garden City at Birchall Garden Suburb subject to masterplanning are expected to focus on the following:
- 13.2.2 Housing and Community Facilities:** The development will comprise a mix of tenures, including affordable and aspirational homes as well as specialist residential provision for older people (such as retirement bungalows and apartments, flexi-care and residential care homes). In addition, a site will also be provided for Gypsies



and Travellers. Development within the East Herts part of the site to the north of Birchall Lane will be a more compact urban form, while land to the south of Birchall Lane is likely to take the form of connected villages in order to fit well within the landscape.

- 13.2.3** The new homes will be supported by a range of community facilities located around two neighbourhood centres (one in East Herts and one in Welwyn Hatfield). The larger neighbourhood centre will be located to the north of Birchall Lane where access can be achieved from the main road. A smaller local centre will be located to the south of the site where it can be co-located with the primary school, thus creating a natural centre to the development.
- 13.2.4 Education:** Land for a two-form entry primary school with early years provision, will be located within the Welwyn Hatfield part of the site, while land for a three-form entry primary school, with early years provision, will be provided on the East Herts part of the site, along with land for the provision of an eight-form entry secondary school.
- 13.2.5 Character and Design:** Welwyn Garden City is well known for its Garden City design principles and this will provide a strong framework for the development, which will be secured through the use of design codes and a collaboratively prepared masterplan. This will ensure the highest quality design and layout and a comprehensive and unified approach to the whole development, albeit reflecting different character areas across the site. Connections will be enhanced between the development site to the environmental assets such as Panshanger Park and the River Lea and Mimram corridors.
- 13.2.6 Heritage:** Important heritage assets within and in the vicinity of the site will be protected through adequate mitigation which will include the provision of landscaped buffers, and maintaining open or landscaped areas where necessary. Land uses which can contribute towards maintaining these buffers will be located where required, such as locating the all through-school or public open space or sports pitches to the eastern edge of the site where the built form can provide a clear boundary, with the visually less intrusive features of the playing fields contributing to the softer edge of the development as well as a buffer between the development and heritage asset of Panshanger Park.
- 13.2.7 Open Spaces:** Open spaces will be provided which provide multi-functional drainage solutions as well as space for recreation, creating connections to green infrastructure corridors including the Mimram and Lea Valleys. Formal open spaces will be provided through the creation of a large common/informal parkland utilising the former landfill part of the site within Welwyn Hatfield. The site will also make provision for playing pitches and play spaces as well as community orchards and allotments. Areas of ecological importance will be protected and enhanced through appropriate buffer planting and an appropriate land management strategy.

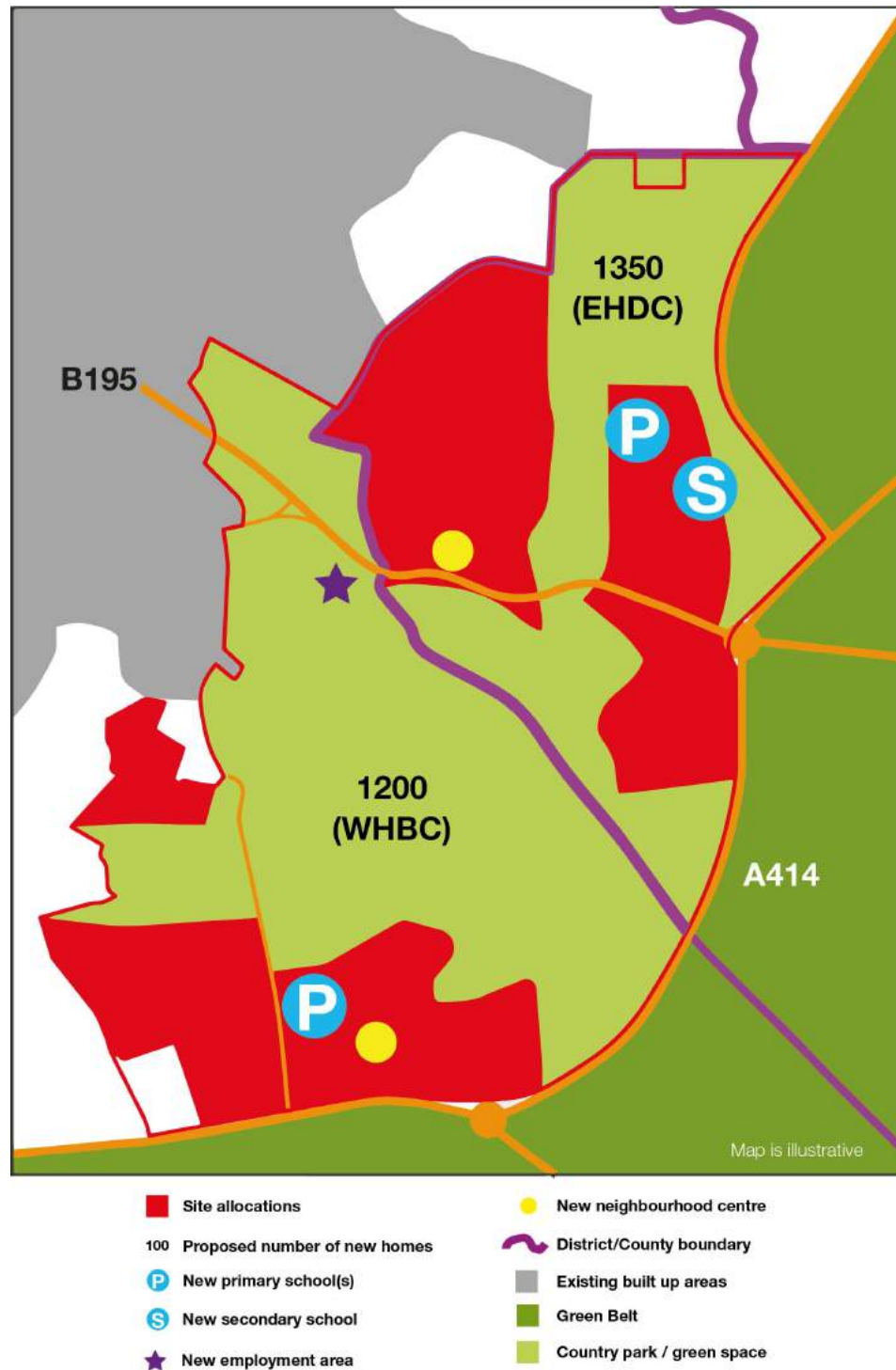
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- 13.2.8 Green Belt:** The site is largely screened from the wider landscape by the surrounding areas of woodland, which along with the surrounding roads help to define the structure of the area. Panshanger Lane to the east of the site provides a clear Green Belt boundary, beyond which is an area of high quality landscape around the Mimram Valley and the Grade II Registered Panshanger Park. To the south-east, the A414 makes a clear Green Belt boundary and will be screened by the creation of new landscape features.
- 13.2.9 Transport:** An important aspect of the development will be its connectivity within the site and to the existing town. Walking and cycling and bus connectivity will be prioritised over car users to encourage a shift towards more sustainable means of transport. Existing Rights of Way will be enhanced, improving links within the site and to the countryside beyond. The development will make improvements to National Cycle Route 61 (a disused railway line known as the Cole Green Way), and will create new cycle networks providing connections within and around the site for leisure and commuter cycling trips to and from the development.
- 13.2.10** Existing bus routes will be extended into the site creating bus connectivity to Welwyn Garden City town centre and train station. Local education, health and retail opportunities will serve to make the development sustainable, reducing the need for travel as well as providing local job opportunities. This will have multiple benefits including contributing to the health and wellbeing of residents. The site is well located for access in to Welwyn Garden City off the A414 and B195. Mitigation will be required on the A414 junctions and improvements will be necessary to the B195, Birchall Lane.
- 13.2.11 Employment:** New employment land has recently been granted permission by Welwyn Hatfield Council at the Holdings, Birchall Lane. The masterplan will seek to increase this employment land to the site currently occupied by BP Mitchell. Birchall Lane is a key route in to Welwyn Garden City from the east; therefore employment space will be highly visible and will contribute towards the creation of a new employment corridor. The area is well located for easy access to Hatfield Business Park and the employment opportunities within Welwyn Garden City and Hertford. There will also be employment opportunities within the two neighbourhood centres provided as part of the development and within the schools.
- 13.2.12 Waste Water Infrastructure:** Waste water will drain to Rye Meads Waste Water Treatment Works, and new waste water services will be created as part of the development to ensure that the efficiency of the network is maintained and there are no adverse effects on surrounding watercourses.
- 13.2.13 Minerals:** It is important to prevent the unnecessary sterilisation of mineral resources (which is a requirement of national policy and the Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan). As there are underlying mineral deposits which will need to be extracted prior to the commencement of development, and if possible should be used locally in the construction phase. Detailed phasing and the approach to land remediation and subsequent development will be set out in the masterplan.

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Figure 13.1: Key Diagram for East of Welwyn Garden City



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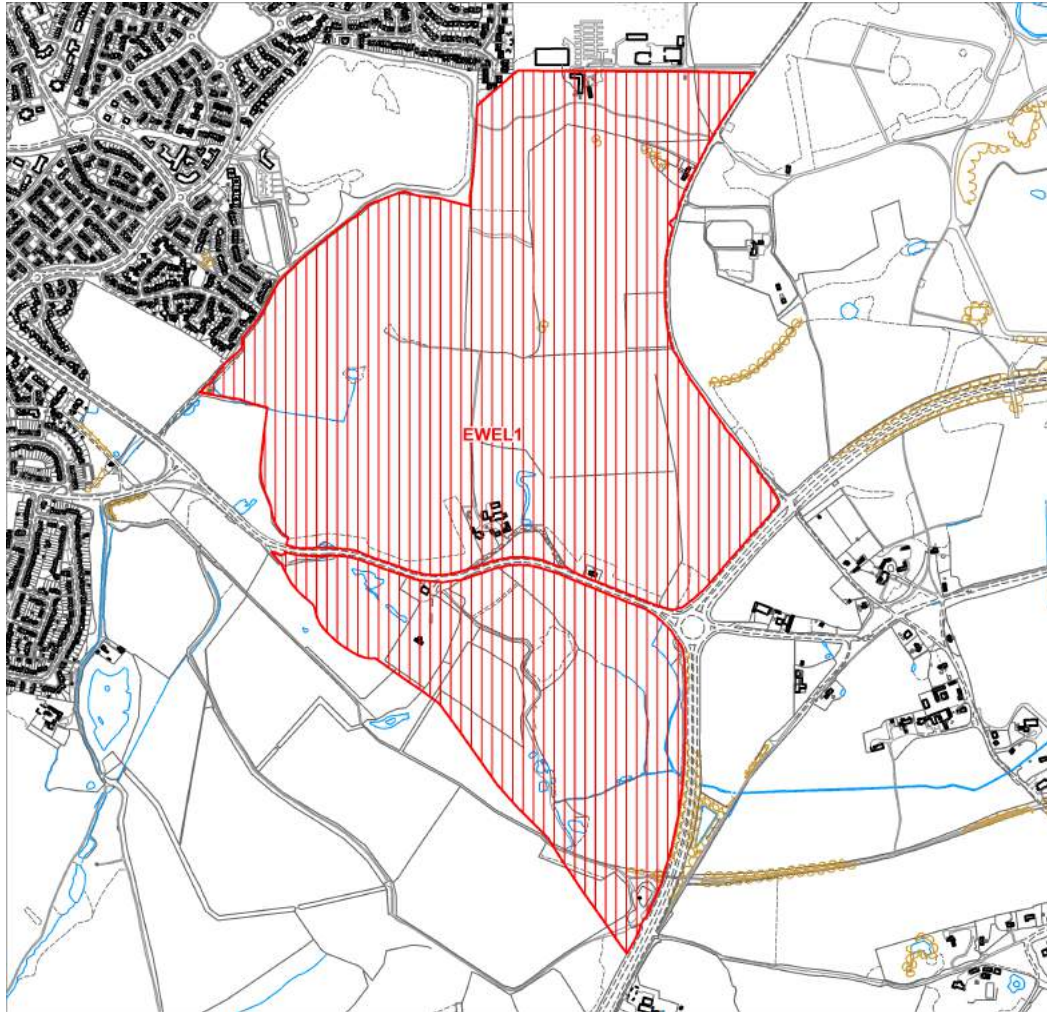
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**Figure 13.2 Site Location: East of Welwyn Garden City**

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### **Policy EWEL1 Land East of Welwyn Garden City**

I. Land at Birchall Garden Suburb is allocated for development in both the Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan (SDS2) and the East Herts District Plan (EWEL1), to accommodate approximately 2,550 new homes over the plan period, of which 1,200 will be in Welwyn Hatfield Borough and 1,350 in East Herts District.

II. East Herts District Council and Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council will continue to work together to ensure that the new suburb is delivered in a comprehensive manner across the local authority boundaries. Mechanisms will need to be established to ensure the effective delivery of infrastructure required to support the development.

III. A joint masterplan setting out the quantum and distribution of land uses, key views to protect heritage assets, access, sustainable design and layout principles will be prepared by Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council and East Herts District Council, working with the landowner and other key stakeholders. The Masterplan, which will be informed



by the Strategy Diagram shown in Figure 13.3 below, will inform the Supplementary Planning Document which will provide further guidance on site specific matters. The SPD will provide additional detail with regard to design and layout principles (including any design code), the approach to character areas and site density, treatment of ecological and heritage assets, the approach to remediation, access and sustainable transport measures, the location of a Gypsy and Traveller site, phasing and delivery of infrastructure, mineral extraction and built development. Any application for development should be preceded by, and be consistent with, the Masterplan.

IV. The site will be planned comprehensively to create a new sustainable community incorporating Garden City principles. Land adjacent to the existing edge of Welwyn Garden City will be formal in layout reflecting the character of the Garden City and Garden City principles. Further from the town, lower density development of a more semi-rural character that responds to the locale and landscape will be more appropriate.

V. The developer must demonstrate the extent of the mineral present and the likelihood of prior extraction in an environmentally acceptable way has been fully considered. As a minimum, an assessment of the depth and quality of mineral, together with an appraisal of the consequential viability for prior extraction without prejudicing the delivery of housing within the plan period should be provided.

VI. The developer will submit a detailed remediation strategy designed to secure a permanently safe environment for the human population and local wildlife and, following remediation, will submit sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the site is not capable of being determined as contaminated land under Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

VII. In accordance with the relevant Local/District Plan policies the site will provide for:

- (a) a wide mix of housing types, sizes and tenures, including affordable housing; housing for older people; and serviced plots of land to contribute towards meeting evidenced demand for self-build and custom housebuilding;
- (b) a serviced site for Gypsies and Travellers, which should deliver a total of 15 pitches (4 pitches for East Herts' and 11 pitches for Welwyn Hatfield's needs) to contribute towards the needs of both authorities, the location of which should be determined through the Masterplanning process, taking into account the latest Accommodation Needs evidence of both authorities;
- (c) a neighbourhood centre in the East Herts part of the development and a small neighbourhood centre in the Welwyn Hatfield part of the development, each in an accessible location of a size and scale to meet the day-to-day retail needs of new residents;

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(d) an employment area in a visible and accessible location in accordance with an up-to-date assessment of need; this area would incorporate the Holdings in Welwyn Hatfield, together with land off Birchall Lane (currently allocated as a Waste Site (ref. AS008) in the Hertfordshire Waste Site Allocations Document) subject to there being no adverse impact on neighbouring residential amenity;

(e) community facilities, including healthcare (in the East Herts part of the development) and leisure facilities;

(f) education facilities, including land for a two form entry primary school with Early Years Provision in Welwyn Hatfield and land in East Herts for a primary school of up to three forms of entry with Early Years Provision and a secondary school of up to eight forms of entry. All schools should provide for the dual use of facilities for community purposes;

(g) sustainable transport measures that prioritise and encourage walking, cycling and the use of new and existing passenger transport networks. A sustainable transport strategy should support the application, which will set out the location of new routes and improved connections and will detail what measures will be in place to encourage patronage of passenger transport services from the outset of occupation;

(h) suitable access arrangements and any necessary wider strategic and local highway mitigation measures, including addressing impacts on the A414 in Hertford, the B195 and the A1(M);

(i) formal and informal open spaces for leisure and recreation, including play areas, sports fields, allotments and community orchards. Spaces will contribute to wider ecological networks including a strategic green infrastructure corridor from St Albans through to Hertford. As such, spaces should:

- be accessible to both new and existing communities;
- provide north-south and east-west connections, providing upgraded routes for walkers and cyclists, including the Lea Valley Path and Cole Green Way;
- provide safe routes for wildlife, protecting and enhancing wildlife assets;
- balance the needs of recreation and nature, providing animal infrastructure and undisturbed areas.

(j) conservation and, where appropriate, enhancement of heritage assets and their settings, including Panshanger Registered Park and Garden, Hatfield House, Hatfield House Registered Park and Garden, Birchall Farm and Holwellhyde Farmhouse, through careful masterplanning and appropriate mitigation measures,

having regard to the findings of the Heritage Impact Assessment. A buffer of open land will be required adjacent to Panshanger Park, Birchall Farm and Holwellhyde Farmhouse.

(k) in order to complement wider green corridor and ecological network objectives, the site will protect and enhance areas of ecological importance through a landscape-led green infrastructure strategy. This strategy will create a network of linked habitats across the site which will, provide links to green infrastructure outside the site, facilitate the migration and movement of species, create buffers alongside existing ecological features, provide for recreational access in a way that protects sensitive habitats, and will contribute to achieving net gains to biodiversity across the site. An appropriate land management strategy will also be required.

(l) a landscaped green infrastructure buffer adjacent to the A414 and Burnside will be required to provide visual screening, and to ensure that homes and other land uses are not adversely affected by the impacts of noise and air pollution. The buffer will comprise appropriate design features to provide noise and air quality mitigation, flood attenuation, the creation of new habitats and public rights of way. This buffer will also provide visual screening of development from the A414 and mitigate the harm to heritage assets. Appropriate evidence will be required to inform the design of this buffer;

(m) Necessary utilities, including integrated communications infrastructure to facilitate home-working; and

(n) Sustainable drainage and provision for flood mitigation.

VIII. In order to ensure that the site is planned and delivered comprehensively, any application for development on part of the site will be assessed against its contribution to the masterplan, and will not prejudice the implementation of the site as a whole.

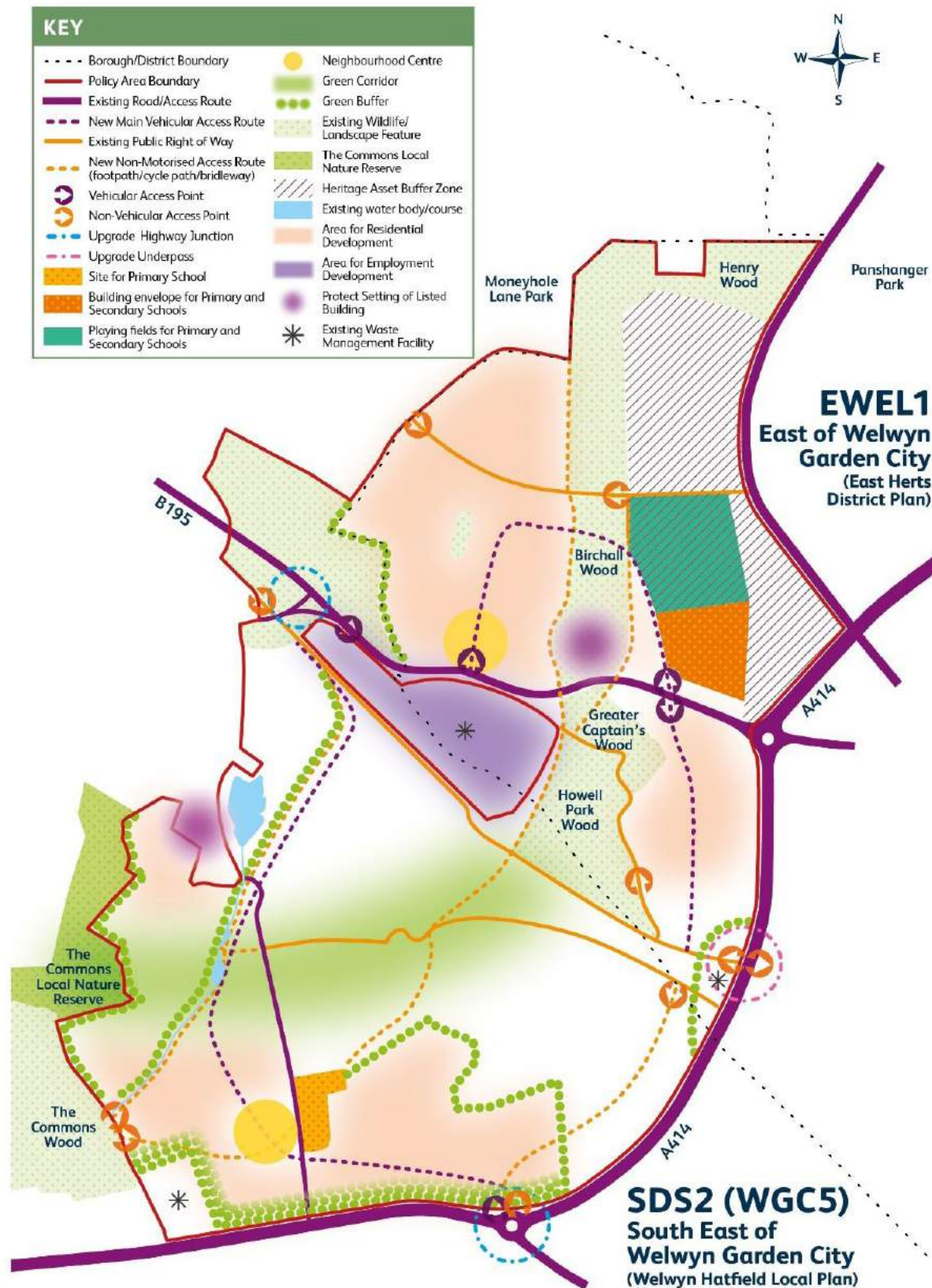
**13.2.14** Figure 13.3 is an illustrative strategy diagram which will be used as a basis for masterplanning and will also help inform decisions on planning applications.

## Chapter 13 . East of Welwyn Garden City

Figure 13.3 Strategy Diagram- Land East of Welwyn Garden City

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# 14 Housing

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### 14 Housing

#### 14.1 Introduction

**14.1.1** A key objective of the District Plan seeks to ensure that new housing is accessible to, and meets the needs and aspirations of, the District's communities. The Council also recognises that everyone should be given the opportunity to access a decent home, which they can afford and is in a community where they want to live. The Plan can contribute to achieving these objectives by planning for a sufficient quantity, quality and type of housing in the right locations, taking account of need and demand and seeking to improve choice.

**14.1.2** This chapter sets out the Council's approach to addressing the need for different types of housing within the District up to 2033. It includes policies relating to the type, mix and density of new housing, affordable housing, and Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople housing requirements.

#### 14.2 Type and Mix of Housing

**14.2.1** The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that local planning authorities should use their evidence base to ensure that their Local Plan meets the full, objectively assessed needs for market and affordable housing in the housing market area. Local planning authorities should plan for a mix of housing, based on current and demographic trends, market trends and the needs of different groups in the community. It goes on to say that local planning authorities should identify the size, type, tenure and range of housing that is required in different locations.

**14.2.2** Developers are encouraged to discuss with the Council the appropriate mix of house size, type and tenure within any new housing development at an early stage in the pre-application process. Requirements will be informed by the following, along with any additional up-to-date evidence:

- The latest West Essex and East Hertfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA);
- The latest East Herts Housing and Health Strategy;
- Local demographic context and trends;
- Local housing need and demand;
- Site issues and design considerations.

The latest West Essex and East Hertfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment can be viewed and downloaded from the Council's Website at: [www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase)

The latest Housing and Health Strategy can be viewed and downloaded from the Council's Website at: [www.eastherts.gov.uk/housing](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/housing)

- 14.2.3** Another key issue for East Herts is its ageing population. ONS population forecasts show that there will be 87.5% more older people (65+) by 2037. The largest increase within the 65+ group are those aged over 85, a 189.6% increase, which potentially means a significant increase in the need for support services and housing with support. It is therefore important that the District Plan takes a positive approach to planning ahead for the housing issues that will arise from the ageing population.

### Policy HOU1 Type and Mix of Housing

I. On new housing developments of 5 or more gross additional dwellings, an appropriate mix of housing tenures, types and sizes will be expected in order to create mixed and balanced communities appropriate to local character and taking account of the latest Strategic Housing Market Assessment and any additional up-to-date evidence, including the latest East Herts Housing and Health Strategy; local demographic context and trends; local housing need and demand; and site issues and design considerations.

II. Affordable Housing should be provided in accordance with Policy HOU3 (Affordable Housing).

III. Where appropriate, provision of specialist housing will be encouraged for older people and vulnerable groups in accordance with Policy HOU6 (Specialist Housing for Older and Vulnerable People).

IV. Provision of accessible and adaptable dwellings to meet the changing needs of occupants over their lifetime should be provided in accordance with Policy HOU7 (Accessible and Adaptable Homes).

V. Self-Build Housing in accordance with Policy HOU8 (Self-Build and Custom Build Housing)

VI. Where appropriate, provision of specialist accommodation will be expected for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople and Non-Nomadic Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, in accordance with Policies HOU9 (Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople) and HOU10 (New Park Home Sites for Non-Nomadic Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople).

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### 14.3 Housing Density

- 14.3.1** Housing density is a measure of the amount of land used for development and is usually expressed as dwellings per hectare (dph). Higher densities allow land to be used more efficiently (i.e. less land is required for development) and are considered to be more sustainable. However, since higher density development is usually associated with flats and taller buildings, the impact of increasing densities on character must be considered.
- 14.3.2** The NPPF allows local planning authorities to set their own approach to housing density. The density of housing varies across the District, and between different sites. Factors affecting density include on-site constraints, the type of development proposed and the level of transport accessibility. Higher densities may be appropriate in and around town centre locations where services are supported, public transport is likely to be better and urban form is dense. Lower densities may be appropriate in established suburban areas, in villages, in areas with an open character or on the edge of settlements.
- 14.3.3** The Council will expect all housing schemes to propose densities which are sensitive to the character of the local area, and take account of on-site constraints and the availability of sustainable transport options. At the same time, applicants should also have regard to making efficient use of land, as this can help to reduce the amount of building on greenfield sites. Major schemes should include a range of housing density areas, to ensure varied character and appearance.
- 14.3.4** The density standards used in Policy HOU2 refer to average net density. This is a normal way of expressing residential density and includes those areas which will be developed for housing and directly associated uses such as access roads within the site, private garden space, car parking, incidental open space and landscaping, and children's play areas.

#### Policy HOU2 Housing Density

I. Housing development should make efficient use of land. Proposals are required to demonstrate how the density of new development has been informed by the character of the local area and contributes to:

- (a) The design objectives set out in Policy DES4 (Design of Development);
- (b) Improving the mix of house types in accordance with Policy HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing); and
- (c) Providing adequate levels of public open space in accordance with Policy CFLR1 (Open Space, Sport and Recreation); and

(d) Retaining existing site features, including mature trees, shrubs, hedgerows and amenity areas, and make provision for new green infrastructure in accordance with Policy NE4 (Green Infrastructure).

II. Subject to the above, densities will vary according to the relative accessibility and character of locations. Higher net densities will be favourably considered on central sites in or near town centres and where the character of the surroundings allows.

III. Medium net densities will normally be appropriate for sites that are in more peripheral locations within and on the edge of these settlements.

IV. In villages and for some other locations lower net densities may be more appropriate to respond to local character and context.

#### 14.4 Affordability and the Housing Market

**14.4.1** The location of East Herts on the periphery of London means that the affordability of housing is a key issue across the District.

**14.4.2** Affordable housing is housing provided at a cost below current market rates to eligible households, whose needs are not adequately served by the commercial housing market. For planning purposes, affordable housing has a specific definition as set by the NPPF and is currently defined as social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing. However, the Housing and Planning Act 2016 inserts a new affordable housing definition into the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, which will, once enacted through secondary legislation, amend the definition of affordable housing to include starter homes.

**14.4.3** There is a significant need for additional affordable housing within East Herts as set out in the latest Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 2015. The table below sets out the current unmet need for affordable housing in the District, together with the projected future affordable need for the period 2016-2033:

**Table 14.1 Affordable Housing Need**

|  | <b>Affordable Housing Need (Households)</b> |
|--|---|
| <b>Unmet need for affordable housing in 2016</b> |   |
| Total unmet need for affordable housing          | 1,698                                       |
| Supply of housing vacated                        | 494   |
| Current affordable housing need                  | 1,204                                       |

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|  | Affordable Housing Need (Households) |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Future need for affordable housing 2011-2033 | 2,481                                |
| Total need for affordable housing 2011-2033  | 3,685                                |
| Average annual need for affordable housing   | 217                                  |
| % of overall housing need                    | 32%                                  |

**14.4.4** In order to deliver the identified need, Policy HOU3 requires the following:

- (a) up to 35% affordable housing on sites proposing 11 to 14 gross additional dwellings;
- (b) up to 40% affordable housing on sites proposing 15 or more gross additional dwellings, or 0.5 hectares or more in size.

**14.4.5** Planning Practice Guidance states that affordable housing contributions should not be sought from sites proposing development of 10 units or less and where the dwellings would have a combined gross internal floor space of 1,000 square metres or less. Therefore, the affordable housing requirement has not been set at 32% in recognition of the fact that not all developments will contribute to the provision of affordable housing.

**14.4.6** The percentage of affordable housing provision that the Council will expect to secure from development schemes has been informed by development viability assessments. The aim is to maximise affordable housing provision and the viability assessments demonstrate that the targets of 35% and 40% as required in Policy HOU3, are viable for most developments in most locations across the District, and can be realistically achieved without constraining the overall delivery of housing.

The Delivery Study can be viewed and downloaded at:

[www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase)

**14.4.7** Table 14.2 sets out the housing mix requirements in terms of property type (house or flat), size and affordable housing tenure.

**Table 14.2 Affordable Housing Mix**

| Affordable Rent |           | Number |
|-----------------|-----------|--------|
| Flat            | 1 bedroom | 660    |

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| Affordable Rent                 |             | Number |
|---------------------------------|-------------|--------|
|                                 | 2+ bedrooms | 360    |
| House                           | 2 bedrooms  | 930    |
|                                 | 3 bedrooms  | 970    |
|                                 | 4+ bedrooms | 250    |
| Subtotal                        |             | 3,170  |
| % of affordable housing         |             | 84%    |
| Intermediate Affordable Housing |             | Number |
| Flat                            | 1 bedroom   | 80     |
|                                 | 2+ bedrooms | 70     |
| House                           | 2 bedrooms  | 180    |
|                                 | 3 bedrooms  | 240    |
|                                 | 4+ bedrooms | 40     |
| Subtotal                        |             | 610    |
| % of affordable housing         |             | 16%    |

**14.4.8** The Council secures the majority of affordable housing that is built in the District by requiring developers to provide affordable dwellings as part of open market housing developments (through Section 106 Agreements). Affordable housing is also delivered by Registered Providers (i.e. housing associations) on sites owned and/or developed by them, and on 'exception sites' as set out in Policy HOU4 below.

**14.4.9** Effective affordable housing provision is not just about quantity; of equal importance is ensuring the right type of provision. The latest SHMA identifies the greatest need for affordable housing is from those requiring housing from the affordable rent tenure. However, the Housing and Planning Act 2016 has introduced the requirement for local authorities to promote the supply of starter homes. The Act sets out a definition of starter homes and signals the Government's intention to require a set proportion of starter homes to be delivered on qualifying sites, the level of which will be confirmed by secondary legislation.

**14.4.10** The Government's 'Starter Homes Technical Regulations' consultation indicates the intention for starter homes to apply to sites proposing 10 dwellings or more (or over 0.5ha in size) and for a minimum level of provision of 20% to apply. The consultation also suggests that in cases where an adopted affordable housing policy

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seeks a requirement for affordable housing in excess of 20%, only in circumstances where the 20% starter homes requirement is firstly met can any remaining proportion of other affordable housing tenures be sought.

- 14.4.11** Policy HOU3, therefore, has to have regard to the provision of starter homes. As such, the policy sets out that affordable housing provision will be expected to incorporate a mix of tenures taking account of the Council's most up to date evidence on housing need. The tenure mix will be negotiated by the Council on a site by site basis, having regard to the affordable housing products defined within the National Planning Policy Framework. However, due to the continuing demonstrable need for affordable rented housing, as evidenced in the SHMA, the Council will seek to maximise provision of this tenure to ensure that the needs of those in most need of affordable housing are met.
- 14.4.12** The requirement for affordable housing extends to all types of residential development, including specialist accommodation, such as sheltered or 'extra care' housing for older people. Where such schemes provide accommodation that is self-contained and fall within the Use Class C3 (Dwelling Houses), affordable housing will be expected in accordance with Policy HOU3. Proposals which fall within the Use Class C2 (Residential Institutions), such as residential care and nursing homes, and do not provide self-contained accommodation or support independent living, will not be expected to contribute to the provision of affordable housing.
- 14.4.13** The Council recognises that in some cases there may be abnormal development costs which need to be considered. Applicants seeking to justify a lower proportion of affordable housing will be required to demonstrate why it is not economically viable to provide such housing in accordance with Policy HOU3.
- 14.4.14** Where the affordable housing policy would result in the requirement relating to part of a dwelling, the calculation will be rounded upwards for 0.5+ and downwards for less than 0.5. Where development involves the demolition of existing properties the amount of affordable housing will be calculated on the gross number of new dwellings to be provided.
- 14.4.15** In general affordable housing should be provided on the application site. Off-site provision or financial contributions in lieu will only be accepted in exceptional circumstances where agreed with the District Council. Applicants proposing off-site provision or financial contributions in lieu will be expected to provide justification as part of a planning application.
- 14.4.16** Wherever possible, the affordable houses should be integrated within the scheme through 'pepper-potting' rather than concentrated in a particular area unless site specific considerations dictate otherwise. This does not necessarily mean that every second or third property should be affordable; rather the affordable housing should be distributed across the entire site in clusters appropriate to the size and scale of the development, as this ensures the best prospect of securing mixed, inclusive communities. The design and appearance of affordable housing should be indistinguishable from market units.



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- 14.4.17** Further guidance on the Council's approach to affordable housing and the implementation of this policy will be provided in an updated 'Affordable Housing' Supplementary Planning Document.

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The Affordable Housing and Lifetime Homes' (2008, or as amended) Supplementary Planning Document can be viewed and downloaded at:

[www.eastherts.gov.uk/spd](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/spd)

### Policy HOU3 Affordable Housing

I. Affordable housing provision will be expected on all development sites that propose development that falls within Class C3 (Dwelling Houses) as follows:

- (a) up to 35% on sites proposing 10 or fewer gross additional dwellings, where the dwellings would have a combined gross floor space greater than 1,000 square metres;
- (b) up to 35% on sites proposing 11 to 14 gross additional dwellings;
- (c) up to 40% on sites proposing 15 or more gross additional dwellings.

II. Affordable Housing provision will be expected to incorporate a mix of tenures taking account of the Council's most up to date evidence on housing need. The Council will negotiate the tenure mix to be provided on a site, having regard to the affordable housing products defined within the National Planning Policy Framework, through the planning application process.

III. Lower provision may be permitted if it is demonstrated that the 35% and 40%, as appropriate referred to in I (a), (b) and (c) above, cannot be achieved due to viability reasons or where it would prejudice the need to secure other infrastructure priorities. Applicants seeking to justify a lower percentage level of affordable housing to that referred to in I (a), (b) and (c) above, will be required to provide a financial viability assessment as part of the planning application. Where agreement is not reached, external independent consultants, agreed by both the Council and applicant, will be appointed by the developer, to undertake further independent viability assessment. The applicant will be required to meet the costs of this independent assessment.

IV. Affordable Housing should normally be provided on site, apart from in exceptional circumstances when agreed with the Council. Applicants will be required to provide justification as part of the planning application setting out the need for off-site provision or financial contributions in lieu to be made.

V. The affordable housing units should be integrated into the open market housing development using appropriate design methods, i.e. tenure blind, and 'pepper-potted' across the site in clusters appropriate to the size and scale of the development.

VI. To secure the benefits of affordable housing for first and subsequent occupiers affordable rented and intermediate housing will be retained as affordable by means of an appropriate legal agreement or condition with the Council, or the subsidy will be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision.

## 14.5 Special Residential Uses

**14.5.1** Applications for planning permission are sometimes received by the Council for a number of special residential uses, such as caravans, mobile homes, houseboats, and other residential institutions. All of these uses will be considered as though they were for a normal residential building and the policies relating to residential development will apply.

## 14.6 Rural Exception Sites

**14.6.1** An exception site is one that would not usually secure planning permission for housing, for example agricultural land next to, but not within, a local settlement area.

**14.6.2** It is important that rural exception affordable housing schemes are needs led, the starting point being that a need for affordable housing exists in the parish, rather than the availability of a particular site. Proposed developments must be based on sound evidence of affordable housing need and must fulfil the criteria as stated in the policy below.

**14.6.3** The ability of the proposed scheme to meet identified local affordable housing needs must be clearly demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Council. This will be assessed using the Council's Housing Register and other available up-to-date housing needs assessments. It should also be demonstrated that the proposal is financially viable and deliverable.

**14.6.4** While the whole of a rural exception scheme is normally expected to deliver 100% affordable housing, a small number of market homes may be permitted at the Council's discretion, where a viability assessment demonstrates that a cross subsidy is necessary to make the scheme viable. Any market housing provided will be expected to meet identified local housing needs.

**14.6.5** Given that housing permitted through this policy is an exception to normal countryside policies, it is important that it remains 'affordable' in perpetuity. Only tenures which can be guaranteed to remain affordable in the long term will be permitted in such schemes.

**14.6.6** Rural exception sites are not required to provide starter homes and the Council will not accept starter homes as part of the affordable housing provision on site. Consideration will however be given to the inclusion of starter homes as part of the market housing share allowed by the policy where necessary to ensure the viability of the scheme.

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- 14.6.7** Localism will have an increasingly important influence on the shape of smaller rural settlements and the balance of rural housing stock. Parish Councils will be encouraged to identify sites in Neighbourhood Plans suitable for community-led affordable housing, including rural exception affordable housing sites which meet the criteria set out in the policy below.

### **Policy HOU4 Rural Exception Affordable Housing Sites**

I. Proposals for rural exception affordable housing schemes, on sites that would not normally be acceptable for general housing development, may be permitted, subject to the following criteria:

- (a) The exception site is adjacent to an existing built-up area boundary, or is well related to existing residential development and amenities located in, or adjacent to, a clearly identifiable village or settlement;
- (b) The proposed development will contribute towards meeting an identified need for affordable housing within the parish; and
- (c) The proposed development would be appropriate to the settlement and area in which it is proposed to be located in terms of scale, form and character.

II. The Council will base its assessment of identified housing need on the Housing Register and other available up-to-date housing needs assessments.

III. A small number of market homes may be permitted, at the Council's discretion, where a viability assessment demonstrates that a cross subsidy is necessary to make the scheme viable. Any market housing provided will be expected to meet identified local needs.

IV. Where permission is granted this will be subject to planning obligations and will include safeguards that the scheme provides for the identified local affordable housing need and will continue to do so in perpetuity.

### **14.7 Dwellings for Rural Workers**

- 14.7.1** The accommodation needs of rural workers employed full-time in agriculture, forestry and other rural business can usually be met in existing properties either on the site or in nearby settlements. Occasionally it is essential for a worker to be in close proximity to the business and there is no suitable accommodation available nearby, for example, where animal or agricultural processes require essential care at short notice. These special circumstances may justify the construction of new dwellings in the countryside to meet these needs providing the financial and functional criteria in Policy HOU5 below are satisfied. Genuine essential need, rather than business convenience, must be justified.

- 14.7.2** Applications will be assessed taking account of the history of the enterprise, in order to establish whether existing dwellings within the site/holding or nearby could fulfil the need, or whether any dwellings or buildings suitable for conversion have been sold on the open housing market. Such a sale is likely to constitute lack of evidence of essential need.
- 14.7.3** New permanent dwellings can only be justified if the enterprise to which they relate is economically viable. For this reason, details of the financial situation of the business will be required.
- 14.7.4** Where planning permission is granted for a new dwelling on this basis, suitable occupancy conditions will be imposed. Proposals to remove an occupancy condition will only be considered on the basis of whether the need remains for the accommodation for other rural workers. This will involve marketing the property for a period of at least 12 months at a realistic price to reflect the occupancy condition. As part of this approach applicants will also need to demonstrate that the building cannot contribute to meeting local affordable housing needs in the area.

### Policy HOU5 Dwellings for Rural Workers

I. The Council will only permit permanent dwellings for agriculture, forestry and other rural businesses where:

- (a) It can be demonstrated that the dwelling is essential to the needs of the business (i.e. there is a need for one or more workers to be available at most times);
- (b) It can be demonstrated that the enterprise has been established for at least three years and is, and should remain financially viable;
- (c) There is no other accommodation within the site/holding or in the locality which is currently suitable and available, or could be made available.

II. The proposed dwelling must be sensitively designed and in keeping with its rural surroundings.

III. Where a new dwelling is permitted, the occupancy will be restricted by condition to ensure that it is occupied by a person or persons currently employed, or last employed, in agriculture, forestry or other rural business, or a widow or widower of such a person, and to any residents dependants.

IV. Applications for the removal of an occupancy condition related to rural workers will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances where it can be demonstrated that:

- (a) There is no longer a need for the accommodation for agricultural, forestry or other rural workers on the holding/business and in the local area;
- (b) The dwelling has been marketed for a reasonable period (at least 12 months) and at a price which reflects the existence of the occupancy condition;

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(c) The dwelling cannot make a contribution towards meeting local affordable housing needs in the area.

### 14.8 Housing for Older and Vulnerable People

- 14.8.1** National policy requires local authorities to meet the specific accommodation needs of older and vulnerable people. It is important that the Council, working with partners such as the County Council, Registered Providers, health care agencies, and developers, seeks to plan for increasing housing choices in terms of specialist accommodation for older and vulnerable people. Offering attractive alternative housing choices for older people and vulnerable groups will assist in freeing-up family sized homes that are currently under-occupied.
- 14.8.2** There is, therefore, a need to provide suitable accommodation for various groups of people, including the elderly, people with disabilities and vulnerable people. This covers a range of housing types, from accessible and adaptable general needs housing to the full range of retirement and specialised housing for those with support or care needs.
- 14.8.3** The Government's reform of Health and Adult Social Care is underpinned by a principle of sustaining people at home as long as possible. Therefore, accommodation for the elderly is moving towards more flexible forms of living and support, which seek to maintain people's independence. There are several options where residents can enjoy their own self-contained home within a site offering extra facilities.
- 14.8.4** The Council will require that all development schemes provide accessible and adaptable homes to meet the changing needs of occupants over their lifetime, and will encourage the provision of specialist types of retirement housing (within the C3 Use Class), such as sheltered housing and flexi-care housing, as part of the development of larger sites. Consideration should also be given to the provision of bungalows which have been identified as a preferred housing type by many older people in the District.
- 14.8.5** People who are unable to live independently require specialist residential or nursing care accommodation. This type of accommodation usually falls within the C2 Use Class. It is important to note that the objectively assessed housing need (OAN) for the District does not include the projected increase of the institutional population. The SHMA (2015) identifies the projected growth in population aged 75 or over living in communal establishments in the District, as 529 persons, between 2011-2033.
- 14.8.6** Therefore, in addition to the overall housing target, this Plan supports a gross increase of at least 530 bed-spaces of C2 provision, primarily to help meet the accommodation needs of older people who need to live in an environment which

provides residential or nursing care. However, other people including young people, people with physical disabilities or sensory needs, people with learning difficulties and other vulnerable people may also require specialist accommodation.

- 14.8.7** Specialist types of retirement housing and specialist residential and nursing care accommodation should normally be located within settlements where there is easy access to a range of services e.g. shops, healthcare facilities, social facilities, and sustainable transport options.
- 14.8.8** As people's housing needs change over their lifetimes, it is important to promote the construction of flexible, adaptable and accessible homes that can respond to the changing needs of individuals and families at different stages of life at minimal cost. Therefore, it makes practical, social and economic sense to incorporate accessible and adaptable design features from the outset, at the start of a building's life, to help people remain independent in their own homes and enjoy a good quality of life.
- 14.8.9** In 2015, the Government introduced new 'optional' Building Regulations standards relating to accessible and adaptable dwellings and wheelchair user or wheelchair adaptable dwellings (Requirement M4(2) (accessible and adaptable dwellings) and M4(3) (wheelchair user dwellings). These optional requirements can only be secured through planning policy, and Planning Practice Guidance states that local authorities should identify the proportion of dwellings in new developments that should comply with the requirement in their Local Plan.
- 14.8.10** The SHMA (2015) identifies that evidence supports the need for all new dwellings to meet Category 2 requirements (accessible and adaptable dwellings), and the need for 10% of market housing and 15% of affordable housing to meet Category 3 requirements (wheelchair user dwellings), provided that the overall viability of a development scheme is not compromised.
- 14.8.11** Part M of the Building Regulations sets a distinction between wheelchair adaptable (a home that can be easily adapted to meet the needs of a household including wheelchair users) and wheelchair accessible (a home readily useable by a wheelchair user at the point of completion) dwellings. Planning Practice Guidance states that a policy requiring wheelchair accessible dwellings should only be applied to those dwellings where the local authority is responsible for allocating or nominating a person to live in that dwelling. Therefore, the Council will negotiate a proportion of wheelchair adaptable (market and affordable housing) and/or wheelchair accessible (affordable housing only) dwellings on sites proposing 11 or more additional dwellings, as appropriate.



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### Policy HOU6 Specialist Housing for Older and Vulnerable People

I. The Council will encourage the provision of specialist housing, across all tenures, for older and vulnerable people. Proposals for new housing for older and vulnerable people will be expected to:

- (a) Provide a range of accommodation size, tenure and type with the opportunity to attain additional or specialist care as needed within the one development;
- (b) Be in a suitable location where access to a choice of sustainable travel options is available;
- (c) Be within walking distance, on a safe and level route or within easy reach by passenger transport, to town centre shops and services;
- (d) Be well integrated with existing communities through the sharing of space and public access to services where appropriate;
- (e) Consider the integration of healthcare facilities within the development.

II. In addition to the overall housing target, a gross increase of at least 530 bed-spaces to help meet the accommodation needs of those who need specialist (Use Class C2) residential or nursing care will be supported in the District's towns.

### Policy HOU7 Accessible and Adaptable Homes

I. In order to ensure delivery of new homes that are readily accessible and adaptable to meet the changing needs of occupants, and to support independent living, the Council will require that:

- (a) all new residential development should meet the Building Regulations Requirement M4(2): Category 2 – Accessible and Adaptable Dwellings; and
- (b) on sites proposing 11 or more gross additional dwellings, a proportion of dwellings will be expected to meet the Building Regulations Requirement M4(3): Category 3 – Wheelchair User Dwellings, where appropriate.

II. Only where circumstances exist where it can be demonstrated by the applicant that it is not practically achievable or financially viable to deliver this policy, will new development be exempt from the requirement.



## 14.9 Self-Build and Custom Build Housing

- 14.9.1** Self-Build or Custom Build housing is housing built or commissioned by individuals (or groups of individuals) to be occupied by themselves as their sole or main residence. For the purposes of planning policy, self-build and custom build dwellings share the same definition and the terms are used interchangeably. Self-build is where a person is directly involved in organising and constructing their home, whereas custom build is where a person commissions a specialist developer to help to deliver their own home. Both routes require significant input from the home owner in the design process of the dwelling.
- 14.9.2** The Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015 places a duty on local authorities to keep and have regard to a register of people who are interested in self-build or custom build projects in their area. In addition, local authorities are required to grant sufficient suitable development permissions on serviced plots of land to meet the demand, as evidenced by the number of people on the register, for self-build and custom build plots in their area.
- 14.9.3** The Council considers that self-build and custom build housing can play an important part in contributing to the supply of housing, increasing the mix of housing types and tenures, and have the potential to increase the delivery of innovative and highly sustainable developments in a cost effective manner.
- 14.9.4** Therefore, to support prospective self-builders, developers of sites proposing 200 or more dwellings, will be expected to supply a proportion of serviced dwelling plots for sale to self-builders.
- 14.9.5** The Localism Act 2011 provides communities with the opportunity to encourage self-build and custom build housing by creating planning policies or allocating new development sites in their area. The Council will support locally proposed self-build projects identified within a Neighbourhood Plan wherever possible.

### Policy HOU8 Self-Build and Custom Build Housing

- I. To support prospective self-builders, on sites of more than 200 dwellings, developers will be expected to supply at least 1% of dwelling plots for sale to self-builders, having regard to the need identified on the Council's Self-Build and Custom Build Register.
- II. The Council will support locally proposed self-build projects identified within a Neighbourhood Plan wherever possible.
- III. Planning permissions should include conditions requiring self-build developments to be completed within 3 years of a self-builder purchasing a plot.
- IV. Where plots have been made available and marketed appropriately for at least 12 months and have not sold out, the plot(s) may either remain on the open market as self-build or be built out by the developer.

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### 14.10 Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

**14.10.1** In addition to meeting the needs of the settled population, national policy requires that local planning authorities make provision for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople within their local plans, by setting respective pitch and plot targets to meet likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs in their area.

The national approach to planning for the needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople is set out in 'Planning policy for traveller sites' DCLG, August 2015. This can be viewed and downloaded from the Government's publications website at: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-policy-for-traveller-sites](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-policy-for-traveller-sites)

A definition of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople for planning policy purposes is contained in Annex 1 of this document.

**14.10.2** Criteria based policies are also required to both guide land supply allocations and provide a basis for determining planning applications.

**14.10.3** There are currently four authorised private Gypsy and Traveller sites in East Herts:

- Nine Acres, High Cross: 13 permitted pitches;
- Field Farm, Levens Green: 6 permitted pitches;
- The Stables, Bayfordbury: 8 permitted pitches; and
- South Paw, Widford: 1 permitted pitch.

**14.10.4** There is currently one authorised private Travelling Showpeople's site (yard) in East Herts:

- Rye House.

**14.10.5** The Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Needs Assessment Update, May 2016, identified that 5 permanent pitches for Gypsies and Travellers and 9 plots for Travelling Showpeople should be provided in the district for the period up to 2033.

**14.10.6** For Gypsies and Travellers, 2 pitches will be required up to 2022, with a further 3 pitches between 2022-2027. These pitch requirements arise from two sites at:

- The Stables, Bayford (3 pitches), which will be met via expansion of that site; and
- Unauthorised pitches at Esbies, Sawbridgeworth (2 pitches), which will be met within a new site for 15 pitches to be established within Birchall Garden Suburb (EWEL1), which will also contribute to meeting the needs of Welwyn Hatfield Borough.

**14.10.7** As the identification of accommodation needs for Gypsies and Travellers is less certain beyond year 10 of the Plan, and an up-to-date understanding of the needs of Gypsy and Traveller communities will need to be maintained throughout the plan period, it is considered appropriate that provision should not be specifically allocated post-2027 without a demonstration of precise need at this time. However, in anticipation of future accommodation needs occurring, 2 further pitches should be reserved within the new site at Birchall Garden Suburb (EWEL1), and an additional new Gypsy and Traveller site should also be identified within the Gilston Area (GA1) site allocation for future need towards the end of the plan period and/or beyond. Land should be safeguarded as part of the overall development of these sites for such purposes.

**14.10.8** For Travelling Showpeople, 7 plots will be required up to 2022; one plot is required between 2022 and 2027; and a further plot between 2027 and 2033 (totalling 9 plots across the plan period). All of these plot requirements arise from the Rye House site, which is fully occupied with no room for expansion. A new yard should be identified within Land to the East of Stevenage (EOS1) to provide 5 plots towards meeting the needs of the first five years; and 4 plots should also be allocated within the development to the North and East of Ware (WARE2) to meet the residual need across the plan period. In order to ensure that any, as yet unidentified, Travelling Showpeople's needs can be accommodated the allocated site to the North and East of Ware (WARE2) should also include sufficient safeguarded land for future expansion within a site area large enough to accommodate a total of 8 plots overall, as need dictates. Additionally, the Gilston Area (GA1) should also include sufficient safeguarded land for future longer term provision within a site area large enough to accommodate a total of 8 plots overall.

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### Policy HOU9 Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

I. To meet identified local need, pitches for Gypsies and Travellers and plots for Travelling Showpeople will be provided within the District at the following locations:

| Gypsies and Travellers                                     |  |
|--|--|
| The Stables, Bayford                                       | 3 additional pitches (2 to be provided in the period up to 2022; and 1 between 2022 and 2027) within the allocated site area.  |
| Birchall Garden Suburb, East of Welwyn Garden City (EWEL1) | 4 pitches (2 to be provided between 2022 and 2027; and 2 to allow for longer-term accommodation needs) for East Herts within an area sufficient to accommodate a total of 15 pitches (11 for Welwyn Hatfield) to meet the accommodation needs of both East Herts and Welwyn Hatfield and/or for future expansion, as evidence of need dictates.                        |
| The Gilston Area (GA1)                                     | To allow for longer-term accommodation needs, an area of suitable land should be safeguarded that would allow for future provision of a total of 15 pitches, to be delivered towards the end of the Plan period and/or beyond, as evidence of need dictates.   |
| Travelling Showpeople                                      |  |
| East of Stevenage (EOS1)                                   | 5 plots (each of sufficient size to allow for the provision of accommodation and equipment plus storage/maintenance).  |
| North and East of Ware (WARE2)                             | 4 plots (each of sufficient size to allow for the provision of accommodation and equipment plus storage/maintenance) within the first phase of development to be provided within a larger area that should be safeguarded to allow for future expansion to a total of 8 plots, as evidence of need dictates.   |
| The Gilston Area (GA1)                                     | To allow for longer-term accommodation needs, an area of suitable land should be safeguarded that would allow for future provision of a total of 8 plots (each of sufficient size to allow for the provision of accommodation and equipment plus storage/maintenance), to be delivered towards the end of the Plan period and/or beyond, as evidence of need dictates. |

II. In order to identify exact locations within the areas allocated to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople listed above, and to assess suitability where planning applications are submitted for non-allocated sites, the following criteria should be satisfied:

- (a) the site is in a sustainable location in terms of accessibility to existing local services;

(b) the site is suitable in terms of vehicular access to the highway, parking, turning, road safety and servicing arrangements and has access to essential services such as water supply, sewerage, drainage, and waste disposal;

(c) proposals make adequate provision for on-site facilities for storage, play, residential amenity and sufficient on-site utility services for the number of pitches or plots proposed;

(d) the proposal is well related to the size and location of the site and respects the scale of the nearest settled community;

(e) the site can be integrated into the local area to allow for successful co-existence between the site and the settled community;

(f) proposals provide for satisfactory residential amenity both within the site and with neighbouring occupiers and thereby do not detrimentally affect the amenity of local residents by reason of on-site business activities, noise, disturbance, or loss of privacy;

(g) proposals ensure that the occupation and use of the site would not cause undue harm to the visual amenity and character of the area and should be capable of being assimilated into the surrounding landscape without significant adverse effect;

(h) the site is not affected by environmental hazards that may affect the residents' health or welfare or be located in an area of high risk of flooding, including functional floodplains;

(i) within nationally recognised designations, proposals would not compromise the objectives of the designation.

III. Proposals for sites accommodating Travelling Showpeople should additionally allow for a mixed use yard with areas for residential provision and the storage and maintenance of equipment. All other proposals for mixed residential and business activities will be assessed on a site specific basis, taking the above criteria into account.

IV. New traveller sites (whether temporary or permanent) in the Green Belt are inappropriate development and will not be approved except in very special circumstances.

V. Any development granted under this policy will be subject to a condition limiting occupation to Gypsies and Travellers or Travelling Showpeople, as appropriate.

VI. Existing authorised sites for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople will be safeguarded from development which would preclude their continued occupation by these groups, unless acceptable replacement accommodation can be provided or the site is no longer required to meet an identified need.

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### 14.11 New Park Home Sites for Non-Nomadic Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

- 14.11.1** The NPPF makes it clear that local planning authorities should consider the Government's 'Planning policy for traveller sites' (PPTS), in conjunction with the NPPF, when preparing plans or making decisions on travellers sites in their area. PPTS identifies a definition distinction that Gypsies and Travellers who no longer lead a nomadic lifestyle are treated as non-travelling Gypsies and Travellers for the purposes of the planning system and their needs must therefore be met by the requirements of the NPPF. However, the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Equalities Act 2010 protect their cultural choice to live in mobile accommodation and therefore there is a need to plan for park homes within the Plan.
- 14.11.2** The Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Needs Assessment Update, May 2016, identified ten Gypsy and Traveller households and 16 Travelling Showpeople households who do not meet the PPTS definition. While the accommodation needs of these households has yet to be fully determined, provision will be met through the application of HOU1 and through the consideration of any other applications submitted, in accordance with the following policy.

#### **Policy HOU10 New Park Home Sites for Non-Nomadic Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople**

I. Any applications for planning permission for Non-Nomadic Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople park homes must be in accordance with the NPPF and PPTS and the following criteria should be satisfied:

- (a) the site is in a sustainable location in terms of accessibility to existing local services;
- (b) the site is suitable in terms of vehicular access to the highway, parking, turning, road safety and servicing arrangements and has access to essential services such as water supply, sewerage, drainage, and waste disposal;
- (c) proposals make adequate provision for on-site facilities for storage, play, residential amenity and sufficient on-site utility services for the number of park homes proposed;
- (d) the proposal is well related to the size and location of the site and respects the scale of the nearest settled community;
- (e) the site can be integrated into the local area to allow for successful co-existence between the site and the settled community;



(f) proposals provide for satisfactory residential amenity both within the site and with neighbouring occupiers and thereby do not detrimentally affect the amenity of local residents by reason of on-site business activities, noise, disturbance, or loss of privacy;

(g) proposals ensure that the occupation and use of the site would not cause undue harm to the visual amenity and character of the area and should be capable of being assimilated into the surrounding landscape without significant adverse effect;

(h) the site is not affected by environmental hazards that may affect the residents' health or welfare or be located in an area of high risk of flooding, including functional floodplains;

(i) within nationally recognised designations, proposals would not compromise the objectives of the designation.

II. New traveller sites (whether temporary or permanent) in the Green Belt are inappropriate development and will not be approved except in very special circumstances.

## 14.12 Extensions and Alterations to Dwellings and Residential Outbuildings

**14.12.1** A large number of the planning applications received by the Council relate to extensions to dwellings. In an area as large and diverse as East Hertfordshire, it is not possible to provide precise standards relevant to every case, but the policies below set out the principles and criteria by which proposals will be judged.

**14.12.2** The Council will expect all proposals for extensions and alterations to dwellings and residential outbuildings to be of a high standard of design that is appropriate to the character and appearance of the dwelling and the surrounding area. All householder development proposals should be sensitively designed to ensure that they would not have an unacceptable impact upon the amenities of the occupiers of the existing dwelling and any neighbouring dwellings. In particular the Council will assess proposals having regard to any loss of light, privacy and outlook and overbearing impacts that the development could have upon existing and future occupiers of the host dwelling and adjoining dwellings. In addition to the policies below, applications for extensions will also be considered against Policy DES4 (Design of Development) where appropriate.

**14.12.3** Within the Green Belt and Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt, the Council is concerned about the specific effect extensions and outbuildings may have on the character and appearance of an existing dwelling, the site and surrounding area. Whilst extensions to dwellings or the erection of outbuildings are not in principle inappropriate development, they should not result in disproportionate additions over and above the size of the original dwelling; the Council is also concerned with the cumulative impact of development in the countryside.

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### **Policy HOU11 Extensions and Alterations to Dwellings, Residential Outbuildings and Works Within Residential Curtilages**

Proposals for:

- extensions and alterations to dwellings;
- residential outbuildings or extensions to existing outbuildings; and
- works within residential curtilages,

will be considered against the following criteria:

(a) be of a size, scale, mass, form, siting, design and materials of construction that are appropriate to the character, appearance and setting of the existing dwelling and/or the surrounding area, and extensions should generally appear as a subservient addition to the dwelling;

(b) side extensions at first floor level or above should ensure appropriate space is left between the flank wall of the extension and the common curtilage with a neighbouring property (as a general rule a space of 1 metre will be the minimum acceptable), to safeguard the character and appearance of the street scene and prevent a visually damaging 'terracing' effect;

(c) flat roofed extensions, except those on the ground floor, will be refused as visually undesirable other than in those exceptional circumstances where the character of the original dwelling allows a flat-roofed design to be appropriately incorporated, or it represents a sustainable or innovative design approach;

(d) roof dormers may be acceptable if appropriate to the design and character of the dwelling and its surroundings. Dormers should generally be of limited extent and modest proportions, so as not to dominate the existing roof form.



### 14.13 Change of Use of Land to Residential Garden and Enclosure of Amenity Land

- 14.13.1** The Council seeks to ensure that changes of use of land to residential garden do not result in harmful incursions into the countryside that would have an adverse effect on the character and appearance of rural landscapes. The residential use of rural land can have adverse effects on the character of the countryside from, for example, the erection of fences, garden sheds and other domestic paraphernalia. Where necessary, conditions may be attached to planning permissions for residential garden extensions which remove the occupier's permitted development rights.
- 14.13.2** In urban areas, the extension of private gardens involving the enclosure of amenity land/open space/landscaped areas around housing development might have a detrimental effect on the appearance of an area. Consideration will need to be given to whether proposals to enclose such land would be harmful to the character, appearance, design and layout of the development.

#### **Policy HOU12 Change of Use of Land to Residential Garden and Enclosure of Amenity Land**

- I. The change of use of land to residential garden may be permitted if the proposal:
- (a) is not likely to result in an adverse effect on the character and appearance of the surrounding area and landscape;
  - (b) is well related to other residential land and does not involve a harmful incursion into the countryside;
  - (c) includes the provision of appropriate landscaping and boundary treatment.
- II. The Council will seek to ensure the retention of amenity land/open space/landscaped areas around housing developments and planning permission for the enclosure of such land into gardens will not usually be given.

### 14.14 Residential Annexes

- 14.14.1** A significant number of planning applications are received seeking permission to extend properties or for outbuildings to be used as a self-contained annexe to accommodate elderly relatives, older children or staff. Annexes for elderly relatives particularly, can help to meet social needs whilst reducing pressure on other types of accommodation. However, they can have implications for car parking provision, amenity space, and impact on neighbouring properties, occupiers and the locality.

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**14.14.2** The Council considers that annexes should be designed as an integral part of the existing dwelling or as a separate outbuilding, which is close to and related to the main dwelling. Applications will need to justify the level of accommodation proposed and demonstrate how it is compatible with the requirements of the annexe.

**14.14.3** Where necessary, a condition may be attached to the planning permission to require that the annexe is occupied for purposes ancillary to the residential use of the host dwelling. Within the Green Belt and Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt, permission would be unlikely to be granted for later sub-division to two separate residential units, unless the proposal meets the planning criteria which would be applied to new proposals for a separate dwelling. In an urban setting there would be no in-principle objection to a new dwelling, subject to design and amenity issues.

### Policy HOU13 Residential Annexes

I. Residential annexes will be permitted where:

- (a) the accommodation forms an extension to the main dwelling and is capable of being used as an integral part of the dwelling or forms a separate outbuilding which is close to and well related to and have a clear functional link to the main dwelling;
- (b) the scale of the annexe does not dominate the existing dwelling and is the minimum level of accommodation required to support the needs of the occupant;
- (c) sufficient space to park vehicles for both parts of the dwelling, in accordance with adopted standards, is available and appropriately located in design terms within the curtilage;
- (d) the development accords with Policy HOU11 (Extensions and Alterations to Dwellings, Residential Outbuildings and Works within Residential Curtilages).



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# Economic Development

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### 15 Economic Development

#### 15.1 Introduction

- 15.1.1** East Herts is a district of fairly small towns and an extensive rural area. It lies between the A1(M) and the M11, with only the A10 running north-south and the A414 running east-west through the south of the district. East Herts is surrounded by the larger centres of Hatfield, Welwyn Garden City, Stevenage, Letchworth and Baldock, located along the A1(M) corridor. To the south and east there are the urban areas of Hoddesdon, Cheshunt and Harlow. Stansted Airport, a major centre of employment, lies just outside the district boundary to the north east of Bishop's Stortford.
- 15.1.2** This geography has a significant bearing on patterns of economic development. East Herts is not a self-contained economy and in economic terms it plays a supporting role in relation to the adjacent urban centres and Stansted Airport, particularly in terms of labour supply. It is home to many of the people who work in these adjacent towns (and the airport). As such, East Herts is part of a wider integrated labour and property market area covering much of Hertfordshire and part of Essex and north London. East Herts is an important part of this economic sub-region, but the district's business base is made up predominantly of small and medium sized firms, many of which will have links to companies in the sub-region, to London or with Stansted Airport.
- 15.1.3** It is necessary to acknowledge the role East Herts plays and to balance the desire to remain competitive and to provide new employment opportunities for the residents of the district within the limitations created by the physical constraints of each town and the wider economic geography.
- 15.1.4** East Herts is a prosperous district with higher than average earnings and relatively low unemployment, though the statistics disguise pockets of relative deprivation within the district. Educational attainment is generally very high, but there is a disparity between the wages of those who live and work within the district and those who live in East Herts but are employed outside the district in locations such as London and Cambridge. There is therefore a need to ensure there is a balance of employment opportunities available to residents and to ensure that the skills of the workforce (both school leavers and adults alike) are appropriate for the businesses within and beyond the district, and to provide support for entrepreneurialism, new and growing businesses.
- 15.1.5** Retail and leisure facilities, along with education and healthcare services also provide valuable sources of employment. Businesses located in or with good connections to a town centre for example can help to support these uses and can benefit from shared resources and good public transport connectivity. It is therefore important to encourage the retention of employment uses within towns and villages.

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**15.1.6** The economic landscape is, however, changing with the latest permitted development rights set out in The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015. The Order is intended to increase housing supply by allowing change of use from some business uses to residential.

**15.1.7** Not all changes of use will be permitted development. Some will be subject to a prior approval process which means that a developer has to seek approval from the local planning authority that specified elements of the development are acceptable before work can proceed. The matters for prior approval vary depending on the type of development and these are set out in full in the relevant parts in Schedule 2 to the Order.

**15.1.8** There are also a range of exclusions which apply to permitted development rights. For instance, there are protected areas which include, for example, Conservation Areas. Some permitted development rights are also in place for a limited period of time; again, these are set out in full in the relevant sections in Schedule 2 to the Order.

Permitted development rights are set out in The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 at: [www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk)

**15.1.9** Whilst acknowledging permitted development rights, the District Plan must also consider the longer term needs of the district's economy. Businesses have performed well in East Herts despite the economic recession and the Council therefore maintains that commercial and business units should be retained in appropriate locations in order to provide suitable accommodation for existing and emerging businesses and to facilitate sharing of services and supply chains. It is necessary to ensure that where office space is converted into residential units this does not result in isolated and unsustainable residential developments or prejudice the prospects of remaining neighbouring businesses.

**15.1.10** The NPPF requires local authorities to do all they can to support sustainable economic growth and to plan proactively to meet the development needs of businesses. Policies should be flexible enough to accommodate needs not anticipated in the plan and to allow a rapid response to changes in economic circumstances. Authorities should identify priority areas for economic regeneration, infrastructure provision and environmental enhancement, and facilitate flexible working practices such as the integration of residential and commercial uses within the same unit.

**15.1.11** This Chapter endorses and seeks to facilitate the Council's Economic Development Vision for East Herts, which goes beyond the policies of the District Plan. The Economic Development Vision contains six priorities summarised in Table 15.1 below:

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**Table 15.1: Economic Development Vision**

| Priority                                      | Objective   |
|---|---|
| A business friendly council                   | <i>We will ensure we are supporting businesses as 'customers' of council services as well as listening to the needs of the business community</i> |
| Enabling entrepreneurs and business start ups | <i>We will encourage wealth creation in the district and ensure businesses can access a wide range of locally sourced services</i>                |
| Supporting the rural economy                  | <i>We will maximise investment into the rural economy and ensure it remains competitive</i>   |
| Vibrant Town Centres                          | <i>We will ensure our town centres meet the needs and wants of our residents and visitors</i>   |
| Supporting the visitor economy                | <i>We want to raise the profile of local attractions and support businesses in their supply chain</i>   |
| Lobbying for the right infrastructure         | <i>We will work with key partners to ensure East Herts can support growth in the right places at the right times</i>                              |

**15.1.12** The Council will also continue to work alongside the Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership and other national and local initiatives that seek to support and enhance the economy of East Herts.

### 15.2 Employment

**15.2.1** The NPPF is clear that policies should avoid the long term protection of employment land where there is no reasonable prospect of a site being used for that purpose. The Council has produced a series of reports which identify the need to retain all designated Employment Areas for current and future requirements. Nevertheless, the policy approach is sufficiently flexible to respond to individual business needs within the remit of protecting and retaining land for employment purposes.

The Council's technical studies relating to employment and economic development can be viewed and downloaded from the Council's Website at:

[www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase)

**15.2.2** While a large proportion of the district's employment generating uses and B-Class businesses are located in designated Employment Areas, there are many small, independent traders and businesses located across the district either in small clusters or isolated units. These businesses are well located for the service they deliver

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whilst providing valuable sources of local employment in a variety of businesses. Therefore the Council seeks, in general, to retain and encourage their continued use and if necessary, their replacement with alternative appropriate uses. On designated Employment Areas, evidence of marketing for a minimum period of twelve months will be required. For non-designated sites, normally a minimum period of six months is requested, though each case will be determined on its merits in discussion with the Development Management Team.

- 15.2.3** Evidence also shows that a significant proportion of employment generating uses are actually in the retail and service industries and would not necessarily locate in employment areas. In addition, there is a growing trend towards self-employment and more flexible working patterns including working from home. To facilitate this flexible approach to working, it is important that access to high-speed broadband technology is available along with the ability to access office space where necessary. Part of the district's business offer could be through the provision of business-hub facilities which provide meeting rooms, office equipment and function room services for hire and for drop-in purposes. Such a facility should be in an accessible location and have sufficient parking provision in line with the Council's Vehicle Parking Provision at New Developments SPD.
- 15.2.4** The following policies relate to the district as a whole, where the provisions of the General Permitted Development (England) Order 2015 (as amended) do not apply. They set out the approach to designated and non-designated employment land and employment generating uses, which may include uses not within the traditional employment Use Classes B1 (Business), B2 (General Industrial) and B8 (Storage and Distribution). Policies on retail and commercial uses are contained in Chapter 16 (Retail and Town Centres). Policies related to employment, retail or commercial uses relevant to specific settlements are included in the appropriate settlement chapter.

### Policy ED1 Employment

I. Within designated Employment Areas (as defined on the Policies Map), land is allocated for industry, comprising Use Classes B1 (Business), B2 (General Industrial) and where well related to the primary road network, B8 (Storage and Distribution).

II. The provision of new employment uses will be supported in principle, where they are in a suitable location where access can be achieved by a choice of sustainable transport and do not conflict with other policies within this Plan. New employment floorspace should be of a flexible design, able to respond to the changing needs of small and growing enterprises, be energy efficient in construction and operation (in accordance with the Council's Design and Landscape, and Climate Change policies in Chapters 17 and 22) and have fully integrated communications technology, in line with Policy ED3 Communications Infrastructure.



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III. Development which would cause the loss of an existing designated Employment Area, or a site/premises which is currently, or was last, in employment use (Classes B1, B2, B8 or related Sui Generis), will only be permitted where all the following criteria are met:

- (a) The retention of the site or premises for Use Classes B1, B2 and B8 has been fully explored without success. This should also consider whether improvements to the existing site/premises would make it more attractive to alternative B1, B2 or B8 uses. The applicant will be expected to undertake discussions with officers as to the potential for and suitability of alternative uses. Evidence of a period of marketing of at least 12 months must be provided. For a non-designated employment area, a proportionate approach should be taken;
- (b) The retention of the B1, B2 or B8 use is unable to be facilitated by the partial conversion to a non-employment generating use; and
- (c) The proposal does not prejudice the continued viability of existing Employment Areas and neighbouring uses and existing operational employment sites and neighbouring uses.

IV. The Mill Site in Bishop's Stortford will remain as a designated Employment Area until such time that the land is presented as being available for redevelopment. The site will then be subject to the provisions of Policy BISH10 and should be brought forward for redevelopment as part of a comprehensive masterplan.

### 15.3 Rural Economy

- 15.3.1** East Herts has the most significant rural economic profile in the county, with more than 400 agricultural holdings occupying more than 34,000 hectares. Many of these businesses have diversified and have a second income stream. Some diversification schemes, such as those that create visitor attractions, result in the intensification of the rural area but can also act as a means of connecting visitors to the countryside, thereby supporting rural jobs and skills.
- 15.3.2** Employment areas within the rural area have a key role to play in providing accessible and affordable employment and business opportunities. It is important to balance the need to retain these vital rural employment locations with the need to protect the amenity of the locality. Changes to Permitted Development legislation affecting buildings in the rural area have the potential to significantly affect rural districts like East Herts. However, some Permitted Development changes are temporary and are subject to change. It is therefore vital that the Council takes a long term approach and seeks a high standard of development that is appropriate to its setting.



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- 15.3.3** Hertfordshire has a rich tradition of providing food for London and food production is a key element of the rural economy. Local food production not only reduces food miles (distance between place of production and consumption), but it also provides food security and local employment. New technology increases productivity, efficiency and diversity of produce, including those used in the pharmaceutical and bio-science industry. The Lea Valley has the highest concentration of glasshouses in the country providing produce for local, national and international consumption. It is therefore important that this area of agricultural heritage is protected and enhanced where appropriate. The Council is supportive of initiatives which support food production industries where they are in line with other District Plan policies.
- 15.3.4** Agricultural buildings within the rural area are often of historic merit and the conversion of such buildings should be undertaken with care in order to protect the historic and visual quality of the building and its setting. In most cases, agricultural buildings would be considered in relation to the farm house, most of which, if they are of historic merit would already be designated in some way. Where there is no designation, an assessment will be made in relation to the Heritage policies in Chapter 21 and other policies in this Plan. The Council will expect such proposals to take into account Historic England's Best Practice Guidelines for Adaptive Reuse.

Historic England's guidelines for 'Adapting Traditional Farm Buildings: best practice guidelines for adaptive reuse' can be viewed and downloaded at:

[www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/adapting-traditional-farm-buildings/](http://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/adapting-traditional-farm-buildings/)

### Policy ED2 Rural Economy

I. In order to support sustainable economic growth in rural areas and to prevent the loss of vital sources of rural employment, proposals that create new employment generating uses or support the sustainable growth and expansion of existing businesses in the rural area will be supported in principle where they are appropriately and sustainably located and do not conflict with other policies within this Plan.

II. Proposals that consist of a change of use of agricultural or employment generating use in the rural area to other employment generating uses will be supported in principle subject to other policies within this Plan.

III. Where the proposal results in the loss of an agricultural or employment use in a rural area or a change of use to a non-employment generating use, evidence will be required to demonstrate that:

- (a) the current agricultural or employment use is no longer needed or viable;
- (b) that improvements to the site/premises would not make alternative employment generating uses viable;

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(c) the retention of the employment generating use is unable to be facilitated by the partial conversion to a non-employment generating use;

(d) the building is of permanent and substantial construction.

IV. Proposals for the diversification of farms will be supported in principle where:

(a) they secure the viability of the agricultural practice of the farm;

(b) they contribute to the maintenance of biodiversity or landscape interests;

(c) they support the engagement of communities with land management, food production and rural crafts and the development of local produce markets;

(d) the diversification remains a subsidiary of the overall agricultural activity of the holding;

(e) any resultant retail or commercial use does not have an adverse impact on the viability of existing nearby rural or village shops or community facilities.

### 15.4 Communications Infrastructure and Flexible Working Practices

#### Communications Infrastructure

**15.4.1** With the development of new information technology such as broadband internet, smart phones and Wi-Fi connectivity, working behaviour is changing with individuals and businesses working in more flexible ways. Recent trends indicate a growing popularity of and propensity for flexible working patterns and working from home. It is important that new residential properties are designed in a way that enables households to work from home either occasionally or on a full-time basis. It is vital that communications infrastructure is provided as a fully integrated part of new residential and commercial premises, particularly in more rural locations.

#### Policy ED3 Communications Infrastructure

The provision or expansion of electronic communications networks, including high-speed broadband is supported in principle subject to the following:

(a) Where providing new infrastructure, such equipment is fully integrated into the design and is available from the start of occupation;

(b) That masts and visible structures are kept to the minimum required for the efficient operation of the network. Providers should justify the need for new structures, having fully explored the multiple-use of existing structures;

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(c) Where new structures are required, equipment should be sympathetically and appropriately located, designed and camouflaged where possible, in order to respect the character and amenity of existing developments and occupiers. Providers will be expected to undertake appropriate consultations prior to seeking permission or prior approval;

(d) Providers should present evidence that the infrastructure will not cause significant and irremediable interference with other electrical equipment, air traffic services or instrumentation operated in the national interest;

(e) Providers should consider the possibility of new buildings or other structures interfering with broadcast and telecommunications services; and

(f) Proposals should meet the International Commission guidelines (or as amended) for public exposure and operations.

### Flexible Working Practices

**15.4.2** The NPPF supports flexible working practices such as the integration of residential and commercial uses within the same unit, in a way that goes beyond homeworking. Buildings can be designed in ways which facilitate the sharing and division of space for residential and business uses. The way these units operate will be different to those of wholly residential properties and will therefore need to ensure no harm is caused to the amenity of neighbouring uses. Conditions can be used to maintain a level of control over the types, occupation, intensity and operating times of business uses. For Development Management purposes, live/work units are classed as sui generis uses and therefore any change to either part of the property will require planning permission.

**15.4.3** The provision of such units should be part of a wider mix of residential and other uses within a development.

### Policy ED4 Flexible Working Practices

I. Proposals for the use of part of a dwelling for small-scale business purposes will be supported in principle provided:

(a) that the premises has sufficient parking for all uses in line with the Council's Vehicle Parking in New Developments SPD; and

(b) that the amenity of neighbouring properties is not adversely affected.

II. Proposals for live/work units will be supported in principle in sustainable locations subject to the following:

(a) that a separate functional workspace is identifiable and where appropriate capable of accommodating the whole range of B1 uses;

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(b) where possible, the workspace element is provided at street level; and

(c) there will be no significant adverse impact on the amenity of the adjoining area or nearby occupiers.

III. Where permission for live/work units is granted, the residential occupancy will be restricted by condition to ensure that it is occupied by a person or persons employed in the business carried out in the premises. The following conditions shall also be applied:

(a) The business floorspace of the live/work unit shall be finished ready for occupation before the residential floorspace is occupied and the residential use shall not precede commencement of the business use;

(b) The business floorspace of the live/work unit shall not be used for any purpose other than for purposes within Class [B1] in the Schedule to the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987, or in any provision equivalent to that Class in any statutory instrument revoking and re-enacting that Order with or without modification;

### 15.5 Tourism

**15.5.1** The tourism industry and visitors to the district play a vital role in the East Herts economy, creating jobs and contributing to the maintenance of facilities. Tourism in East Herts is a by-product of the high quality environment of its countryside and historic market towns, along with its locational advantages and proximity to Stansted Airport, rather than something that can be effectively planned for. It is therefore important that the provision of facilities which cater for the needs of visitors do not detract or harm the very environment that attracts them.

#### Policy ED5 Tourism

I. New tourism enterprises and extensions to existing tourism enterprises will be supported in principle where the facility meets identified needs which are not met by existing facilities, are appropriately located and do not conflict with other policies within this Plan.

II. Water-based facilities and developments within environmentally sensitive locations will be required to provide evidence that no harm will occur to the quality of the environment and the health of the wildlife in line with the provisions of Policy CFLR4 (Water Based Recreation), Policy NE1 (International, National and Locally Designated Nature Conservation Sites) Policy NE3 (Species and Habitats) and NE4 (Green Infrastructure).

### 15.6 Lifelong Learning

- 15.6.1** It is vital that the educational needs of the district are met both at primary and secondary level, but also within higher education and adult learning opportunities, including apprenticeships. The University of Hertfordshire's main campus is located in the nearby town of Hatfield. The University also has a campus based at Bayfordbury, near Hertford, which specialises in ecological and astronomical research. It is home to the Bayfordbury Observatory and hosts an extensive outreach programme for the general public and local schools, hosting regular public open evenings. The campus participates in internationally important research and is a significant contributor to the local economy.
- 15.6.2** Harlow College offers vocational courses and the Hertford Regional College has campuses both within Ware and the neighbouring town of Turnford in Broxbourne Borough, specialising in vocational courses. There are also active adult learning partnerships between secondary schools which offer school-leaver and adult learning opportunities. The Council's Economic Development Vision seeks to engage with these educational facilities, to support the development of further education opportunities and to foster entrepreneurialism and the development and growth of new businesses within the district.

The Council's Economic Development Vision can be viewed and downloaded at:

[www.eastherts.gov.uk/article/35676/Business-Support-Advice](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/article/35676/Business-Support-Advice)

- 15.6.3** In order to provide opportunities for those leaving education, and to support the creation of new businesses and entrepreneurialism in general, the Council will support in principle the creation of incubation units; small, flexible units designed for start-up and growing businesses as part of new employment space across the district.

#### Policy ED6 Lifelong Learning

The provision of new educational establishments which support a range of learning and community needs such as further education and opportunities for lifelong learning will be supported in principle in line with Policy CFLR10 (Education).

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## Retail and Town Centres

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### 16 Retail and Town Centres

#### 16.1 Introduction

- 16.1.1** East Herts' town centres play a vital role in providing for the every-day needs of residents, providing not only a varied retail offer, but also for banking and administrative needs, leisure and social opportunities. The market towns of East Herts have a rich heritage which has influenced their current form and limiting road networks, character and architectural interest. However, this historic character can also act as a constraint, prohibiting larger retailers from investing.
- 16.1.2** In recent years there have been many financial pressures on town centres, with competition from larger centres including from out of town shopping centres, rising proportions of internet shopping, rising business rates and rents, restricted bank lending and a challenging economic climate. Despite this, East Herts' towns have been reasonably resilient suffering comparatively few closures.

#### 16.2 Permitted Development Rights

- 16.2.1** Permitted development rights are a national grant of planning permission which allow certain building works and changes of use to be carried out without having to make a planning application. Permitted development rights are subject to conditions and limitations to control impact and to protect local amenity.
- 16.2.2** Permitted development rights are set out in The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015. The Order allows change of use between shops and financial and professional services, allowing the change of such uses to restaurants or leisure use. The Order is also intended to increase housing supply by allowing change of use from some business uses to residential.
- 16.2.3** Not all changes of use will be permitted development. Some will be subject to a prior approval process which means that a developer has to seek approval from the local planning authority that specified elements of the development are acceptable before work can proceed. The matters for prior approval vary depending on the type of development and these are set out in full in the relevant parts in Schedule 2 to the Order.
- 16.2.4** There are also a range of exclusions which apply to permitted development rights such as within Conservation Areas. Some permitted development rights are also in place for a limited period of time; again, these are set out in full in the relevant sections in Schedule 2 to the Order.

Permitted development rights are set out in The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 at: [www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk)



- 16.2.5** Whilst acknowledging permitted development rights, the District Plan must also consider the longer term interests of the district's high streets. It is therefore important that the Council plans positively, to support town centres to generate local employment, promote beneficial competition within and between town centres, and create attractive, diverse places where people want to live, visit and work.

### 16.3 Retail Development

- 16.3.1** In order to secure the vitality and viability of the district's retail centres, it is important for planning policy to seek to retain a high proportion of units for retail uses, but to also acknowledge the changing role town centres have in providing social and cultural experiences, both now and in the future. A mixture of uses in the right locations can encourage activity throughout the day and into the evening, providing for social as well as retail needs, thus enhancing the role of town centres. Therefore, where planning permission is required, the Council will seek to retain a high proportion of shop uses in the town centre.
- 16.3.2** The following hierarchy of town centres will apply:
1. Principal Town Centre: Bishop's Stortford
  2. Secondary Town Centre: Hertford
  3. Minor Town Centres: Buntingford, Sawbridgeworth and Ware
- 16.3.3** In accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the Council will apply a sequential test to applications for main town centre uses. The main town centre uses, as defined in the NPPF, should be located in the town centre, then in edge of centre locations, and only if suitable sites are not available, should out of centre locations be considered. When considering edge of centre and out of centre proposals, preference will be given to accessible sites that are well connected to the town centre. The Council and the applicant will demonstrate flexibility on issues such as format and scale.
- 16.3.4** The NPPF states that where a proposal is over a proportionate, locally set floorspace threshold, local planning authorities should require an impact assessment to be submitted. The Retail and Town Centres Study (2013) indicated that it is not considered appropriate to apply the default threshold of 2,500m<sup>2</sup> gross across the district as this scale of development would represent a significant proportion of the overall retail projections for East Herts through the Plan period. Given the high proportion of small retail units and businesses in the district's town centres, developments over 500m<sup>2</sup> gross will be of a greater significance and therefore should be subject to some form of impact assessment.

The East Herts Retail and Town Centres Study Update Report 2013 can be viewed and downloaded at: [www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase)

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- 16.3.5** The Council supports the use of upper floors in town centre locations for residential and office purposes where there is potential to provide a reasonable standard of accommodation, has its own access, has arrangements for car parking and/or access to, and availability of passenger transport, and has suitable refuse storage facilities. The conversion of dwellings into commercial uses outside town centre locations will be resisted.

### Policy RTC1 Retail Development

I. Within the town centre boundaries as defined on the Policies Map, main town centre uses as defined by the NPPF will be supported in principle, where they contribute to maintaining the role and function, viability and vitality of the market town.

II. Proposals will be assessed in line with the sequential approach.

III. Proposals for retail outside the Primary Shopping Area, and for leisure, office and other developments outside of town centres, which are not in accordance with policies of the District Plan, will be required to provide an impact assessment indicating the impact of the proposal on existing, committed and planned public and private investment in the town centre or in the catchment area of the proposal. The assessment should also consider the impact of the proposal on town centre vitality and viability, including local consumer choice and trade in the town centre and the wider area. The impact should be measured for up to five years from the time the application is made. For major schemes, the impact should be measured for up to ten years from the application. The following thresholds will be applied:

- Over 1,500 sq.m gross within the settlement boundary of Bishop's Stortford
- Over 1,000 sq.m gross within the settlement boundary of Hertford
- Over 500 sq.m gross elsewhere

IV. Where a proposal fails to satisfy the sequential approach or is likely to have an adverse impact in line with Part III above, it will be refused.

### 16.4 Primary Shopping Area

- 16.4.1** Primary Shopping Areas are where retail activity is concentrated, often underpinned by larger anchor stores and popular chains. Primary Shopping Areas contain both primary and secondary frontages. Primary Shopping Frontages are normally the retail 'core' of a centre where the majority of footfall and activity occurs. They are likely to include a high proportion of retail uses which may include food, drinks, clothing and household goods. Secondary Shopping Frontages provide a greater diversity of uses such as restaurants, commercial services and leisure facilities, which provide a supporting role for the centre as a whole.

- 16.4.2** In order to maintain the viability of the Primary Shopping Area and to locate retail uses where there are good passenger transport networks, it is important to prevent the dilution of the Primary Shopping Frontage within the Primary Shopping Area. Given the size, diversity and function of the town centres of Bishop's Stortford, Hertford and Ware, it is necessary to designate a Primary Shopping Area within the town centres, which contain both Primary and Secondary Shopping Frontages.
- 16.4.3** For consistency with the Permitted Development Order 2015, 'key shopping areas' are those designated as Primary Shopping Areas in this Plan. Change of Use proposals from A1 (Shop) or A2 (Financial and Professional Services) to other uses will be expected to demonstrate that there is no reasonable prospect of the unit being put to A1 or A2 use and that following the change of use there will be an adequate provision of A1 or A2 uses to maintain the sustainability (viability and vitality) of the Primary Shopping Area.
- 16.4.4** The historic environment and market town heritage of East Herts' town centres are a key attraction to both retailers and visitors. Alterations to shop fronts are expected to be of the highest quality, reflecting the local character and vernacular in accordance with Policy DES3. The Council will consider the use of Design Codes to guide development where necessary. Development within Hertford will be guided by the Hertford Town Centre Urban Design Framework, while development within Bishop's Stortford will be guided by the Bishop's Stortford Town Centre Planning Framework.

The Hertford Town Centre Urban Design Strategy and The Bishop's Stortford Planning Framework can be viewed at:

[www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase)

### Policy RTC2 Primary Shopping Area

I. Within the Town Centre boundaries as defined on the Policies Map, Primary Shopping Areas are designated for the Town Centres of Bishop's Stortford, Hertford and Ware, within which retail and other main town centre uses, as defined in the NPPF, should be located.

II. The Primary Shopping Areas will contain both Primary and Secondary Shopping Frontages. Proposals for development within Primary Shopping Frontages will be considered in accordance with Policy RTC3 (Primary Shopping Frontages). Proposals for development within Secondary Shopping Frontages will be considered in accordance with Policy RTC4 (Secondary Shopping Frontages).

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### 16.5 Primary Shopping Frontages

**16.5.1** Whilst acknowledging permitted development opportunities, it is not appropriate to take a relaxed approach to development within East Herts' town centres, nor is it appropriate to prevent changes of use from A1 (Shop) uses to other uses, as to do so could prevent diversity and stifle investment, resulting in vacant uses. However, it is appropriate to seek to maintain a high proportion of A1 (Shop) uses in order to ensure the vitality and viability of the town centres, so that they are able to perform their function as retail and leisure destinations, and to distinguish between the primary and secondary frontages. For the purpose of this policy and for the application of the Prior Approval process, an adequate provision of A1 and A2 is defined as at least 50% of units in a single frontage being in A1 and A2 uses. A single frontage is normally described as an unbroken row of shops, usually within two side roads and is shown on the Policies Map.

#### Policy RTC3 Primary Shopping Frontages

In order to protect the vitality and viability of the Primary Shopping Areas, within the Primary Shopping Frontages in Bishop's Stortford, Hertford and Ware, as defined on the Policies Map, proposals for Use Class A1 will be supported in principle as the preferred use, while Use Classes A1, A2, A3, A4 and A5 will be supported in principle provided they have an active frontage and there remains an adequate provision of A1 and A2 uses which support its role as a Primary Shopping Frontage.

### 16.6 Secondary Shopping Frontages

- 16.6.1** Within the Primary Shopping Areas of Bishop's Stortford, Hertford and Ware, Secondary Shopping Frontages provide an opportunity for the types of uses that support a town centre's function as a destination for leisure as well as for retail purposes, such as restaurants, coffee shops, financial and commercial services.
- 16.6.2** The Town Centres of Buntingford and Sawbridgeworth are minor town centres with a high number of independent stores and a low number of national retailers. Given their role as service centres for their immediate population and rural hinterland, the town centre boundary is tightly drawn around the existing high street and there is no primary shopping area designated. There are no obvious areas within these town centres where there is a predominance of Class A1 (Shop) uses. It is therefore appropriate to define the frontages within the two towns as Secondary Shopping Frontages, where a flexible approach to changes of use will be applied where this does not lead to a disproportionate and potentially detrimental number of non-retail uses.

### Policy RTC4 Secondary Shopping Frontages

Within the Secondary Shopping Frontages in Bishop's Stortford, Buntingford, Hertford, Sawbridgeworth and Ware, as defined on the Policies Map, proposals for development or changes of use to main town centre uses or those that will support the vitality and viability of the frontage or town centre as a whole (such as employment generating or activity generating uses) will be supported in principle.

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### 16.7 Markets and Specialist Events

- 16.7.1** Markets, Farmers Markets and specialist events are an important feature of town centres, promoting the identity of the town, while increasing visitor numbers which creates additional trade for other town centre premises on market day. Specialist markets also draw in visitors from further afield and are key selling opportunities for local farms, smallholders and the crafting community.
- 16.7.2** The Council's Economic Development Vision for East Herts seeks to maintain and enhance markets and specialist events in town centres, and the Council will work with partners to deliver such events. Development proposals that enhance the town centre environment to support market and specialist events will be encouraged.

### 16.8 District Centres, Neighbourhood Centres, Local Parades and Individual Shops

- 16.8.1** District centres, neighbourhood centres and local parades support the day-to-day needs of communities, providing opportunities for top-up shopping and access to services and social interactions. Quite often they are essential for those less able to travel to town centres or larger retail centres. It is therefore important that these local centres provide the type and range of retail and commercial uses necessary to serve and support the local community.
- 16.8.2** District centres generally comprise a group of shops, separate from the town centre, with at least one supermarket or superstore, together with a range of non-retail services and public facilities. In order to reflect the important role played by the Thorley Centre in Bishop's Stortford in terms of the local provision of food shopping and services, the centre is identified as a District Centre.
- 16.8.3** The Bishop's Park Centre in Bishop's Stortford is similar to the Thorley Centre, in that it provides a local destination for food shopping and services. However, despite the supermarket being slightly larger, the centre contains only one other retail unit and a community centre. Therefore the role of the centre is more limited than the Thorley Centre. As such, the Bishop's Park Centre is identified as a Neighbourhood Centre.

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**16.8.4** New neighbourhood centres will be provided in strategic developments at Whittington Way, Bishop's Stortford; Birchall Garden Suburb, East of Welwyn Garden City; Gresley Park, East of Stevenage and the Gilston Area.

**16.8.5** Local parades provide a range of small shops of a local nature for a small catchment. These include parades of shops and services both in urban areas and in village locations.

**16.8.6** A full list of District and Neighbourhood Centres, and Local Parades is provided in the table below:

**Table 16.1: Retail Hierarchy**

| Hierarchy                           | Location  |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| District Centre                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Thorley Centre, Bishop's Stortford</li> </ul>  |
| Neighbourhood Centre                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bishop's Park, Bishop's Stortford</li> <li>Bishop's Stortford North</li> <li>Birchall Garden Suburb, East of Welwyn Garden City</li> <li>Gresley Park, East of Stevenage</li> <li>North and East of Ware</li> <li>The Gilston Area</li> <li>Whittington Way at Bishop's Stortford South</li> </ul> |
| Local Parade:<br>Bishop's Stortford | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hockerill</li> <li>Havers Parade</li> <li>Snowley Parade</li> </ul>  |
| Local Parade:<br>Hertford           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fleming Crescent, Sele Farm</li> <li>The Avenue</li> </ul>   |
| Local Parade:<br>Ware               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Green, Kingshill</li> <li>Cromwell Road</li> <li>King George Road</li> </ul>   |

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| Hierarchy                     | Location   |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Local Parade:<br><br>Villages | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Puckeridge</li><li>• Standon</li><li>• Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets</li><li>• Watton-at-Stone</li></ul> |

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**16.8.7** Individual shops are distributed throughout the towns and villages in the district and provide valuable facilities for local people in addition to the town centre offer.

### **Policy RTC5 District Centres, Neighbourhood Centres, Local Parades and Individual Shops**

I. Within District Centres, Neighbourhood Centres and Local Parades, development or change of use to main town centre uses will be supported in principle to secure the vitality and viability of the district or neighbourhood centre or local parade.

II. Proposals that result in the loss of individual shops in A1 Use will be resisted and will be considered in accordance with Policy CFLR8 (Loss of Community Facilities).



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## Design and Landscape

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### 17 Design and Landscape

#### 17.1 Introduction

- 17.1.1** The importance of good design in securing high quality development is widely recognised. Design is not just about visual appearance and function: it is about a whole range of social, economic and environmental considerations, which together are a major contributor to quality of life.
- 17.1.2** One of the objectives of this Plan is to raise the standards and quality of the layout and design of new development. The District Council is strongly committed to promoting good design in new developments and to improving the quality of public spaces. Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development and can contribute positively to making places better for people. The way in which places and the buildings within them are designed is fundamental not only to creating environments that communities value, but also to ensuring that the use of resources and the environmental impact of new development is reduced.
- 17.1.3** Good design can encourage healthy lifestyles by encouraging movement on foot and by bicycle. It can also enhance local distinctiveness, promote the vitality of the local economy, facilitate community cohesion by enabling social interaction in secure public spaces and incorporate multi-functional Green Infrastructure networks. In summary, good design can contribute towards creating attractive and safe places where people want to live, work, and visit.

#### 17.2 Design Objectives

- 17.2.1** To achieve high quality design, there are several intrinsic sustainable development objectives that should be understood by applicants to inform the design of new development. These are to:
1. Respect, improve and enhance the existing surrounding environment;
  2. Respond to existing patterns of development and the local context;
  3. Be attractive in appearance but receptive to original design and innovation in construction techniques, design and technologies;
  4. Be usable, in terms of accessibility, legibility and be well-connected;
  5. Be adaptable and flexible to the needs of the occupiers now and in the future;
  6. Be socially inclusive, catering for the current and changing needs of the district's population;
  7. Discourage crime and anti-social behaviour;
  8. Encourage good health and well-being;

9. Incorporate measures to mitigate and adapt against the effects of climate change;
10. Incorporate water management and sustainable urban drainage, planting and landscaping into the overall design, including through the creation of adequate private and public amenity space and green infrastructure;
11. Incorporate the good practice recommendations of British Standard 5837 (2012): Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction; and
12. Incorporate appropriate Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessments and Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments in the consideration of location and design of new development.

### 17.3 Sustainable Design

- 17.3.1** There are many industry examples, toolkits, guidance documents and best practice available that provide sources of information on specific aspects on sustainable design.
- 17.3.2** Building Futures is a Hertfordshire guide to promoting sustainability in development. It includes an interactive Sustainable Design Toolkit, which contains design guidance for six different types of development ranging from householder extensions through to large and mixed-use development:
1. Household extension
  2. New dwellings
  3. Multi-residential (e.g. care homes)
  4. Education & Health
  5. Commercial & Industrial
  6. Large & Mixed-use
- 17.3.3** The Toolkit has been created to help those who prepare and assess development proposals in Hertfordshire to better understand the principles of sustainable design and consider how best they can be applied to a specific scheme and site. Using a virtual townscape, the Toolkit aims to provoke thought and inform decisions on the design and build of new development schemes in Hertfordshire. It does this by providing a simple framework of questions, best practice guidance and further information on sustainable design.
- 17.3.4** Users of the Toolkit can choose from any of the six development types to navigate a wealth of sustainable design guidance on issues such as climate change, water, materials and safety.

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Building Futures is an interactive Website which can be viewed at:

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/building-futures/building-futures.aspx](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/building-futures/building-futures.aspx)

- 17.3.5** The Government conducted a Housing Standards review in 2015, which integrated some voluntary standards into Building Regulations and created a suite of optional national housing standards that planning authorities can choose to include in local plans. Building Regulations change over time, while sustainable design and technology improves and becomes more viable as they become more established. East Herts Council aspires for all development to exceed national standards and Building Regulations where possible and developments will be expected to utilise the best available sustainable design and technology as possible.
- 17.3.6** The Building Research Establishment has established a new Home Quality Mark to replace the Code for Sustainable Homes which was revoked in the National Standards Review 2015. The Home Quality Mark is an independent assessment of the home's quality in terms of its contribution to the occupant's health and wellbeing, cost to maintain and energy efficiency for example. It is a voluntary standard which demonstrates that design and construction exceeds that required by Building Regulations and can be used as a tool when marketing and buying properties and may be used as a benchmark for proposals.

The Home Quality Mark guidance can be viewed at:

[www.homequalitymark.com/standard](http://www.homequalitymark.com/standard)

### 17.4 Planning Applications

- 17.4.1** Development proposals can often be controversial, therefore it is important that appropriate appraisals are undertaken to inform the site planning, layout and design process, and that local communities and stakeholders are engaged throughout. The District Council expects a high standard of design in new development and as such will require that all 'significant' applications undertake a Masterplanning process. The significance of a development will be measured not only on its scale, but on the potential impact on the community and local character of the place into which it is to be introduced, and the ability to bring forward benefits to the community. Generally, a threshold of fifty homes or more will apply. However, in some cases, a smaller scale of development may be considered to have a significant effect. The Masterplanning process enables issues to be addressed collaboratively at an early stage, enabling applications to progress to detailed or hybrid stages more quickly, therefore speeding up the decision-making process and ultimately the delivery of development. The detail to be considered through this process will be commensurate to the specific proposal. To achieve this, applicants should ensure:

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1. A comprehensive design process has been carried out including: a site and context appraisal and assessment of relevant policies; involvement with the local community; and the design of the development scheme based on assessment, involvement, and evaluation of information collected;
2. That in the design of the scheme there should be clear evidence that design principles based on the sustainable development objectives set out above have been followed, understood and integrated within the constraints of the development proposal. It is essential that skilled architects, landscape architects and drainage engineers are involved in the early stages of any development proposal, to ensure that the potential of any site can be maximised;
3. That where necessary, a Design and Access Statement has been completed and accompanies the application. The statement should make it clear how the proposal has integrated sustainable design principles into the scheme. The Statement should clearly justify the proposal by explaining how it will create safe, accessible, vibrant and sustainable development which respects its landscape setting and complies with British Standard 5837 (2012). Applicants will be encouraged to use the Building Futures Sustainable Design Toolkit and the Home Quality Mark within their Design and Access Statements.

### Policy DES1 Masterplanning

I. All 'significant' development proposals will be required to prepare a Masterplan setting out the quantum and distribution of land uses; access; sustainable high quality design and layout principles; necessary infrastructure; the relationship between the site and other adjacent and nearby land uses; landscape and heritage assets; and other relevant matters.

II. The Masterplan will be collaboratively prepared, involving site promoters, land owners, East Herts Council, town and parish councils and other relevant key stakeholders. The Masterplan will be further informed by public participation.

III. In order to ensure that sites are planned and delivered comprehensively, any application for development on part of the site will be assessed against its contribution to the Masterplan as a whole.

### 17.5 Design Codes

- 17.5.1** A Design Code is a set of specific rules or requirements to guide the physical development of a site or place. The aim of design coding is to provide clarity as to what constitutes acceptable design quality and thereby a level of certainty for developers and the local community alike that can help to accelerate the delivery of good quality new development.

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**17.5.2** The District Council will consider using Design Codes where they will help to deliver high quality outcomes on particular sites/areas.

**17.5.3** Where applicable, other forms of design guidance such as Neighbourhood Plans and Parish Design Guides may also be applied.

### 17.6 Design Reviews

**17.6.1** The publication of the NPPF has re-iterated and reinforced the role of Design Reviews. Where appropriate the District Council will ensure that local design review arrangements are in place to provide assessment and support to ensure high standards of design.

**17.6.2** The Hertfordshire Design Review Panel, has been set up to help planners, developers and designers realise the full potential of development schemes, providing a resource to support the delivery of high quality, sustainable design for those bringing forward development proposals.

**17.6.3** The majority of schemes brought forward for review would be at the pre-application stage, i.e. at the early design stage. They would normally be major schemes as defined by their scale and nature, or which have a significant impact on the character of Hertfordshire's landscape, settlements and built form. Schemes submitted for review may include proposals for new housing, commercial development, infrastructure or community facilities (e.g. schools) as well as public realm and open space enhancement schemes.

### 17.7 Local Character and Amenity

**17.7.1** Many features contribute to East Hertfordshire's character, including its historic environment, the landscape and the pattern of towns and villages, rivers and open spaces. This context makes the district a very attractive and desirable place to live.

**17.7.2** Buildings and landscapes that demonstrate a distinct character and are aesthetically pleasing, contribute greatly to the success of a place. Some development proposals, (especially schemes involving a number of dwellings) can be bland and generic. However, if a development proposal is based on a sensitive understanding of site and context, it can exhibit a distinct character and identity while also belonging to the wider locality. For example, development in proximity to water spaces should respond to and incorporate the water space in the design to add to the character of development. Therefore successful development should respond to locally distinctive patterns of development, building methods and detailing, landscape and history.

**17.7.3** If development is to be successfully integrated within the existing environment then scale is an important design element. When designing to the local character of building forms, patterns of development and the natural environment, the scale of new development should:

1. Avoid obscuring important views, vistas and skylines as established through a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment;
2. Ensure the height and massing does not interrupt the rhythm of an existing building/roof line and overall streetscape, or detract from the local and wider area's character;
3. Respect the existing scale in the detailing and composition of elements such as windows, doors etc; and
4. Have regard for the principal users of development schemes so that buildings and infrastructure are scaled for their maximum benefit and enhance their experience of the space.
5. Have regard to the recommendations for managing change within a landscape as set out in the Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Planning Document (2007).

**17.7.4** Taller buildings are often more suited to key locations such as on corners, along principal routes, the end of vistas or around parks.

**17.7.5** The layout, form, building details and massing of a development will have a great impact on a locality, and the opportunity to enhance, add variety and local distinctiveness. Layouts should observe good urban design principles, with a clear sense of public and private frontages and buildings, positively addressing public routes within and around a site. The layout and alignment of built form, plots and blocks should respect and be well integrated within the grain of the wider townscape and have regard to the Manual for Streets 2 (2010), which is a guidance document produced by the Chartered Institute for Highways and Transportation.

The Manual for Streets 2 can be downloaded from the CIHT website at:

[www.ciht.org.uk](http://www.ciht.org.uk)

### Landscape Character

**17.7.6** Landscape is formed by many factors, including the underlying soils, climate, habitats and human influence, both past and present. Planning policy provides an important framework within which to protect and manage change within a landscape.

**17.7.7** The rural landscape is of great significance to the character of East Herts. The district has a rich landscape of open fields and parklands shaped by river valleys and arable plateaux. Woodland accounts for 9.8% of total land cover, 11% of which is recorded by the Woodland Trust as being Ancient Woodland under threat. Hedgerows are also an important feature throughout Hertfordshire, reflecting the historic enclosure of agricultural fields and defining land ownership boundaries.

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Many hedgerows throughout the district are considered as being ‘important’ (as defined under the Hedgerow Regulations, 1997) and are key elements of green corridors, contributing towards wider ecological networks.

The Woodland Trust’s ‘Woodland Indicators by Local Authority (Non-unitary district councils), July 2016’ can be found at: [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications/](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications/)

- 17.7.8** There are diverse landscape character areas and settlement patterns in the district which are assessed in the Council’s Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Planning Document (September 2007). The document provides a structured evaluation of these landscapes, a landscape strategy and guidelines for strengthening, reinforcing, improving, reconstructing, conserving and restoring the character of each area. The document also provides a framework for assessing planning applications.
- 17.7.9** Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments and Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessments should be submitted with planning applications where appropriate, detailing how these have informed the proposal, including mitigation where necessary.



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The Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Planning Document (2007, or as amended) can be viewed and downloaded at:

[www.eastherts.gov.uk/spd](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/spd)

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### Policy DES2 Landscape Character

I. Development proposals must demonstrate how they conserve, enhance or strengthen the character and distinctive features of the district's landscape. For major applications, or applications where there is a potential adverse impact on landscape character, a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment and/or Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment should be provided to ensure that impacts, mitigation and enhancement opportunities are appropriately addressed.

II. Appropriate mitigation measures will be taken into account when considering the effect of development on landscape character/landscaping.

III. Where relevant, development proposals will have regard to the District Council's currently adopted Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Planning Document.

### Landscaping

**17.7.10** Landscape issues must be regarded as an integral part of the site planning and layout phase of the design and development planning process. Careful and early consideration of design issues and the provision of adequate landscape information can help to avoid delays at a later stage. In assessing the landscape implications of planning applications the site context, proposed layout, future uses and maintenance all need to be taken into account and detailed in a Design and Access Statement.

**17.7.11** The Council will not permit schemes that result in the net loss of landscape features of visual and biodiversity value, and all opportunities for new planting and habitat creation should be fully explored. In exceptional circumstances, where development would result in the loss of landscape features, appropriate compensatory planting or habitat creation will be sought. Replacement planting should consist of mature plants and species that have been carefully chosen based on their suitability for the conditions of the site and the local landscape character. Native species should be used where appropriate, particularly along rivers and their associated buffer zones, paying particular attention to the avoidance of invasive species. It is important that such planting schemes are monitored over time and action is taken to ensure agreed landscaping plans are fulfilled.

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- 17.7.12** Trees and hedgerows form an important part of our environment and, in the delivery of sustainable development, the retention and planting of new trees and hedgerows is crucial. Trees contribute to the amenity of the landscape and townscape, add maturity to new developments, make places more attractive and help soften the built environment. They also contribute to storm-water management, provide shading and improve air quality.
- 17.7.13** Advice on new planting and arboricultural constraints can be found in British Standard 5837 (2012), compliance with which is required where there are trees on or around the site.
- 17.7.14** Some types of development would benefit from a Design Statement, while a detailed landscape and visual assessment may be needed for particularly prominent development proposals. Major proposals may be subject to formal Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedures. Planning Officers can advise on when these are needed and at what stage.
- 17.7.15** The Council welcomes landscape design which incorporates principles of green space infrastructure as well as sustainability such as use of local materials, low energy consumption for construction and maintenance, local recycling of water through surfaces which increase the permeability of the ground (such as SUDS or multifunctional green space), good pedestrian/cycle links and facilities to reduce car use.

### Policy DES3 Landscaping

I. Development proposals must demonstrate how they will retain, protect and enhance existing landscape features which are of amenity and/or biodiversity value, in order to ensure that there is no net loss of such features.

II. Where losses are unavoidable and justified by other material considerations, compensatory planting or habitat creation will be sought either within or outside the development site. Replacement planting schemes should comprise mature, native species appropriate to the local conditions and landscape character, supported by a monitoring and replacement programme.

### Major Developments

- 17.7.16** Proposals for major development should include attractive gateway features, focal points, landmarks and vistas; should include a variation in density to reflect different parts of the site, with higher densities along major internal routes, at gateways, and around local centres, and lower densities elsewhere, as appropriate; and should incorporate distinct character areas linked by well-defined points of transition to encourage movement through the site. In particular, priority should be given to public transport modes, pedestrians and cyclists.

**17.7.17** Such large scale proposals should be designed using a comprehensive master planning approach to the whole site within its immediate and wider context, rather than following landownership parcels.

**17.7.18** It is also important that layouts are configured in such a way that they are easy to understand, are vibrant, well-connected, inclusive, feel safe, and have clearly defined public and private spaces. While the Government's previous guidance 'By Design: Urban Design in the Planning System' was withdrawn in March 2014, the principles within the guidance are still relevant and provide a good framework for creating attractive and sustainable developments.

### Public Realm and Inclusive Design

**17.7.19** Public realm refers to all publicly accessible open spaces and public and civic building facilities, publicly owned streets, pathways, water spaces, rights of way and parks. For places to work and foster sustainable communities it is important that the public realm is of a high quality, feels safe, is inclusive to all social groups, and is adaptable to the changing needs of the community. This is achievable through:

1. Careful design that prioritises and promotes walking;
2. Design that encourages cycling, including through the provision of safe and secure cycle storage;
3. The quality and materials of the hard landscaping (paving, kerbs, walls etc);
4. Uncluttered and simplified street furniture, which includes the provision of clear and legible signage where necessary, electric vehicle charging points and recycling facilities;
5. Planting (trees, grassed areas, flowers, formal, semi-formal and informal planting);
6. Green space being retained, enhanced and integrated into the design of a development scheme, which may include the creation of space for local food production, community gardens or orchards. This can help to reinforce the quality and character of a place, increase biodiversity and deliver a wide range of environmental and health and wellbeing benefits as well as foster a sense of community;
7. Lighting being integral to the design and not added at the end. Lighting schemes should be designed to prevent light pollution;
8. Incorporating inclusive design features such as play areas, seating areas or rest places, and Wi-Fi technology; and
9. Public amenity space which is of a high standard and an adequate size for the development and needs of the community. Private and public space should be considered in the process of designing buildings and places. This prevents

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non-specific, unused and anti-social spaces being created. The impact of any security gates on the character and appearance and on social cohesion will be considered on a case by case basis.

**17.7.20** The built environment should promote independent lifestyles particularly for those with restricted mobility, such as the elderly and the disabled, and also for those with young children. 'Lifetime Neighbourhoods' is an established concept to build inclusive communities, ensuring that age or disability does not prevent people from accessing basic amenities, green and open spaces, cultural facilities, places to meet and relax, and local shops and services. The layout and function of the public realm, including the provision of facilities such as toilets for public use and seating should be consciously planned into proposals at the outset.

**17.7.21** Similarly, homes should be constructed to provide flexibility for occupants to adapt their living accommodation over time as their needs change. Policy HOU7 of the Housing Chapter sets out the Councils requirements for the construction of accessible and adaptable dwellings.

### Innovation

**17.7.22** Innovation can be incorporated into development schemes via building construction methods, building materials, and the use of new technologies (e.g. solar panels and passive ventilation). Innovation can be an important design element if it raises the standard of a development scheme by enhancing its performance, quality and aesthetics, resulting in its desirability, longevity and status. Innovation does not have to be limited to one-off developments or modern districts. If sensitive and intelligent design is utilised, new and old can co-exist without disguising one as the other.

**17.7.23** The Council wishes to encourage good design without stifling innovation, originality or initiative. Permission will be refused for development of poor design that fails to take the opportunities available for improving the character and quality of an area and the way it functions.

### Small-scale Developments

**17.7.24** Many developments that occur are of a small scale, often extensions to existing properties or the replacement of single dwellings. It is important that the character of the locality and the potential amenity impacts of these smaller developments respect the local character and do not significantly detract from the amenities of any neighbouring property by shadowing, loss of privacy, or similar.

### Policy DES4 Design of Development

I. All development proposals, including extensions to existing buildings, must be of a high standard of design and layout to reflect and promote local distinctiveness. Proposals will be expected to:

(a) Make the best possible use of the available land by respecting or improving upon the character of the site and the surrounding area, in terms of its scale, height, massing (volume, shape), orientation, siting, layout, density, building materials (colour, texture), landscaping, environmental assets, and design features, having due regard to the design opportunities and constraints of a site;

(b) Incorporate homes, buildings and neighbourhoods that are flexible to future adaptation, including the changing needs of occupants and users, and changes in wider employment and social trends;

(c) Avoid significant detrimental impacts on the amenity of occupiers of neighbouring properties and land, and ensure that their environments are not harmed by noise and disturbance or by inadequate daylight, privacy or overshadowing;

(d) Incorporate high quality innovative design, new technologies and construction techniques, including zero or low carbon energy and water efficient, design and sustainable construction methods. Proposals for residential and commercial development should seek to make appropriate provision for high speed broadband connectivity, ensuring that Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) is provided;

(e) Make provision for the storage of bins and ancillary household equipment. Garages and driveways should be capable of accommodating family sized vehicles. Dwelling design and layout should make provision for electric vehicle charging points in safe and accessible locations;

(f) All new residential developments should meet the requirements of Policy HOU7, and ensure all internal rooms are of an appropriate size and dimension so that the intended function of each room can be satisfactorily achieved. All dwellings shall be identified by their square metrage.

II. Proposals must not prejudice the development opportunities of surrounding sites.

III. Development proposals which create new or have a significant impact on the public realm should:

(a) Maximise legibility and accessibility of the public realm through the layout of buildings, landmarks, use of colour, landscaping, paving, high quality public art, street furniture and infrastructure including clear and legible signposting, rest places and public toilets, in a way that maintains uncluttered spaces and enables easy navigation and movement through the space;

(b) Maximise opportunities for urban greening, for example through planting of trees and other soft landscaping wherever possible;

(c) Avoid creating 'left-over' spaces with no clear purpose or function;

(d) Ensure that long-term maintenance and management arrangements are in place for the public realm as appropriate.

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(e) Engage the Hertfordshire Design Review Panel as part of the Pre-application stage and throughout the Development Management process where appropriate.

### 17.8 Crime and Security

**17.8.1** To ensure cohesive and sustainable places it is important that a sense of personal and community safety is present within the built environment. Various measures can be designed into development schemes, which can assist in discouraging crime and anti-social behaviour. Such measures include:

1. Places with well-defined interconnected routes and spaces;
2. Public and private spaces that are clearly defined;
3. Natural surveillance, by fronting buildings, parking and play areas onto the public realm;
4. Strategically placed effective lighting; and
5. Physical access control and security hardware such as CCTV.

**17.8.2** The District Council supports the 'Secured by Design' initiative and will expect proposals for new residential or commercial development to incorporate crime prevention measures. Applicants are also advised to consult the Hertfordshire Constabulary Architectural Liaison Officer for advice on measures to facilitate crime prevention prior to the preparation of a detailed layout. Such advice is always subject to other planning criteria and policies as well as the requirements of the Building and Fire Regulations.

**17.8.3** Security features should be designed in a sensitive manner which respects the overall character of the area. On shop fronts and commercial premises the use of architectural solutions combined with the use of an internal open lattice grille is preferred.

#### Policy DES5 Crime and Security

I. Developments should be designed to reduce the opportunity for crime by encouraging the natural surveillance of streets, footpaths, parking and communal areas, and the creation of areas of defensible space. Such measures should not significantly compromise the provision of high quality design and landscape schemes nor be prejudicial to the existing character of the area and public amenity.

II. Security features should be designed in a sensitive manner which respects the overall character of the frontage and location, whilst maintaining an attractive street scene and minimising light pollution.

### 17.9 Advertisements and Signs

- 17.9.1** The display of advertisements and signs is subject to complex and detailed regulations. In many cases it is necessary to obtain express consent from the local planning authority.
- 17.9.2** Advertisements and signs vary greatly in their purpose. Many are essential, even mandatory. Others are provided for the purpose of direction or information, or simply to announce a particular product, service or premises. Signs are most usually displayed on the land or premises to which they relate, but are sometimes positioned some distance away.
- 17.9.3** The impact of signs varies greatly. Individually, they may cause little offence, except where they are excessively large, or are insensitively located. However, it is often the cumulative effect of signs and notices that is likely to cause the greatest visual impact and detrimental effect.
- 17.9.4** In the rural area, many signs or advertisements could appear incongruous. It is acknowledged that commercial concerns in rural areas experience difficulty in announcing their premises, but a proliferation of signs would be detrimental to the landscape, and any unnecessary sign is likely to be resisted.

#### Policy DES6 Advertisements and Signs

- I. The number, size, siting, illumination, design, colour and materials of advertisements or signs, displayed on or close to a building, must respect the character and appearance of the environment, and the design, scale, features, function and setting of the building.
- II. Advertisements should avoid harm to amenity and public safety.
- III. The display of advertisements of an inappropriate size, siting, illumination, design, colour and materials, will not be permitted.





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# 18 Transport

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### 18 Transport

#### 18.1 Introduction

- 18.1.1** National and local policies and guidance seek a reduction in the growth of car usage and the greater use of more sustainable modes of transport.
- 18.1.2** Locally, the over-arching transport policy document for the area is Hertfordshire's Local Transport Plan (HCC, 2011) (LTP3), which sets the framework for achieving a better transport system in Hertfordshire for the plan period 2011-31. The LTP has a number of associated daughter documents containing their own initiatives including: the Rail Strategy, Bus Strategy, Intalink Strategy, Cycling Strategy, Walking Strategy, Rural Strategy, Road Safety Strategy, and Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

The Hertfordshire Local Transport Plan 2011 can be viewed and downloaded at:

[www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase)

- 18.1.3** Although the LTP identifies some specific schemes for implementation in the district, the majority of transport schemes have been identified through a rolling programme of Urban Transport Plans (UTPs) which identify how and where the strategic objectives and targets detailed in the county-wide LTP can be delivered at a local level. There is one adopted UTP affecting East Herts; the Hertford and Ware Urban Transport Plan (HCC, November 2010). For areas where significant development is planned or anticipated, HCC is in the process of introducing Growth & Transport Plans, to ensure that appropriate transport infrastructure (including optimal packages of measures) is identified and also that they be used to help to inform future potential major transport scheme decisions.

The Hertford and Ware Urban Transport Plan can be viewed and downloaded at:

[www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase)

- 18.1.4** HCC is currently updating the County's transport planning framework, to ensure that the transport network is able to support and unlock growth, and is in the process of replacing LTP3 with a 'Hertfordshire 2050 Transport Vision'. This strategic plan for transport infrastructure will, when adopted, underpin major investment proposals in Hertfordshire's transport infrastructure.
- 18.1.5** While the primary responsibility for the delivery of transport provision in the district lies with Hertfordshire County Council as Highway Authority, East Herts Council has involvement in some aspects, mainly via the planning system, community transport, and the management and enforcement of parking.

- 18.1.6** New development can aid the improvement of the transport offer in the district by making the best use of existing infrastructure (including passenger transport), providing new components where necessary, and also by contributing to the improvement of passenger transport provision, walking and cycling. In enabling access to new development, the provision of safe sustainable travel alternatives can make these sustainable modes more attractive to users than the car. If provided from the outset they can help instil green travel patterns (which are harder to establish later), and as a consequence assist in reducing the carbon footprint made by the transport sector. “Green streets”, designed with a strong landscaped structure (which may include, trees, shrubs, verges and sustainable drainage systems), can assist in urban greening and their high amenity value can encourage walking and cycling.
- 18.1.7** Priority should focus on locating new residential development in close proximity to employment, retail, educational and leisure facilities and services, where good passenger transport exists, or where infrastructure and service provision can be improved. This approach can aid the local economy by supporting local services and facilities. Concentrating development in sustainable locations can also help benefit the wider economy via a reduction in congestion caused by additional generated trips over those occasioned by a more widely disbursed development pattern.
- 18.1.8** Travel Plans are an essential tool for facilitating development by creating sustainable transport access to, from and around a site. They are effective in managing travel demand, with the potential to contribute to a significant reduction in local and national traffic. They can also help assist in modal shift e.g. via lift sharing schemes, Smarter Choices, readily accessible public transport information, working from home, car clubs, etc. Travel Plans are administered by Hertfordshire County Council (as Transport Authority) and are submitted with planning applications, where applicable. Guidance on their preparation is available at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/media/bray/documents/highways/developmentmanagement/travel-plan-guidance.pdf](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/media/bray/documents/highways/developmentmanagement/travel-plan-guidance.pdf). However, despite the measures which Travel Plans may introduce, within the rural parts of the district the dispersed settlement pattern with related lower levels of passenger transport provision and attendant high levels of car dependency make the provision of realistic alternatives to the private car more challenging. Therefore, while supporting and encouraging a reduction in car usage, it is necessary to recognise the importance of private motorised transport in enabling the population of more rural locations to access key facilities and services.
- 18.1.9** Likewise, it should also be acknowledged that, in order to help mitigate the impact of development, the delivery of additional key road-based infrastructure measures may be necessary in certain situations to enable strategic growth in the district to occur. Key infrastructure requirements to enable delivery of the Plan are set out in Chapter 3, The Development Strategy.

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### 18.2 Sustainable Transport

**18.2.1** The District Council, in recognising that the achievement of sustainable development underpins national planning policy, seeks to promote sustainable transport and improve accessibility as an important part of its District Plan policy approach. Key issues to be addressed include:

1. Minimising the need to travel;
2. Increasing choice and availability of sustainable transport options;
3. Prioritising sustainable travel modes in new developments;
4. Increasing connectivity and integration of sustainable transport modes;
5. Encouraging healthy communities by supporting walking and cycling;
6. Reducing congestion and carbon-dioxide emissions to improve air quality and health benefits for the District's residents and visitors (see also Policy EQ4 Air Quality).

**18.2.2** Therefore, strong emphasis will be placed on seeking the provision of new bus, cycle and pedestrian transport routes and networks in addition to extending and strengthening existing provision, including through supporting community-led transport schemes.

**18.2.3** It is, however, acknowledged by the Government, in the NPPF, that “different policies and measures will be required in different communities and opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary from urban to rural areas”. Therefore, where new development is sited away from urban areas it is recognised that there may be reduced scope for passenger transport service and/or other sustainable transport provision in some locations. However, every effort should be made to ensure that the best possible sustainable transport outcomes can be achieved for all new developments, irrespective of remoteness of location, and developers will be expected to demonstrate where specific circumstances indicate otherwise.

#### Policy TRA1 Sustainable Transport

I. To achieve accessibility improvements and promotion of sustainable transport in the district, development proposals should:

- (a) Primarily be located in places which enable sustainable journeys to be made to key services and facilities to help aid carbon emission reduction;
- (b) Where relevant, take account of the provisions of the Local Transport Plan;

(c) Ensure that a range of sustainable transport options are available to occupants or users, which may involve the improvement of pedestrian links, cycle paths, passenger transport network (including bus and/or rail facilities) and community transport initiatives. These improvements could include the creation of new routes, services and facilities or extensions to existing infrastructure and which may incorporate off-site mitigation, as appropriate. In suitable cases the provision of footways and cycle paths alongside navigable waterways may be sought, along with new moorings, where appropriate. The implementation of car sharing schemes should also be considered;

(d) Ensure that site layouts prioritise the provision of modes of transport other than the car (particularly walking, cycling and, where appropriate, passenger transport) which, where feasible, should provide easy and direct access to key services and facilities;

(e) In the construction of major schemes, allow for the early implementation of sustainable travel infrastructure or initiatives that influence behaviour to enable green travel patterns to become established from the outset of occupation;

(f) Protect existing rights of way, cycling and equestrian routes (including both designated and non-designated routes and, where there is evidence of regular public usage, informal provision) and, should diversion prove unavoidable, provide suitable, appealing replacement routes to equal or enhanced standards; and

(g) Ensure that provision for the long-term maintenance of any of the above measures (c) (d) and (f) that are implemented is assured.

II. Where appropriate, contributions may be required towards the facilitation of strategic transportation schemes identified in the Local Transport Plan and other related strategies.

III. In order to minimise the impact of travel on local air quality in accordance with Policy EQ4 (Air Quality), where major developments involve the introduction of new bus routes or significant changes to existing routes, service providers should work with Hertfordshire County Council's Transport, Access and Safety Unit to secure optimal solutions.

## 18.3 Safe and Suitable Highway Access Arrangements and Mitigation

**18.3.1** In designing new developments it is important that proposed access arrangements are both safe for users and suitable for the type of development and number of users proposed and trips predicted to be generated. Where additional trips are predicted from a site it is necessary to ensure that measures can commensurately mitigate the impact where possible. While the NPPF is clear that "development should only be prevented or refused on transport grounds where the residual cumulative impacts of development are severe" (Paragraph 32, NPPF, CLG, 2012),

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developers should be able to demonstrate that transport provision associated with development proposals will be appropriate, both in terms of modal choice and the capacity of the highway network to accommodate additional trips.

- 18.3.2** However, it is important that proposed mitigation measures should not only achieve their transport objective but also respect the character of the area and not have a significant adverse effect on the wider environment and the amenity of local residents, e.g. through unacceptable trip generation levels, displacement parking, etc.

### **Policy TRA2 Safe and Suitable Highway Access Arrangements and Mitigation**

Development proposals should ensure that safe and suitable access can be achieved for all users. Site layouts, access proposals and any measures designed to mitigate trip generation produced by the development should:

- (a) Be acceptable in highway safety terms;
- (b) Not result in any severe residual cumulative impact; and
- (c) Not have a significant detrimental effect on the character of the local environment.

### **18.4 Vehicle Parking Provision**

- 18.4.1** The amount of parking provision associated with development can have a significant effect on the mode of transport used to access it. The restriction of provision at destination points can lead to greater use of sustainable transport from place of origin instead of car usage.
- 18.4.2** While the benefits of such restrictions are recognised in terms of reduced congestion, vehicle emissions etc, it is also important to ensure that they do not lead to displacement parking to other areas. Maintaining the vitality and viability of the district's market towns and service centres is also of key importance. Therefore, a balance needs to be achieved between restricting parking provision in new developments and ensuring that sufficient provision is made, while also ensuring that suitable parking facilities for cycles and powered two-wheelers are provided to encourage modal shift to sustainable transport options.
- 18.4.3** The Council's Supplementary Planning Document 'Vehicle Parking Provision at New Development, 2008' sets out the amount of parking spaces that should be provided in association with development and also offers guidance concerning the design and layout of such provision. This approach is supplemented by revised vehicle parking standards, which were agreed by the Council in July 2015. Additionally, a revised Vehicle Parking Supplementary Planning Document is to be prepared, to replace the 2008 version and the revised standards of 2015, which will also include updated guidance on design and layout issues.

The Vehicle Parking Provision at New Development Supplementary Planning Document (2008, or as amended) can be viewed and downloaded at:

[www.eastherts.gov.uk/spd](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/spd)

- 18.4.4** It is important that the most efficient use is made of land. Therefore, where a car park is proposed for non-domestic use, it is sensible to consider whether it would be appropriate to allow for shared public use of the facility, as this may help to ease pressure for additional provision, especially when located in proximity to town centres or at retail centres.

### **Policy TRA3 Vehicle Parking Provision**

I. Vehicle parking provision associated with development proposals will be assessed on a site-specific basis and should take into account the provisions of the District Council's currently adopted Supplementary Planning Document 'Vehicle Parking Provision at New Development'.

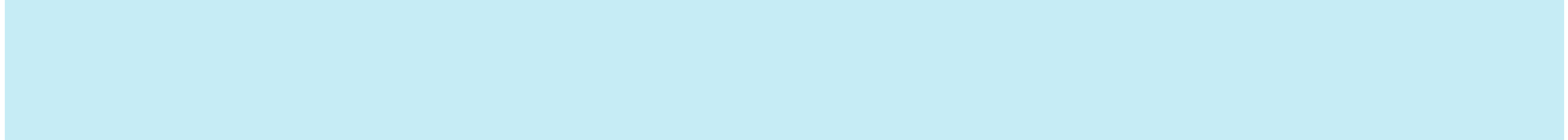
II. Provision of sufficient secure, covered and waterproof cycle and, where appropriate, powered two-wheeler storage facilities should be made for users of developments for new residential, educational, health, leisure, retail, employment and business purposes (to be determined on a site-specific basis). These should be positioned in easily observed and accessible locations.

III. Car parking should be integrated as a key element of design in development layouts to ensure good quality, safe, secure and attractive environments.

IV. Where a private car park for non-domestic use is proposed, the Council will assess whether it should also be available for shared public use having particular regard to the needs of the primary user.

V. For proposals involving residential development: public car parks (including those for Park and Ride facilities) are proposed, or where car parks are to be provided associated with major development involving educational, health, leisure, retail, employment and business uses, provision should be made for charging points for low and zero carbon vehicles which will be assessed on a site-specific basis taking into account the provisions of the District Council's currently adopted Supplementary planning Document 'Vehicle Parking Provision at New Development'.

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# Community Facilities, Leisure and Recreation

## 19 . Community Facilities, Leisure and Recreation

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### 19 Community Facilities, Leisure and Recreation

#### 19.1 Introduction

- 19.1.1** In order for communities to be successful, it is vital that they are well served by a full range of services and infrastructure which are appropriate to people's needs and accessible to all.
- 19.1.2** One of the Council's priorities is to tackle health inequalities across the District and to improve and promote the health and wellbeing of East Herts residents. Well planned communities which are supported by accessible services and infrastructure can help create healthier environments.
- 19.1.3** Open space, sport, play and recreation facilities are important in enhancing people's quality of life. They also perform wider health and wellbeing functions, helping to build inclusive communities, promoting healthy lifestyles and protecting green spaces for reflection and relaxation. Similarly, community facilities play a significant role in developing the social wellbeing of individuals and communities by allowing activities and interests to grow outside of the home and the workplace. They also bring people together and help to establish new communities. Access to education is another key contributor to a sense of community and wellbeing.
- 19.1.4** The loss of open space, sport, play, recreation and community facilities which provide valuable public services could prove detrimental to community identity and sustainability. Safeguarding such facilities will help realise the full potential of existing buildings for community use and encourage re-use of appropriate buildings when they become available.
- 19.1.5** With an ageing population local access to healthcare facilities is an important part of everyday life, and the provision of such facilities within a community, accessible by a choice of sustainable travel options is vital. Facilities which assist in individuals maintaining a healthy and active old age will become more important in East Herts.

#### 19.2 Open Space, Sport and Recreation

- 19.2.1** Regular physical exercise contributes to good levels of health and wellbeing. Aside from its benefits to the individual, increased participation in sport can also have wider benefits in tackling social exclusion and reducing anti-social behaviour. It is therefore important that people in all areas have access to good quality open spaces and the opportunity to participate in formal and informal recreation, including waterside and water based recreation. Open spaces often have multiple uses: those designated for outdoor recreation such as golf courses, public parks and allotments also form part of the wider green infrastructure network.
- 19.2.2** A high proportion of adults and children do not exercise regularly. Increasing participation rates in sport and recreation requires the co-ordinated efforts of many partner organisations. Open spaces and sports facilities are key community facilities which contribute towards health and wellbeing both directly and indirectly. Planning's

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role involves protecting existing assets, and promoting provision through the planning process by making sure that demands arising from new development do not result in a shortfall in the provision of facilities. Planning also has a role in promoting the provision and enhancement of new and existing facilities through a positive policy approach towards such development, and where necessary through site allocation.

- 19.2.3** Sport England is the Government agency which seeks to encourage people and communities to participate in active sport and recreation. It aims to ensure positive planning for sport, enabling the right facilities to be provided in the right places, based on robust and up-to-date assessments of need for all levels of sport and all sectors of the community. Sport England, working with the provisions of the NPPF, encourage local planning authorities to make direct reference to sport in local planning policy to protect, enhance and provide sports facilities, as well as helping to realise the wider benefits that participation in sport can bring. As such, Sport England has a role in protecting sports provision and is consulted where planning applications impact on such facilities. All proposals for new sports facilities such as swimming pools and sports halls will be expected to be designed in accordance with Sport England's design guidance to help ensure that facilities are fit for purpose and of a high quality design.

Sport England guidance on Planning for Sport can be viewed and downloaded from the Sport England Website at:

[www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/](http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/)

Sport England guidance on the Design of Sports Facilities can be viewed and downloaded from the Sport England Website at:

[www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance](http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance)

- 19.2.4** The council has undertaken a number of technical studies that inform the preparation of the District Plan, in accordance with the requirements of the NPPF. These studies identify where there is a deficit of provision in particular sports and the need for new facilities. Applications will be expected to take account of the Council's most up-to-date evidence as appropriate. Given there are existing deficits in provision, the loss of facilities should only occur in tandem with their replacement by new and enhanced facilities, which will be required to be delivered prior to the commencement of development in order to ensure that replacement facilities are available to provide continuity for users.
- 19.2.5** Whilst individual open space requirements will be assessed on a site by site basis, the cumulative impacts of development on the wider network will also be considered. Open space should be central to the design of a scheme, be located to achieve good access for all residents and be designed to 'Active Design' standards. Open space should be seen as crucial to providing community cohesion and meeting the Council's health and wellbeing aspirations.

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**19.2.6** Where play provision is included, facilities should be fit for purpose and sensitively located. Play is essential to children and young people's physical, social and cognitive development.

**19.2.7** It is recognised that in certain circumstances on-site provision may not be the best planning solution to meet the community's requirements for additional open space/ facilities. In these circumstances, developers will be expected to provide financial contributions towards off-site provision in lieu of providing open space/ sports facilities on site. This approach will only be considered appropriate where this provides a better means of providing for the open spaces / sports facilities needs arising from the development.

The East Herts Open Spaces and Sports Facilities Assessment can be viewed and downloaded from the Council's Website at:

[www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase)

**19.2.8** Community Use Agreements will be sought to secure community use of new sports facilities provided on sites which may not usually be available for wider community access (e.g. educational or private sites) where these are provided as part of a mixed use development and where they offer an appropriate means of providing for the sports facilities needs arising from new development.

### Policy CFLR1 Open Space, Sport and Recreation

I. Residential developments will be expected to provide open spaces, indoor and outdoor sport and recreation facilities to provide for the needs arising from the development. Provision of Accessible Natural Greenspace (ANG) will be expected to meet Natural England's ANG Standards. Local areas for play, informal and formal open spaces should be provided for on-site, while contributions towards off-site provision or the enhancement of existing facilities may be more appropriate for other types of provision. Facilities should be provided in accordance with the Council's latest evidence and in consultation with Sport England and the Council's Leisure and Environment Team. Where provision is made on-site as part of a development, applicants should detail how it will be maintained in the long term.

II. Commercial developments will be expected to provide adequate amenity space in addition to landscape and setting features.

III. Proposals for new open space, indoor and outdoor sport and recreation facilities which meet identified needs will be encouraged in suitable locations, served by a choice of sustainable travel options. The proposal and all ancillary facilities such as changing rooms and car parking should be fit for purpose and of an appropriate scale and design. Measures should be taken to integrate such facilities into the landscape, including the creation of features which provide net benefits to biodiversity.

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IV. Proposals should aim to provide for the dual or multiple-use of facilities for wider community access. The use of Community Use Agreements will be expected where appropriate.

V. Proposals that retain or enhance the provision, quality and accessibility of existing open space, or indoor or outdoor sport and recreation facilities will be supported in principle, where they do not conflict with other policies within this Plan.

VI. Proposals that result in the loss or reduction of open space, indoor or outdoor sport and recreation facilities, including playing fields, (as defined on the Policies Map), will be refused unless:

- (a) An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown that the facility is no longer needed in its current form; or
- (b) The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by enhanced provision in terms of quantity and/or quality in a suitable location prior to the commencement of development (in the case of school playing fields, the timing of delivery will be negotiated on a case by case basis in accordance with Policy CFLR10); or
- (c) The development is for an alternative open space, sport and recreation facility, the need for which clearly outweigh the loss.

### 19.3 Local Green Space

**19.3.1** The NPPF has introduced a new policy allowing local communities to identify green areas of particular importance to them for special protection. By designating land as 'Local Green Space' local communities will be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances. Identifying land as Local Green Space should therefore be consistent with sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or reviewed, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period. Recognising the amenity, wildlife and leisure value of the 'green fingers' in Hertford and Bishop's Stortford, the Council has designated these areas as Local Green Spaces. Local communities, through Neighbourhood Plans, can also identify green areas of particular importance to them for special protection.

#### Policy CFLR2 Local Green Space

Development will be permitted only if it is consistent with the function, character and use of the Local Green Space to which it relates.

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### 19.4 Public Rights of Way

- 19.4.1** Rights of Way are footpaths, bridleways and byways which have public access. Hertfordshire has an extensive Rights of Way network of over 5,200 paths totalling more than 3,000km. These paths are shown on a map and have a written description in a legal record called the Definitive Map and Statement, which is looked after by Hertfordshire County Council's Rights of Way Service at County Hall, Hertford.

Further information on the County Council's Rights of Way Service can be viewed here:

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/envplan/countrysideaccess/row/](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/envplan/countrysideaccess/row/)

- 19.4.2** The Public Rights of Way network has always been an asset for recreation or for the purpose of everyday use such as getting to the local shop or to a bus stop for example. This valuable resource, often taken for granted, now plays an even more important role with regards to people's health and wellbeing and can contribute towards reducing carbon emissions by encouraging travel on foot or by bicycle rather than by car. Public Rights of Way also help to boost tourism and therefore contribute towards the local economy. Without them it would be difficult for residents and visitors alike to access the countryside we have in and around East Herts.
- 19.4.3** Development proposals should therefore take full account of the need to protect and enhance Public Rights of Way.

#### Policy CFLR3 Public Rights of Way

Proposals for development must not adversely affect any Public Right of Way and, where possible, should incorporate measures to maintain and enhance the Rights of Way network.

### 19.5 Water Based Recreation

- 19.5.1** The district's many rivers, canals, lakes and other enclosed water areas such as former quarries and gravel pits offer many opportunities for recreation such as angling and boating as well as walking and cycling. Contributing to the character of the towns through which they flow, notably Bishop's Stortford, Hertford, Ware and Sawbridgeworth, these waterways are also primary habitats for vulnerable species of flora and fauna and as such it is necessary to ensure that recreational activities do not harm the very habitats that make them attractive to visitors.

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- 19.5.2** Any proposals for development needed to support water based recreation which might increase the recreational use of a stretch of waterway should be considered in conjunction with the Canal & River Trust as Navigation Authority to ensure there is no detrimental impact on other recreational users of the waterway or towpath.

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### Policy CFLR4 Water Based Recreation

Proposals for water-based recreation will be supported in principle, where:

- (a) The proposal does not have a significant adverse impact on the nature conservation interest, the character, or appearance of the environment;
- (b) The proposal takes account of the relevant River Catchment Management Plan; and
- (c) The proposal does not have an adverse impact on any flood alleviation works and does not impede the Environment Agency's access requirements to watercourses.

### 19.6 The Lee Valley Regional Park

- 19.6.1** The Lee Valley Regional Park is an important component of the district's green infrastructure defined by its openness, attractive and heritage rich landscapes, sites of nationally significant biodiversity and varied visitor attractions. The Park also has an important role to play in mitigating the impacts of climate change, managing increased flood risk, conserving and enhancing scarce resources (in particular water resources), offsetting urban heat island effects and meeting the open space needs of a growing population.
- 19.6.2** The Regional Park is statutorily designated for leisure, recreation, sport and nature conservation. It covers an area of 4,000 hectares and stretches for 26 miles along the River Lea from the River Thames in East London to Ware in Hertfordshire. Established by Parliament in 1967 the Regional Park was created to meet the recreation, leisure and nature conservation needs of London, Hertfordshire and Essex.
- 19.6.3** Approximately 440 hectares of the Park lie within East Herts, with 98.69% of it designated as Green Belt. This is an area of predominantly high quality landscape with a rural and unspoilt character and features of heritage significance. Gravel extraction has created a number of water areas, providing opportunities for angling, sailing and the creation of important wetland habitats which contribute to the intimate and semi-enclosed landscape character of the area. The landscape both within and beyond the Park boundaries provides a setting for every event and activity within the Park making a key contribution to the quality of the visitor experience.



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**19.6.4** Key sites of nature conservation interest within the Park include two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) at Amwell and Rye Meads Local Nature Reserves which form part of the Lee Valley Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site. Existing and new connections with adjoining green infrastructure networks (e.g. to the west with Wormley/Hoddesdonpark Woods, to the north with Kings Meads and to the east along the Stort Valley) are to be enhanced, protected and promoted. Further information on the Council's approach to nature conservation and green infrastructure can be found in Chapter 20: Natural Environment.

**19.6.5** The Regional Park Authority Plan guides development and the use of the waterways within the Regional Park. The current Lee Valley Regional Park Development Framework was adopted in July 2010, with Thematic Proposals adopted in January 2011, and consists of two parts:

- Part one: outlines the policies and objectives for the regional park, providing the strategic policy framework for its future use and development.
- Part two: consists of particular proposals for the future use and development of individual sites and areas that collectively form the totality of the regional park.

Full details of the Park Development Framework and Area Proposals can be found at:  
[www.leevalleypark.org.uk/parkframework/home/](http://www.leevalleypark.org.uk/parkframework/home/)

**19.6.6** The District Council will support and work with the Regional Park Authority and other stakeholders to deliver the Park Plan 2000 and the Park Development Framework Area Proposals where these improve leisure and sporting opportunities for local communities, enhance access to open space and nature, and help expand educational, volunteering and health related activities.

### **Policy CFLR5 The Lee Valley Regional Park**

I. The District Council supports the Lee Valley Regional Park Development Framework, which will be treated as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications in this area.

II. Proposals for leisure related developments within the Lee Valley Regional Park will be supported in principle provided that intensive land-use leisure activities and associated buildings are located as unobtrusively as possible near existing settlements and do not conflict with other policies within this Plan.



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### 19.7 Equine Development

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- 19.7.1** Equestrian related activities are popular forms of recreation and economic development in the countryside. These uses, including riding schools and stables, can fit in well with agricultural activities and help to diversify the rural economy. The Council will support equine development that maintains environmental quality and the character of the countryside.
- 19.7.2** While equestrian development can be appropriate in the open countryside, the cumulative impact of horse related activities and associated buildings can have an adverse impact on the character and appearance of rural areas. Existing buildings should, wherever possible, be re-used. New buildings for horse related activities, including stables, field shelters and tack rooms should be no larger than is essential. In most cases isolated development is unlikely to be acceptable.
- 19.7.3** All equestrian development, whether domestic or commercial, should be of an appropriate scale and design and careful attention should be given to siting, materials and landscaping to avoid an adverse impact on the countryside. Particular care will be needed where floodlighting is proposed in order to avoid an unacceptable impact on residential amenity. In assessing any application, regard will be had to the British Horse Society standards for grazing. Where commercial development is proposed in the Green Belt, the requirement to demonstrate 'very special circumstances' in accordance with the NPPF will apply.

#### Policy CFLR6 Equine Development

I. Proposals for equine development, whether domestic or commercial, will be permitted when the following criteria are met:

- (a) The proposal is sited or landscaped to minimise visual intrusion;
- (b) Where new buildings are proposed, applicants must demonstrate that existing structures cannot be re-used;
- (c) The siting, scale and design of the proposal is in keeping with the character of the area, with adequate pasture to support horses. Particular regard will be had to the cumulative effect of proposals on local landscape or biodiversity interests;
- (d) The amenity of nearby residential properties is not adversely affected, for example, in relation to floodlighting, noise and disturbance;
- (e) The proposal would not (by itself or cumulatively) have a significant adverse impact in terms of traffic generation;
- (f) The proposal does not result in harm to the ecological network, including partial or complete loss or degradation of Local Wildlife Sites or priority habitats;
- (g) The proposal does not conflict with other policies within this Plan.

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II. Where commercial equestrian development is proposed in the Green Belt, the requirement to demonstrate 'very special circumstances' will apply in accordance with the NPPF.

III. Proposals that result in the loss of equestrian facilities should be accompanied by an Equestrian Needs Assessment which demonstrates that the facilities are no longer needed.

### 19.8 Community Facilities

- 19.8.1** Community facilities provide for the health and wellbeing, social, educational, recreational, leisure and cultural needs of the community. Community facilities include, but are not limited to: art galleries; cinemas; community centres; crèches/nurseries; healthcare facilities; household waste recycling centres; museums and libraries; music and concert halls; places of worship; schools; post offices; public houses; village halls; local/village shops. Such facilities act as the focus of community activity and contribute towards community cohesion. Community facilities are provided by a wide variety of agencies including local authorities, other public service providers, churches and the voluntary and business sectors and can sometimes be provided on single multi-use sites.
- 19.8.2** Urban and rural communities require access to core community facilities. The requirement for facilities is evolving in response to changes in the needs of the local population. As the proportion of people over 65 increases, so demand for facilities catering for older people will rise. New facilities and services including crematoria and burial space may be needed, particularly where a significant amount of new housing is proposed.
- 19.8.3** Planning can help co-ordinate the provision of new facilities and new housing development, and obtain appropriate developer contributions. It can also resist the loss of existing facilities. The District Council will require that proposals for change of use are supported by evidence that the particular facility is no longer viable and explain the options that have been investigated to maintain the service. As new developments require good access to facilities and create additional demand for existing facilities, so any shortfall in provision arising as a result of new development, must be addressed as part of the development.
- 19.8.4** Within villages and the rural area, community facilities are vital to residents, often providing a lifeline for those unable to get into town on a regular basis. The loss of local village shops, post-offices and pubs can be a substantial loss to the local community.
- 19.8.5** Under the Localism Act, voluntary and community organisations can nominate an asset to be included on a list of 'assets of community value'. This list is managed by the Council. If a landowner wants to sell a registered property, they must tell the Council. If a group wants to buy the asset, they can trigger a six month moratorium

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to give them a chance to raise the money but the landowner can still sell at the going market rate. This period gives community groups some time to develop a proposal and raise the required capital to bid for the property when it comes onto the open market at the end of the moratorium period, thus retaining a valued facility for community use.

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More information on Assets of Community Value can be found on the Council's Website at: [www.eastherts.gov.uk/communityassets](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/communityassets)

- 19.8.6** Village halls also play a valuable role within rural communities, accommodating a variety of uses such as crèches, youth clubs, doctor's surgeries, as well as providing a venue for social events. New facilities can be designed to accommodate both indoor and outdoor sporting activities, and even small scale business hubs, further boosting the viability of the facility to all age groups and users.
- 19.8.7** Facilities used for the practice of faith or culture are important buildings within communities and offer the opportunity to bring people together through the sharing of space and facilities.
- 19.8.8** Public houses play an important role in rural communities, providing a social venue, local employment opportunities and adding to the vitality of a village.
- 19.8.9** In circumstances where minor extensions or alterations to existing premises are essential to the continued viability of the business and the vitality of the village then these may be permitted in accordance with Policy CFLR7 below.

### Policy CFLR7 Community Facilities

I. The provision of adequate and appropriately located community facilities will be sought in conjunction with new development.

II. Developers will be expected to provide either on-site provision, or where appropriate, a financial contribution towards either off-site provision, or the enhancement of existing off-site facilities. Where provision is made on-site as part of a development, applicants should detail how it will be maintained in the long term.

III. Proposals for new and enhanced uses, buildings or land for public or community use will be supported in principle where they do not conflict with other policies within this Plan. Such proposals:

- (a) Should be in suitable locations, served by a choice of sustainable travel options;
- (b) Should be of an appropriate scale to meet needs and be of a flexible design to enable multiple uses throughout the day;

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(c) Should take measures to integrate such facilities into the landscape, including the creation of features which provide net benefits to biodiversity; and

(d) Should be constructed in tandem with the development to ensure they are available for the new and existing community from the start of occupation.

IV. Proposals should aim to provide for the dual or multiple use of facilities for wider community activities. The use of Community Use Agreements will be sought where appropriate.

V. As part of proposed strategic development, consideration will be given to the need to provide new Household Waste Recycling Centres in suitable locations, taking account of neighbouring land uses.

### Policy CFLR8 Loss of Community Facilities

I. Proposals that result in the loss of uses, buildings or land for public or community use will be refused unless:

(a) An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown that the facility is no longer needed in its current form; or

(b) The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by enhanced provision in terms of quantity and/or quality in a suitable location; or

(c) The development is for an alternative community facility, the need for which clearly outweigh the loss.

### 19.9 Health and Wellbeing

**19.9.1** The NPPF requires planners to consider health in a range of different ways. The framework's presumption in favour of sustainable development highlights the importance of achieving social, economic and environmental objectives (health and wellbeing encompasses all three). The Health and Social Care Act, which came into force in April 2013, introduced a new public health landscape. Within Hertfordshire, the previous NHS Primary Care Trust configuration has been reshaped into the Herts County Council Public Health Directorate working with District and Borough Councils in a two-tier formation, along with other vital health partners, statutory and voluntary, addressing local health need.

**19.9.2** The Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2013-2016) was developed at this time with nine priorities and is to be refreshed in 2016. Hertfordshire County Council also has its own Public Health Strategy (2013-2017). In addition, the East

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Herts Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2013) supports the life course approach to health which looks at the people, places and communities they live in, seeking to provide the best potential for improved health outcomes from birth to grave.

**19.9.3** The following priority elements are foundation principles of the East Herts Health and Wellbeing Strategy:

1. Healthy children starting off well;
2. Empowering children, young people and adults to achieve their life potential;
3. Creating health and work together;
4. Promoting positive health and wellbeing life quality for all;
5. Healthy places and sustainable communities;
6. Pro-active health prevention.

**19.9.4** Priorities 2, 5 and 6 have particular links with planning. Priority 2 refers to enabling the best possible life opportunities for all ages of population. Examples of this which relate to planning opportunities could involve the design of communities and towns that enable good community cohesion.

**19.9.5** Priority 5 connects with the contribution planning can have in shaping infrastructure from residential dwellings and office developments to the ways in which these are sustainably connected and enable a richer environment for encouraging behaviour change and healthy lifestyle living.

**19.9.6** Priority 6 is an active contributor in balancing economic burdens that are associated in treating individuals affected by illness and poor health. Examples of life-long homes that can be adapted easily as an individual passes through different life stages can help maintain independence. A community setting where these homes are located with opportunities to walk and exercise could impact a person's health potential positively both in terms of physical health and their social wellbeing because of a supportive neighbourly environment, enabling social connections.

The Health Summary for the East and North Hertfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group area can be viewed and downloaded from the NHS East and North Hertfordshire CCG Website at: [www.enhertsccg.nhs.uk/](http://www.enhertsccg.nhs.uk/)

Local Health Profiles can be viewed on the Public Health England Website at: [www.apho.org.uk/](http://www.apho.org.uk/)

The East Herts Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2013-2018) can be viewed and downloaded from the Council's Website at: [www.eastherts.gov.uk/wellbeing](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/wellbeing)

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- 19.9.7** The planning system can play an important role in creating healthy, inclusive communities. This could include, for example, measures aimed at reducing health inequalities, encouraging physical activity, improving mental health and wellbeing, and improving air quality to reduce the incidence of respiratory disease.
- 19.9.8** The County Council's Public Health Department is preparing a Health and Wellbeing Planning Guidance document defining its expectations to developers in the delivery of healthy development and communities, with signposts to further advice. This will be available at: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/healthsoc/healthherts/](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/healthsoc/healthherts/)
- 19.9.9** Sport England and Public Health England have produced 'Active Design', a set of guidelines and principles on creating developments that encourage physical activity and to promote opportunities for sport and physical activity in the design and layout of development:

Sport England's Active Design guidance can be viewed and downloaded from the Sport England Website at: [www.sportengland.org](http://www.sportengland.org)

- 19.9.10** Major applications will be expected to demonstrate how they will make provision for additional healthcare facilities. Strategic allocations will be expected to make full provision on-site, or in agreement with NHS England and East & North Herts Clinical Commissioning Group, improvements to existing facilities may be appropriate where this provides the most effective provision for patients.

### Policy CFLR9 Health and Wellbeing

I. All development shall be designed to maximise the impact it can make to promoting healthy communities and reducing health inequalities. In particular, regard shall be had to providing the necessary infrastructure to encourage physical exercise and health, including accessible open space, vegetation and landscaping, sport and recreation facilities, cultural facilities and safe, well promoted, walking and cycling routes.

II. Where new health facilities are planned, these should be located where there is a choice of sustainable travel options and should be accessible to all members of the community.

III. Contributions towards new or enhanced health care facilities will be sought to ensure the health care requirements arising from new developments are met and to prevent a shortfall or worsening of provision.

IV. Where new facilities for community use, including for the practice of faith, are planned, these should be of a flexible design to enable multiple uses throughout the day and should be located where there is a choice of sustainable travel options.



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### 19.10 Education

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- 19.10.1** Access to education is a key contributor to a sense of community and wellbeing. Often schools are the focus of a community, particularly where early years education, extra-curricular activities or public access to facilities are offered. Educational attainment is the keystone of any economy and it is important that access to such facilities is available to the very young through to adult learning opportunities. Ensuring that sufficient school places are available to support development is an integral part of delivering sustainable communities.
- 19.10.2** The Government is committed to ensuring that there is sufficient provision to meet growing demand for school places, through increasing choice and opportunity in state funded education. This commitment is reflected in the NPPF. Local authorities are required to give full and thorough consideration to the importance of enabling development of state-funded schools in their planning decisions.
- 19.10.3** Hertfordshire has experienced a significant rise in the demand for school places across the County in recent years in line with the picture nationally. Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places within its area. However, HCC does not control the admissions or management of many schools across the County. As the district's population grows demand for school places will continue to increase, placing pressure on existing facilities. It is therefore vital that where housing growth results in increased demand this should provide for investment across each education tier to ensure there are enough places to serve the district's pupils within their community.
- 19.10.4** Applicants should work with Hertfordshire County Council, the District Council and other neighbouring local authorities to identify the education needs arising from development and to ensure that appropriate provision is made in the form of new or enhanced facilities. Major applications will be expected to demonstrate how they have provided for additional school places. The strategic allocations will be expected to make full provision on-site, or contribute towards improving or extending existing facilities where this is the most effective option.

#### Policy CFLR10 Education

I. Development that creates a potential increase in demand for education will be required to make appropriate provision for new facilities either on-site or by making a suitable contribution towards the improvement or expansion of nearby existing facilities. Applicants will be expected to work in partnership with Hertfordshire County Council and other neighbouring local authorities with a duty for ensuring that there are sufficient school places available to serve new housing developments, to ensure appropriate facilities are provided.

II. Proposals which fail to make appropriate provision for the education of its future residents will be refused.

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III. Proposals for the creation of new or extended education facilities for all ages should:

- (a) Be in an accessible location, served by a choice of sustainable travel options;
- (b) Be of the highest quality of design which offers flexible use of facilities, in order to ensure the various needs of the community can be met, in accordance with Policy DES4 (Design of Development) (see also Policy ED6 (Lifelong Learning));
- (c) Provide or retain a suitable provision of outdoor recreation space and playing fields, in accordance with Policy CFLR1 (Open Space, Sport and Recreation); and
- (d) Be designed to facilitate the community use of facilities, in accordance with Policy CFLR7 (Community Facilities) and Policy CFLR1 (Open Space, Sport and Recreation).





# 20 Natural Environment

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### 20 Natural Environment

#### 20.1 Introduction

- 20.1.1** The natural environment is one of the district's greatest resources. Environmental quality is however under threat from many directions. The District Council is therefore committed to conserving and enhancing those important landscape and townscape elements which form a key part of the district's character and the quality of life of its residents.

#### 20.2 Nature Conservation

- 20.2.1** Nature conservation is an integral part of the planning system and as such needs to be taken into consideration in any development. Ensuring that future generations can enjoy the district's rich geological and biological inheritance as well as the wider experience that a healthy, functioning natural environment can provide means that we must continue to improve the protection and management of what we have today.
- 20.2.2** To assist with this, the most important areas in the district are identified on the Policies Map. These include sites of international, national and local importance. The sites are correct at the time of publication of the District Plan but may be subject to change through future reviews. The Council will continue to work with the Hertfordshire Environmental Records Centre as the primary resource for ecological data in the County. Applicants will be expected to seek the advice of the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, the Hertfordshire Environmental Records Centre, Hertfordshire Ecology at the County Council, Natural England, and other advisory groups where appropriate, where proposals affect or have the potential to affect the natural environment and nature conservation assets, including valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils.

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**Table 20.1 Designated Environmental Assets**

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| Type of designation  | Purpose of designation   |
|--|--|
| <b>International</b><br>Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)    | Classification under the European Union's Habitats Directive of areas of value for species, plants and habitats. Together with SPAs, SACs form part of the Natura 2000 system.   |
| <b>International</b><br>Special Protection Areas (SPA)         | Classification under the Birds Directive to protect internationally valuable populations of eligible bird species.   |
| <b>International</b><br>Ramsar Sites                           | Designation under the Ramsar Convention for wetlands of international importance.  |
| <b>National</b><br>Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) | Sites designated by Natural England under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Protection of the most significant sites for the conservation of wildlife (species & habitats) and/or geology.  |
| <b>National</b><br>National Nature Reserves (NNR)              | Areas managed for either (or both) the preservation of flora, fauna, geological and physiological features of special interest or to provide opportunities to study fauna, flora and their physical conditions.  |
| <b>At Least Local</b><br>Local Nature Reserves (LNR)           | Places of special local wildlife, geological or educational interest or significance identified by local authorities. Where these sites are also designated as SSSIs they will be of national importance.  |
| <b>Local</b><br>Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)                     | Designated land of local and regional importance defined as discrete areas of land considered to be of significance for their wildlife features. They are the most important places for wildlife outside legally protected land such as SSSIs and can be as ecologically valuable as SSSI. |

**20.2.3** Sites of international importance currently designated within the district include:

- Wormley-Hoddesdonpark Woods – Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

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- Rye Meads and Amwell Quarry – components of the Lee Valley Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Rye Meads and Amwell Quarry – components of the Lee Valley Ramsar Site

- 20.2.4** All international sites in the district are also designated as SSSI's. SSSI's are a representative sample of England's finest wildlife and geological sites. Natural England, under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), is responsible for designating and assessing these sites working closely with landowners and site managers to ensure that targets to maintain and improve their condition are met. The 2012 Government Strategy 'Biodiversity 2020' set out commitments to bring 50% of the total area of SSSI's into 'favourable condition' by 2020. There are 16 SSSI's in the district.
- 20.2.5** The only National Nature Reserve (NNR) in Hertfordshire is located in the south of the district at Broxbourne-Hoddesdonpark Woods. The Nature Reserve contains several woodlands of SSSI status, which are home to many rare and scarce woodland wildlife.
- 20.2.6** Advice should be sought from Natural England for any proposals that may potentially affect an international or national site. In respect of the Wormley-Hoddesdonpark Woods SAC, the Council will work with partners to identify strategic initiatives to manage the impacts of recreational use.
- 20.2.7** Local Wildlife Sites in the district are identified by the Hertfordshire Local Wildlife Sites Partnership which is a partnership approach to the identification, selection, assessment and protection of Local Wildlife Sites in the County, led and coordinated by the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust. Local Wildlife Sites (WS) are considered to be of significance for wildlife in at least a district context. There are currently 543 Local Wildlife Sites in the district covering 3,442 hectares. There are also 14 Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust Reserves in the district, seven of which are SSSIs and one, Waterford Heath, is a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) (under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949, as amended).
- 20.2.8** Distinctions will be made between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites so that protection is commensurate with their status and appropriate weight will be given to their importance and the contribution they make to wider ecological networks. It is however, important that opportunities are taken to enhance biodiversity wherever possible, especially in urban areas, as even non-designated environments contribute significantly to the success of the wider ecological network.
- 20.2.9** The NPPF requires local planning authorities to apply a mitigation hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensation, with distinctions made between international, national and locally designated sites. In the context of the natural environment this means that policies should seek to create net gains in biodiversity, to avoid adverse impacts by considering alternative options, to use mitigation measures where avoidance is not possible and as a last resort to use compensatory measures. Where these measures cannot be achieved, the NPPF makes it clear that permission should be refused.

**20.2.10** In order to objectively assess net ecological impacts and therefore achieve net gains in biodiversity, it is vital that a fair, robust mechanism for measuring these impacts is applied. To ensure they are consistently quantified, applications must be accompanied by a Biodiversity Impact Assessment using the locally approved DEFRA Biodiversity Metric where appropriate.

**20.2.11** It is important that a consistent, acceptable standard of supporting ecological information is supplied with planning applications. In order to ensure this, it will be expected that ecological information is presented in accordance with the British Standard on Planning and Biodiversity – BS42020 2013 Biodiversity – Code of practice for planning and development.

The Natural England Impact Risk Zone Tool, which is designed to help local planning authorities and developers to assess whether a proposed development is likely to affect SSSIs can be found at: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england)

### **Policy NE1 International, National and Locally Designated Nature Conservation Sites**

I. Development proposals, land use or activity (either individually or in combination with other developments) which are likely to have a detrimental impact which adversely affects the integrity of a designated site, will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that there are material considerations which clearly outweigh the need to safeguard the nature conservation value of the site, and any broader impacts on the international, national, or local network of nature conservation assets.

II. Evidence will be required in the form of up-to-date ecological surveys undertaken by a competent ecologist prior to the submission of an application. The type of evidence required will be commensurate to the scale and location of the development and the likely impact on biodiversity, the legal protection or other status of a site. Where insufficient data is provided, permission will be refused.

III. Where a site of International or National designation for nature conservation importance is adversely affected by the proposals, permission will only be permitted where the Council is satisfied that:

- (a) There are imperative reasons of overriding public interest, which could be of a social or economic nature, sufficient to override the harm to the site; or
- (b) There are imperative reasons of overriding public interest relating to human health, public safety or benefits of primary importance to the environment; and in either case
- (c) There are no satisfactory alternatives to the proposal.

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IV. Proposals should avoid impacts on sites of nature conservation value and wherever possible, alternative options which reduce or eliminate such impacts should be pursued. Where adverse impacts are unavoidable, measures to mitigate the impact will be sought, commensurate to the importance of the site in terms of its status in the hierarchy and the contribution it makes to the wider ecological networks.

V. Where adequate mitigation measures are not possible, compensatory measures may be appropriate. Such compensatory schemes should seek to achieve a net gain for nature and the Council will consider the use of conditions and/or planning obligations to secure appropriate mitigation/compensation commensurate to the type and scale of development. Compensatory measures can be situated on or off the development site. The availability of compensatory measures will be a material consideration in the determination of development proposals.

VI. Ecological impacts will be quantified by utilising and taking into account a locally approved Biodiversity Metric where appropriate. Development must demonstrate a net gain in ecological units. Ecological information must be supplied in accordance with BS 42020 2013.

### NE2 Sites or Features of Nature Conservation Interest (Non-Designated)

I. All proposals should achieve a net gain in biodiversity where it is feasible and proportionate to do so, as measured by using and taking into account a locally approved Biodiversity Metric, and avoid harm to, or the loss of features that contribute to the local and wider ecological network.

II. Proposals will be expected to apply the mitigation hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensation, as set out in the NPPF, and integrate ecologically beneficial planting and landscaping into the overall design.

## 20.3 Species and Habitats

**20.3.1** The planning system has a central role to play through resisting development proposals that may irreversibly damage important species or habitats, by enhancing biodiversity through incorporating mitigation and enhancements and by securing long-term favourable management of biodiversity rich sites.

**20.3.2** Biodiversity describes the number and variety of species of plants and animals within a habitat and also the diversity of habitats within an ecosystem. Biodiversity has economic importance, adds to our quality of life and contributes to local distinctiveness as well as securing Ecosystem Services such as pollination, hydrology and pest control for example.

- 20.3.3** Whilst protecting priority species and habitats (as listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006) is important, if biodiversity is to be genuinely enhanced, the conservation of all wildlife and habitats needs to be at the centre of development and planning decision making. It must be recognised that Biodiversity does not only exist on priority habitat sites. Lower quality habitats contribute significantly to the biodiversity of an area. Indeed the vast majority of biodiversity in this country is dependent on non-priority habitat. Through use of the locally approved Biodiversity Metric where appropriate, the ecological value of these habitats can be quantified and properly reflected in the planning process. Their value in planning terms will be less than that of priority habitat and commensurate with the contribution they make to the wider ecosystem, as informed by the calculator.

A list of Species and Habitats of Principle Importance, as published in Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, can be viewed in the form of a spread-sheet at: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england)

Government legislation exists which places legal obligations on Local Planning Authorities and landowners with regards to the protection and enhancement of European Sites, protected species and Sites of Special Scientific Interest. More information can be viewed on the Government's document website at: [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

The Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust website also contains a useful list of relevant environmental law at: [www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk)

- 20.3.4** While there are no longer national habitat or species targets, the Hertfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan (2006) identifies those habitats and species which are a priority for conservation and is a valuable source of information on the county's natural assets.
- 20.3.5** The Hertfordshire Local Nature Partnership (LNP), working in conjunction with Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, Hertfordshire County Council and Natural England have recently published an up-to-date report on Hertfordshire's habitats which identifies areas where new habitats should be created to support the wider ecological network. The LNP has also produced a suite of guiding principles to assist with planning for the natural environment. The Council will expect proposals to be prepared in line with these documents.

The Local Nature Partnership guidance can be viewed at:

[www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/local-nature-partnership](http://www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/local-nature-partnership)

The Hertfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan (2006) can be viewed and downloaded from the Hertfordshire Environmental Forum at:

[www.hef.org.uk/nature/biodiversity\\_vision/](http://www.hef.org.uk/nature/biodiversity_vision/)



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- 20.3.6** Development should be planned to avoid habitat loss and fragmentation, and opportunities should be sought to improve ecological connectivity, including through the creation, restoration and enhancement of linking habitats and 'stepping stones' through the landscape. Any development should minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains for nature where possible. This involves safeguarding and enhancing biodiversity already present, providing new areas of habitat appropriate to the ecology of the area and integrating biodiversity within new development. Changes in land management (field margins and crop rotations for example) can make significant contributions to biodiversity. Simple features such as integrated bat and bird boxes within the fabric of new buildings can be very effective in ensuring a continued supply of roosting opportunities for urban wildlife. Encouragement will be given to proposals which improve the biodiversity value of sites and to the establishment of local nature reserves where the nature conservation and landscape interest of the site will be protected and enhanced.
- 20.3.7** Where there is a 'reasonable likelihood' of the presence of European or Nationally Protected Species, surveys must be completed and avoidance/ mitigation/ compensation measures agreed before permission can be granted. Surveys cannot be conditioned except in exceptional circumstances because if decisions are made without this information, all material considerations cannot have been addressed in reaching a position.
- 20.3.8** Where there is evidence of European Protected Species (EPS) such as bats, great crested newts, dormice or otters, the Council will apply the following three derogation tests as required by the European Habitats and Birds Directives:
- The activity must be for imperative reasons of overriding public interest or for public health and safety;
  - There must be no satisfactory alternative; and
  - Favourable conservation status of the species must be maintained.
- 20.3.9** Where damage to a species or habitat is unavoidable, development should be designed to conserve as much of the original habitat as possible and retain and protect wildlife corridors. It should seek to avoid damage to, or adverse effects upon, existing biodiversity (species and habitats) through appropriate site design.
- 20.3.10** There may be potential opportunities to provide new benefits for wildlife, for example by habitat creation or enhancement, whether or not significant harm to species or habitats is anticipated. Examples of how enhancements could be achieved include:
- Planting native trees and species rich shrubs and hedgerows of local provenance
  - Creation of orchards, wildflower grasslands and nature reserves
  - Connecting existing habitats and enhancing migratory routes with additional planting (including green roofs and walls and hedgerows)



- Creation of ponds
- Provision of integrated roosting opportunities for bats and birds
- River or stream restoration
- Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems

**20.3.11** Planning obligations and conditions may be used to secure agreed measures such as mitigation or compensation. Mitigation measures could involve some of the following:

- Timing the development of sites to avoid the breeding seasons or hibernation periods for species present
- Creating buffer zones between sensitive areas and development areas to reduce disturbance to habitats
- Ensuring that development is designed to enable the movement of wildlife to continue

**20.3.12** Compensation which in most cases should be a last resort, involves creating new replacement habitats either on-site or off-site in the form of biodiversity offsetting. However, compensation for a lost habitat will not make an unacceptable development acceptable. Biodiversity offsetting is not designed to be applied to priority habitats.

**20.3.13** The waterside environment is particularly rich providing habitat in its own right as well as critical connectivity through the landscape. The value of a waterway is significantly enhanced if it is buffered by complimentary habitat. In accordance with Environment Agency directives, development will be expected to conserve and enhance the aquatic environment and where possible restore the negative impact of previous development – e.g. the naturalisation of canalised or culverted water courses.

### Policy NE3 Species and Habitats

I. Development should always seek to enhance biodiversity and to create opportunities for wildlife. Proposals must demonstrate how the development improves the biodiversity value of the site and surrounding environment. Evidence will be required in the form of up-to-date ecological surveys undertaken by a competent ecologist prior to the submission of an application. The Biodiversity value of a site pre and post development will be determined by applying a locally approved Biodiversity Metric where appropriate. Submitted information must be consistent with BS 42020 2013. Where insufficient data is provided, permission will be refused.

II. Proposals should detail how physical features will be maintained in the long term.

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III. Development which would result in the loss or significant damage to trees, hedgerows or ancient woodland sites will not be permitted. The Council will seek their reinforcement by additional planting of native species where appropriate. Protective buffers of complementary habitat will be expected to adjoin these features, sufficient to protect against root damage and improvement of their long term condition. A minimum buffer zone of 10m (or greater if required) is considered appropriate.

IV. Proposals will be expected to protect and enhance locally important biodiversity sites and other notable ecological features of conservation value.

V. Proposals should avoid impacting on Species and Habitats of Principle Importance as published under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (or as subsequently amended).

VI. Where adverse impacts are unavoidable, appropriate mitigation and compensation measures must be employed, commensurate to the importance, the legal protection or other status of the species or habitat. The District Council will impose conditions / planning obligations which seek to:

- (a) Facilitate the survival of existing populations as well as encouraging the establishment of new populations;
- (b) Reduce disturbance to a minimum;
- (c) Provide adequate alternative habitats to sustain at least the current levels of populations.

VII. Development adjoining rivers or streams will be required to preserve or enhance the water environment in accordance with Policy WAT3 (Water Quality and the Water Environment).

VIII. Integrated bird and bat boxes will be expected in all development bordering public green space and beneficial habitat.

### 20.4 Green Infrastructure

**20.4.1** The NPPF describes Green Infrastructure as “a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities” (Annex 2: Glossary, NPPF, CLG, 2012).

**20.4.2** The Council's Green Infrastructure Plan (part of a county-wide suite of Green Infrastructure Plans) provides an overview of existing green infrastructure assets within the district, considers opportunities for the enhancement and creation of new assets, outlines a series of potential projects and provides advice on delivering

green infrastructure proposals. More information on the ecological networks in the district can also be found in the Local Nature Partnership's Ecological Network Report.

The Council's Green Infrastructure Plan can be viewed and downloaded from the Council's Website at: [www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase)

- 20.4.3** East Herts has a rich green infrastructure resource centred on the principal river valleys of the Lee, Mimram, Beane, Quin, Rib, Ash and Stort in addition to a varied mosaic of landscape and habitat types, such as grassland, ancient and plantation woodland and farmland of importance to wildlife. However, through time and changing pressures on the use of land, these habitats have become fragmented and disconnected. While these sites still contribute towards the district's green infrastructure, improvements are necessary in order to strengthen their quality, connectedness and resilience to changing climates and the impact of human activity, and to provide opportunities for other green infrastructure functions.
- 20.4.4** Street trees, gardens, waterways, public parks and open spaces all contribute to urban green infrastructure. Quite often such urban green infrastructure is the only 'natural environment' we connect with on a day-to-day basis. Yet these features contribute significantly in cleaning and cooling the air, preventing flooding, providing 'stepping stones' for wildlife and for recreational activity and enjoyment. It is therefore important that changes to the district's urban environments contribute to the wider green infrastructure network.
- 20.4.5** It is important to remember that habitats and landscapes in East Herts are part of a wider network of green infrastructure that pays no heed to local authority boundaries. For example, the woodland to the south of the District forms part of the swathe of woodland and other habitats that stretch around London, which is part of the 'GreenArc' approach, which seeks to maintain and enhance these valuable assets around London, which is commonly known as the GreenArc. Development should therefore be planned to avoid habitat loss and fragmentation, and opportunities should be sought to improve ecological connectivity, including through the creation, restoration and enhancement of linking habitats and 'stepping stones' through the landscape.
- 20.4.6** The Council welcomes the use of green infrastructure as an alternative solution to 'grey' infrastructure (such as water management and waste). Such schemes can provide opportunities for flood attenuation and public open spaces and can often be cheaper to construct and maintain.
- 20.4.7** Applicants will be expected to seek the advice of the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, the Hertfordshire Environmental Records Centre, Hertfordshire Ecology at the County Council, Countryside Management Service, Natural England, and other relevant local nature partnerships where appropriate, where proposals affect or have the potential to enhance green infrastructure and nature conservation assets.

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### Policy NE4 Green Infrastructure

I. A diverse network of accessible, multi-functional green infrastructure across the district will be protected and enhanced for its biodiversity, recreational, accessibility, health and landscape value and for the contribution it makes towards combating climate change.

II. Development proposals should:

- (a) Avoid the loss, fragmentation or functionality of the green infrastructure network, including within the built environment, such as access to urban waterways;
- (b) Maximise opportunities for improvement to the green infrastructure network in accordance with the Council's Green Infrastructure Plan, its Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, the Hertfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan, Living Landscape Schemes, locally identified Nature Improvement Areas and any future relevant plans and programmes as appropriate;
- (c) Maximise opportunities for urban greening such as through appropriate landscaping schemes and the planting of street trees;
- (d) Consider the integration of green infrastructure into proposals as an alternative or to complement 'grey' infrastructure.
- (e) Demonstrate how lighting will not adversely impact on green infrastructure that functions as nocturnal wildlife movement and foraging corridors, in line with Policy EQ3 Light Pollution.

III. Contributions towards local green infrastructure projects will be sought where appropriate. If providing green infrastructure as part of a development, applicants should detail how it will be maintained in the long term.

IV. Proposals which affect the district's river environments, including built development and recreation and leisure proposals, should take into account and contribute towards achieving, the aims of any statutory or non-statutory plans, such as the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority Park Development Framework, relevant River Catchment Management Plans and the Water Framework Directive, and any future relevant plans and programmes.



# 21 Heritage Assets

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### 21 Heritage Assets

#### 21.1 Introduction

**21.1.1** The District is fortunate in having a rich and varied historic environment, which includes landscapes, sites, monuments, buildings and townscapes, and buried remains of significant archaeological and historic interest.

#### 21.2 Heritage Assets

**21.2.1** Heritage assets make a valuable contribution to the areas' economic and social wellbeing. Heritage assets include buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes positively identified as having special interest and significance that merits consideration in planning decisions. Heritage assets are the valued components of the historic environment. They include designated heritage assets and non-designated assets identified by the local planning authority.

**21.2.2** The District Council recognises that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource that should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their special interest and significance. Heritage assets in East Herts include:

- 45 Scheduled Monuments
- Nearly 3,100 Listed Buildings (which comprise over 4,000 individual listed features)
- 42 Conservation Areas
- 550 Areas of Archaeological Significance
- 16 Registered Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest
- 58 Locally Listed Historic Parks and Gardens

**21.2.3** Not all designated heritage assets are identified under the Planning Acts, for example, scheduled monuments are designated in separate legislation. Nonetheless, planning has a role to ensure that new development does not adversely affect these assets too.

**21.2.4** The long-term management of heritage assets is essential and where inadequate measures are taken to maintain heritage assets such neglect may result in an asset falling into disrepair, which could result in irreparable damage to or the loss of the asset. The Council will monitor the condition of heritage assets and publish a local heritage at risk register alongside the national register published annually by Historic England. Regular monitoring is necessary in order to prevent the decline in condition of the District's heritage assets.

Further information on the Historic England Buildings at Risk Register is available on the Historic England website at: [www.historicengland.org.uk](http://www.historicengland.org.uk)

### Policy HA1 Designated Heritage Assets

I. Development proposals should preserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment of East Herts.

II. Development proposals that would lead to substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that the harm or loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss. Less than substantial harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal.

III. Where there is evidence of neglect of, or damage to, a heritage asset, the deteriorated state of the heritage asset will not be taken into account in any decision.

IV. The Council will, as part of a positive strategy, pursue opportunities for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment recognising its role and contribution in achieving sustainable development.

**21.2.5** In addition to those heritage assets that are statutorily protected, non-designated assets can be identified by the Local Planning Authority if they are considered to be of local significance. Significance refers to the value of a historic asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from the heritage asset's physical presence, but also its setting. Significance will be measured in terms of how the asset meets the following five criteria:

- Rarity
- Representativeness
- Aesthetic appeal
- Integrity
- Association

**21.2.6** Non-designated heritage assets are being identified through ongoing monitoring as well as through the Conservation Area Appraisal work that the Council is currently undertaking, and through future updates to the Historic Parks & Gardens SPD 2007.

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Further information and good practice on the identification of non-designated heritage assets is available on the Historic England website at:

[www.historicengland.org.uk](http://www.historicengland.org.uk)

Further information on local heritage assets is available on the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record website:

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/envplan/archaeology/sites/](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/envplan/archaeology/sites/)

- 21.2.7** The following policy therefore seeks to ensure that the value and significance of the district's non-designated heritage assets are protected so that they continue to contribute to the richness of the district's historic environment and inform future development.

### **Policy HA2 Non-Designated Heritage Assets**

- I. The Council will engage with key stakeholders and local communities to identify non-designated heritage assets that contribute to local distinctiveness and refer to existing information in the historic environment record.
- II. Where a proposal would adversely affect a non-designated heritage asset, regard will be had to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.

## **21.3 Archaeology**

- 21.3.1** Archaeological remains are a fragile and finite resource. Appropriate management of archaeological remains is essential to ensure they survive in good condition and are not needlessly or thoughtlessly destroyed. Areas of Archaeological Significance (AAS) are places within the District that are deemed to be of moderate or high archaeological potential, based on evidence from known heritage assets (buildings, sites, features and finds). Alterations to existing AAS or identification of new AAS may be required based on new data or understanding of significance.
- 21.3.2** Where a site has potential archaeological interest (whether scheduled or unscheduled) a desk based assessment will be required. This should be based on the collation of existing written and graphic information, in order to identify the likely character, extent and relative quality of the actual or potential archaeological resource. A field evaluation may also be necessary to define their character, extent and relative quality so that their worth may be assessed in local, regional and national contexts.



The Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) is a computerised record of Hertfordshire's historic environment. It contains information on historic buildings, archaeological remains, historic sites and military remains. The HER can be used to identify significant historic remains and finds. It also contains information on surveys and archaeological excavations undertaken in Hertfordshire.

Further information can be found from their website:

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/envplan/archaeology/sites/](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/envplan/archaeology/sites/)

- 21.3.3** The case for preservation will be assessed on the merits of the individual application. In cases where preservation in situ would not be required, developers may be asked to enter into a Section 106 Agreement before planning permission is given. This secures excavation and recording of information prior to development starting and subsequent storage and display of material. Where planning permission is given, conditions may be attached to the grant of permission to ensure that excavation and recording is carried out before development work starts, and to ensure that a 'watching brief' is maintained while work progresses.
- 21.3.4** Areas of Archaeological Significance, including potential areas, are identified on the Policies Map. The sites are correct at the time of publication of the District Plan but may be subject to change through future reviews. The Council will refer to the most up-to-date position.

### Policy HA3 Archaeology

I. Where a site has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest (whether scheduled or unscheduled), applicants should consult with the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Unit to submit an appropriate desk based assessment and, where necessary, the results of a field evaluation, prior to the submission of an application.

II. Where development is permitted on sites containing archaeological remains, planning permission will be subject to conditions and/or formal agreements requiring appropriate excavation and recording in advance of development and the subsequent storage and display of material.

## 21.4 Conservation Areas

- 21.4.1** Since 1968 local authorities have been able to designate Conservation Areas. Conservation Areas can be designated if they are of special historic or architectural interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.

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- 21.4.2** There is no standard specification for Conservation Areas. The special interest of an area can derive from a combination of many characteristics, such as the historic street pattern, traditional or notable building styles, or landscape features. Important to all Conservation Areas is the visual 'quality of place' they possess. This aspect principally results from the way in which the buildings and public and private spaces relate to each other, together with the inherent quality of the buildings, other structures, landscapes and the public realm.
- 21.4.3** The Council's Conservation Areas are identified on the Policies Map. In order to protect their special interest, stricter controls over demolition, works to trees and new development apply within Conservation Areas. These controls are not intended as a hindrance to change, but as a positive management tool to safeguard the character or appearance of the conservation area.
- 21.4.4** The District Council has an ongoing programme of review of its existing and potential Conservation Areas to identify and document which factors are considered to make up the special interest, character or appearance of these areas. The resultant Conservation Area Character Appraisals also include Conservation Area Management Proposals. Management Proposals are a statutory requirement of s.71 of the 1990 Act. They will put forward policy and project initiatives designed to address the threats and opportunities identified in the Character Appraisal and thereby more effectively preserve and enhance the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.
- 21.4.5** Evidence from Conservation Area Character Appraisals and local groups indicate that a number of Conservation Areas are suffering from the gradual erosion of traditional features, materials and details in both the public and private realm and that this is undermining their special interest. A more proactive approach is needed to halt and reverse this trend and to reinstate these features as part of works to preserve and enhance the character and appearance of Conservation Areas.
- 21.4.6** Where appropriate, Article 4 directions will be made that bring specific permitted development rights within the planning system. This will be used to prevent the further loss of significant historic features and to seek to secure the restoration of features already lost. Thus, in time, the erosion of the Conservation Area's special interest will be halted and reversed and the area will be better preserved and enhanced.

### Policy HA4 Conservation Areas

I. New development, extensions and alterations to existing buildings in Conservation Areas will be permitted provided that they preserve or enhance the special interest, character and appearance of the area. Development proposals outside a Conservation Area which affect its setting will be considered likewise. Proposals will be expected to:

- (a) Respect established building lines, layouts and patterns;

(b) Use materials and adopt design details which reinforce local character and are traditional to the area;

(c) Be of a scale, proportion, form, height, design and overall character that accords with and complements the surrounding area;

(d) In the case of alterations and extensions, be complementary and sympathetic to the parent building; and

(e) Have regard to any 'Conservation Area Character Appraisals' prepared by the District Council and safeguard all aspects which contribute to the area's special interest and significance, including important views and green spaces.

(f) Where development proposals relate to Conservation Area Management Proposals the duty to preserve or enhance will be applied. Development proposals, including minor development under an Article 4 direction, will be expected to 'preserve' surviving architectural features identified as being significant to the character or appearance of the area or, where previously lost, to 'enhance' that character and appearance through the authentic restoration of those lost features,

II. Permission for the demolition of buildings or structures within a Conservation Area will only be granted if it makes no positive contribution to the character of the Conservation Area and the replacement is of good design and satisfies the above requirements of this policy.

**21.4.7** In the district's town centres, frontages to shops and commercial premises play a key role in defining the character and quality of the Conservation Areas. The Council is therefore keen to ensure that a high quality environment is maintained, consistent with commercial and economic considerations. The introduction of unsympathetic advertisements can compromise the quality of the environment and may downgrade the image and reduce the footfall in an area. Signage and lighting must therefore be sensitive to the character of these areas and not contribute to an escalation of competitive signage and levels of illumination along the street. For example, poster boarding or large fascia and internal illumination are not appropriate in Conservation Areas. It may be necessary for conditions to be imposed on the hours and luminosity of lighting in order to reduce harm to residential amenity.

### Policy HA5 Shopfronts in Conservation Areas

I. Proposals for a new shop front or commercial premise frontage or alterations to existing ones will be permitted where the proposed design follows historic shopfront design, is sympathetic to the scale, proportions, design details and materials of the structure or adjoining buildings and the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.

II. Shop fronts of architectural or historic interest shall be retained and repaired as necessary.

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III. Security features should be designed in a sensitive manner which respects the overall character of the frontage and location, facilitates natural/passive surveillance and maintains an attractive street scene. The use of architectural solutions combined with the use of an internal open lattice grille is preferred. Alarm boxes should be of a discreet colour and size, located carefully in relation to the elevation of the building, whilst being obvious enough to deter an intruder.

### Policy HA6 Advertisements in Conservation Areas

Where express consent is required within Conservation Areas the District Council will only accept advertisements where they:

- (a) Are either painted or individually lettered in a suitable material of a proportionate size and design in relation to the building or fascia upon which they are to be displayed;
- (b) Are preferably non-illuminated or does not contribute to an escalation of shopfront lighting along the street scene. Where illumination is proposed it should be external illumination which is discreet in size and of a minimum level. Internal illumination of shop signage will not be permitted;
- (c) Are of a traditional fascia or hanging type; and
- (d) Are of a traditional and appropriate size to the architecture of the host building.

### 21.5 Listed Buildings

- 21.5.1** Under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 there is a statutory duty to compile Lists of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest for the whole country.
- 21.5.2** The 'National Heritage List for England' identifies those buildings which are of special interest and gives the Council extra powers to protect them, as well as imposing extra responsibilities on their owners.

Historic England maintains The National Heritage List for England. This full and current list of properties and structures (including their descriptions and location maps) can be accessed from their website at:

[www.historicengland.org.uk](http://www.historicengland.org.uk)

- 21.5.3** Listed buildings of special architectural or historic interest must be sensitively repaired and improved, using traditional materials and techniques. Appropriate and sustainable new uses should be found for them in order to secure their future survival. Demolition will not normally be allowed. Alterations/additions to listed buildings require the greatest skill and care, in order to avoid damage to the intrinsic character of the buildings themselves, including interiors and fixtures, and to their setting. Similarly, new development affecting a listed building must be sympathetically designed, so as not to harm the listed building's historic integrity and identity. The use of legal powers will be considered where listed buildings are at risk from wilful neglect, long-term dereliction or abandonment.
- 21.5.4** 'Listed building consent' is required from the District Council for any works that affect a building's special character. The listing of a building is intended to ensure that it will be conserved in accordance with its significance. However, alterations and improvements can be made where they are compatible with the special architectural or historic interest of the building. The designation allows changes to be carefully scrutinised when a planning application is made. To support applicants the Council has produced a series of guidance notes on the preservation and repair of historic materials and buildings.

The East Herts guidance notes on the preservation and repair of historic materials and buildings can be viewed and downloaded from the Council's Website at:

[www.eastherts.gov.uk/conservationandheritage](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/conservationandheritage)

### Policy HA7 Listed Buildings

- I. The Council will actively seek opportunities to sustain and enhance the significance of Listed Buildings and ensure that they are in viable uses consistent with their conservation.
- II. In considering applications the Council will ensure that proposals involving the alteration, extension, or change of use of a Listed Building will only be permitted where:
- (a) The proposal would not have any adverse effect on the architectural and historic character or appearance of the interior or exterior of the building or its setting; and
  - (b) The proposal respects the scale, design, materials and finishes of the existing building(s), and preserves its historic fabric.
- III. Proposals that affect the setting of a Listed Building will only be permitted where the setting of the building is preserved.

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### 21.6 Historic Parks and Gardens

**21.6.1** Historic parks and gardens are a fragile and finite resource: they can easily be damaged beyond repair or lost forever. They are an important part of the heritage and environment of the district. They comprise of a variety of features: the open space; views in and out; the planting; water features; built features and archaeological remains. There is a need to protect such sites and their settings from new development which would destroy or harm the historic interest.

**21.6.2** The Historic England 'Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England' was established in 1983 and currently identifies over 1,600 sites assessed to be of national importance. Sixteen of these are in the District and are identified on the Policies Map.

The 'Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England' is included in the National Heritage List for England, which is available at: [www.historicengland.org.uk](http://www.historicengland.org.uk)

Further information on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens can be found on the Historic England website: [www.historicengland.org.uk](http://www.historicengland.org.uk)

**21.6.3** The main purpose of this Register is to celebrate designed landscapes of note, and encourage appropriate protection. It is hoped that by identifying sites in this way, their value and significance will be conserved and enhanced both by those who own them, and others who have a role in their protection and their future.

**21.6.4** The registration of designed landscapes does not entail additional planning controls but does make these assets a 'material consideration' in the planning process, meaning that planning authorities must consider the impact of any proposed development on the landscape's special character. The Council will through its planning role promote conservation and public appreciation of the District's designed landscapes.

**21.6.5** In addition to those parks and gardens on the Register, the Hertfordshire Gardens Trust has also compiled a list of other locally important sites in the district. These are considered by the District Council to be of sufficient quality to warrant appropriate preservation and protection when considering development proposals under the following policy.

**21.6.6** Further information, including a list of locally important parks and gardens, can be found in the Council's 'Historic Parks & Gardens' Supplementary Planning Document (September 2007).

The 'Historic Parks & Gardens' Supplementary Planning Document (September 2007, or as amended) can be viewed and downloaded at:

[www.eastherts.gov.uk/spd](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/spd)

### Policy HA8 Historic Parks and Gardens

I. Development proposals should protect the special historic character, appearance or setting of those sites listed on the Historic England 'Register of Historic Parks and Gardens'. The same level of protection will be afforded to other locally important sites.

II. Where appropriate, the District Council will actively encourage proposals for the repair, restoration and management of historic parks and gardens.

### 21.7 Enabling Development

- 21.7.1** Enabling development is the means of securing the long-term future of a significant place when conservation through development in compliance with policy cannot do so.
- 21.7.2** The vast majority of significant places survive because they are capable of beneficial use. Their maintenance is justified by their usefulness to, and appreciation by, their owners, not just value in the property market, either in their own right or as part of a larger entity. An historic garden, for example, normally adds to the amenities and value of a house. The problem that enabling development typically seeks to address occurs when the cost of maintenance, major repair or conversion to the optimum viable use of a building is greater than its resulting value to its owner or in the property market. This means that a subsidy to cover the difference – the 'conservation deficit' – is necessary to secure its future.
- 21.7.3** The scale and range of enabling development can vary greatly. Whilst often associated with residential development to support the repair of a country house, it can include, for example, an extension acceptable in historic building terms, but exceeding the maximum size permitted under plan policies for the rural area.

Detailed guidance on how an applicant might make an enabling development application is set out in Historic England's guidance on 'Enabling Development and the Conservation of Significant Places', which can be viewed and downloaded at:

[www.historicengland.org.uk](http://www.historicengland.org.uk)



**Policy HA9 Enabling Development**

I. Proposals for enabling development will be assessed having regard to Historic England’s latest guidance on enabling development.





# 22 Climate Change

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### 22 Climate Change

#### 22.1 Introduction

- 22.1.1** Climate change is caused in part by greenhouse gases that are primarily produced through the burning of fossil fuels and the release of carbon through activities such as agriculture and the loss of woodland for example. Problems commonly associated with climate change include flooding and extreme weather patterns. Climate change is both a global and local issue.
- 22.1.2** Building Futures is a Hertfordshire guide to promoting sustainability in development, including modules on Climate Change Adaptation and also on Energy and Climate Change. Both modules include practical advice in relation to measures which can help to address climate change.

Building Futures is an interactive website which can be accessed at:

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/building-futures/building-futures.aspx](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/building-futures/building-futures.aspx)

#### 22.2 Adaptation

- 22.2.1** Climate change is expected to result in hazards such as heatwaves, flooding, and drought. Adaptation means improving our resilience to such impacts. This section addresses the issue of overheating. Measures related directly to water and climate change adaptation, including flood risk, water efficiency, and sustainable urban drainage, are contained within Chapter 23: Water.
- 22.2.2** Measures to address overheating may be undertaken at building level, neighbourhood scale, and town or urban extension scale. Examples of measures include:
1. using site landform and landscape to benefit from shelter, to minimise heat losses in winter, provide adequate shade in summer, and to catch breezes
  2. using deciduous trees to maximise shade in summer and allow light in during the winter, or structural or functional design to achieve a similar effect
  3. minimising energy demand, for example using cross-ventilation, to avoid a vicious circle whereby increased demand for air conditioning generates further climate-changing emissions

4. using materials that prevent the penetration of heat to a building, which can include green roofs or walls, light coloured materials in exposed surfaces, and for large car parks; road energy systems which store heat and release it during the winter months
5. providing green infrastructure including woodlands, orchards, street trees and green landscaping, parks, sports grounds, allotments, and green roofs.

**22.2.3** Such measures may have a number of wider benefits, including reduced energy bills and improving the quality of the built environment. The Building Futures Climate Change Adaptation module contains further guidance on adaptation solutions.

### **Policy CC1 Climate Change Adaptation**

All new development should:

- (a) Demonstrate how the design, materials, construction and operation of the development would minimise overheating in summer and reduce the need for heating in winter; and
- (b) Integrate green infrastructure from the beginning of the design process to contribute to urban greening, including the public realm. Elements that can contribute to this include appropriate tree planting, green roofs and walls, and soft landscaping.

## **22.3 Mitigation**

**22.3.1** Carbon emissions originate from a wide range of sources, including transport, construction, and all forms of energy use including heating and appliances. The Climate Change Act (2008) sets out a legally binding target for reducing the UK's carbon dioxide emissions, in order to mitigate or reduce the impacts of climate change. Planning plays a role in terms of locating development so as to minimise the need to travel, which is addressed in the transport policies and also in the development strategy for the district.

**22.3.2** There are four main types of approach to reduction of carbon emissions from development. These are as follows:

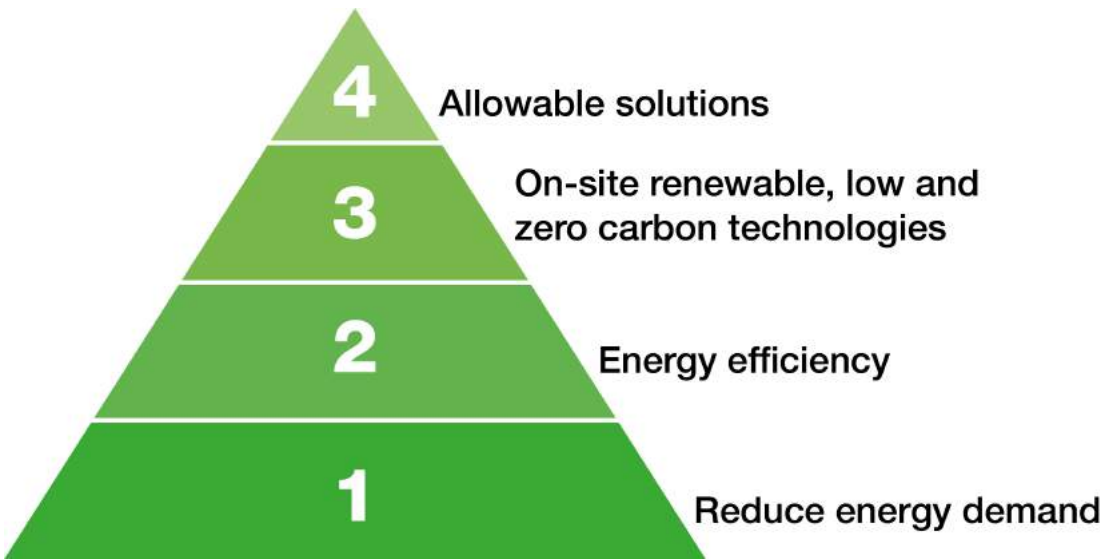
1. Reduce energy demand by providing natural ventilation and illumination, good insulation, and shading as described in relation to climate change adaptation
2. Increase energy efficiency through the use of efficient services and appliances, and low-energy lighting

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3. Generate heat and/or power through on-site low and zero carbon technologies such as Combined Heat and Power (CHP), solar panels, biomass boilers, or heat pumps
4. Offsetting on-site carbon emissions through off-site means, for example retrofitting existing buildings elsewhere, investment in energy schemes such as district heating, payment into a community investment fund, or use of Green Energy Tariffs. These are known as 'allowable solutions'.

Figure 22.1 Energy Hierarchy



- 22.3.3** These four approaches are usually represented as an energy hierarchy as illustrated in Figure 22.1 above, in which the most effective ways of reducing carbon dioxide are shown at the base and must be fully explored first.
- 22.3.4** Wherever possible, developers should use reliable technologies and approaches with a proven track record.

### Policy CC2 Climate Change Mitigation

- I. All new developments should demonstrate how carbon dioxide emissions will be minimised across the development site, taking account of all levels of the energy hierarchy. Achieving standards above and beyond the requirements of Building Regulations is encouraged.
- II. Carbon reduction should be met on-site unless it can be demonstrated that this is not feasible or viable. In such cases effective offsetting measures to reduce on-site carbon emissions will be accepted as allowable solutions.

III. The energy embodied in construction materials should be reduced through re-use and recycling , where possible, of existing materials and the use of sustainable materials and local sourcing.

### 22.4 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy

**22.4.1** There are a variety of opportunities for generating clean energy. The Hertfordshire Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Technical Study (July 2010) includes energy opportunity maps for East Hertfordshire, which may assist in the selection of appropriate carbon saving methods depending on the location of development proposals.

The Hertfordshire Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Technical Study (July 2010) can be viewed and downloaded from the Hertfordshire County Council Website at:

[www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase)

**22.4.2** At the same time as promoting renewable energy, the Council is also mindful of the need to ensure that an appropriate balance is maintained between the benefits of renewable energy and other constraints and considerations in accordance with the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG).

**22.4.3** Taking account of this guidance, Policy CC3 takes a balanced approach, promoting renewable and low carbon energy where the impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated.

**22.4.4** The Council encourages proposals that embrace the use of renewable, zero and low-carbon technology. Where proposals are within or near the urban areas of settlements, applications should be supported by an air quality assessment, which details proposed mitigation measures where necessary.

#### Policy CC3 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy

I. The Council will permit new development of sources of renewable energy generation, including community led projects, subject to assessment of the impacts upon:

- (a) environmental and historic assets;
- (b) visual amenity and landscape character;
- (c) local transport networks;
- (d) the amenity of neighbouring residents and sensitive uses;
- (e) air quality and human health; and

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(f) the safe operation of aerodromes.

II. In considering the impact of renewable technologies, the Council will attach particular importance to maintaining the special countryside character of the rural area, including the preservation of long-distance views from public rights of way.



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Water



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### 23 Water

#### 23.1 Introduction

- 23.1.1** Flood risk, water quality, human consumption, waste water, and the environment are all linked through the natural process of water circulation through the air, on the surface of the earth, and in the ground, known as the water cycle. Development and the built environment have significant impacts on the operation of the water cycle, and the availability and quality of water for use.
- 23.1.2** Building Futures is a Hertfordshire guide to promoting sustainability in development. It includes a 'Water' module which sets out an approach to integrated water management (IWM) which takes account of the water cycle. IWM aims to ensure that the built environment is planned and designed to function in partnership with the natural water environment, so that they can both be sustainable. IWM has a number of sub-management processes, including minimising water consumption, using and reusing alternative sources of water, managing surface water drainage, and improving water quality.

Building Futures is an interactive website which can be accessed at: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/building-futures/building-futures.aspx](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/building-futures/building-futures.aspx)

#### 23.2 Flood Risk

- 23.2.1** Water is an essential resource, but it can also be a hazard. The susceptibility of land to flooding is a material planning consideration. The Council will resist any development which has the potential to contribute to any form of flooding, including sewer flooding, and has adverse impacts on river channel stability or damage to wildlife habitats. The following policies encourage an integrated water management approach to new development.
- 23.2.2** East Herts Council's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) contains maps showing flood risks from various sources, including river and surface water flood risk areas, and these represent a snapshot of flood risk at a given moment. The Environment Agency publishes regular mapping updates, and the latest evidence should be a material consideration in determination of planning applications.

The East Herts Strategic Flood Risk Assessment can be viewed on the Council's website at: [www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase)

- 23.2.3** In order to steer new development to areas with the lowest probability of flooding, the Sequential Test, and where necessary the Exception Test will be used. For development proposals of 1 hectare or greater, or on any site within Flood Zones



2, 3a or 3b, a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) should be submitted with the planning application. The Environment Agency's Standing Advice for applicants and their agents provides further explanation.

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For more information on the Environment Agency's Standing Advice go to:

[www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessment-for-planning-applications](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessment-for-planning-applications)

### Policy WAT1 Flood Risk Management

I. The functional floodplain will be protected from inappropriate development and where possible developed flood plain should be returned to Greenfield status with an enhanced level of biodiversity.

II. Development proposals should neither increase the likelihood or intensity of any form of flooding, nor increase the risk to people, property, crops or livestock from such events, both on site and to neighbouring land or further downstream.

III. Development should take into account the impacts of climate change and should build in long term resilience against increased water levels. Therefore, appropriate distances and buffers between water courses and built development should be maintained in accordance with Environment Agency guidelines.

IV. In order to steer new development to areas with the lowest probability of flooding, the Sequential Test will be used. In exceptional circumstances, if developments are proposed which are required to pass the NPPF Exceptions Test, they will need to address flood resilient design and emergency planning by demonstrating that:

- (a) The development will remain safe and operational under flood conditions;
- (b) A strategy of either safe evacuation and/or safely remaining in the building is followed under flood conditions;
- (c) Key services will continue to be provided under flood conditions; and
- (d) Buildings are designed for quick recovery following a flood.

## 23.3 Water Quality and the Water Environment

**23.3.1** The abstraction and discharge of water used in the built environment can have a detrimental impact on the quality of the local waters, which in turn can impact biodiversity and ecological processes affecting wildlife.

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- 23.3.2** East Herts Council will continue to work with the Environment Agency and other partners to address the objectives of the Water Framework Directive through the relevant actions identified in the Thames River Basin Management Plan and River Catchment Management Plans for individual watercourses across the District in order to continuously improve their water quality. Wherever possible, an undeveloped buffer strip, with no new structures, roads or pathways, should be left alongside all watercourses, to maximise the ecological benefits of waterways.

For more information and for the latest updates on the status of rivers in East Herts, see the Environment Agency's website at:

[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency)

- 23.3.3** To help prevent surface water contamination following heavy rainfall, effective drainage strategies will be required as part of an integrated water management strategy. Such strategies will encompass a range of measures addressed in policies in the District Plan, covering drainage, water infrastructure and water quality.
- 23.3.4** Source Protection Zones (SPZs) exist around abstraction points for potable (drinking) water. In Source Protection Zones (SPZs), development proposals for any of the uses identified in Policy WAT2 will be required to submit an assessment of potential impacts and any mitigation measures required.

### Policy WAT2 Source Protection Zones

In Source Protection Zones (SPZs), development proposals for any of the following uses will be required to submit an assessment of potential impacts and any mitigation measures required:

- incinerators
- waste transfer stations
- vehicle dismantlers
- metal recycling
- waste treatment facilities and all other non landfill waste management activities
- cemeteries
- discharge of foul sewage to ground
- cess pools
- waste sites and underground storage of hazardous substances (i.e. petrol stations)

- new trade effluent discharges or stores
- storage of manure, slurry, sewage sludge and other farm waste.

A map of Source Protection Zones is available on the Environment Agency's website at:

[maps.environment-agency.gov.uk](https://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk)

- 23.3.5** As well as providing essential water resources, the water environment, in particular the district's waterways, provide opportunities for recreation and transport, and are important wildlife habitats. The waterways provide green corridors which contribute to the physical character of the district.

### **Policy WAT3 Water Quality and the Water Environment**

- I. Development proposals will be required to preserve or enhance the water environment, ensuring improvements in surface water quality and the ecological value of watercourses and their margins and the protection of groundwater.
- II. Unless there is clear justification for not doing so, an undeveloped buffer strip at least 8 metres wide should be maintained alongside all main rivers, and an appropriate buffer strip should be maintained at ordinary watercourses. Any development proposals should include an appropriate management scheme for buffer strips.
- III. Opportunities for removal of culverts, river restoration and naturalisation should be considered as part of any development adjacent to a watercourse. Additional culverting and development of river corridors will be resisted.

## **23.4 Efficient Use of Water Resources**

- 23.4.1** East Hertfordshire lies within one of the most water-stressed areas of the East of England, which is itself one of the most water-stressed regions of the country. Abstraction for human consumption can impact on the water environment, for example contributing to low river levels. Installation of water efficient fixtures and fittings is a cost-effective way to reduce water consumption at new development. Dual-flush toilets and water butts for garden use are two examples, although there are many other simple and low-cost measures which are potentially available to developers.

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**23.4.2** Between 2007 and 2012 the average resident of East Herts consumed 160 litres/day. This compares with the national average of 150 litres/day over the same period. Projections for population growth in East Herts and the wider south-east will mean that over the plan period, new strategic water resources will be required.

**23.4.3** East Hertfordshire forms part of the water supply grid encompassing Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, and parts of Essex, managed by a number of water supply companies. Water supply is the subject of a national policy debate about the configuration of the water industry and consumer pricing, water metering, leakage reduction and many other issues in this nationally regulated industry. Water supply companies are required to demonstrate how they will meet these national standards in their Water Resources Management Plans, which are published every five years.

**23.4.4** East Herts will continue to explore the role that local policy can play in contributing to the ultimate goal of water neutrality. Cost-effective measures such as the requirement for water efficient fixtures and fittings at new development can make a significant contribution over the next twenty years. The Council will continue to work with partners to encourage the sustainable and responsible abstraction of water. These measures can have significant environmental benefits for the district's rivers. Assessments of residential water consumption should be submitted using the Government's Water Efficiency Calculator for New Dwellings or other appropriate method by prior agreement with the Council.

For more information on the Water Efficiency Calculator for New Dwellings go to:

[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

**23.4.5** Building Regulations require that water consumption in new dwellings should not exceed 125 litres per person per day. However, the Regulations allow for a lower standard of 110 litres per person per day to be implemented in water stressed areas. Given that the Environment Agency has identified this area as being particularly water stressed, it is considered appropriate to apply this standard.

### Policy WAT4 Efficient Use of Water Resources

Development must minimise the use of mains water by:

- (a) Incorporating water saving measures and equipment;
- (b) Incorporating the recycling of grey water and utilising natural filtration measures where possible;
- (c) Designing residential development so that mains water consumption will meet a target of 110 litres or less per head per day.

## 23.5 Sustainable Drainage

**23.5.1** Sustainable Urban Drainage systems (SUDS) mimic natural drainage from a site and enable rainwater to run back into natural systems, rather than the stormwater drainage network. SUDS also treat run-off water to remove pollutants. This can have multiple benefits:

1. increased recharge of groundwater and aquifers
2. reduced runoff into the sewer system (resulting in reduced energy and chemical costs of treatment)
3. improved groundwater quality via natural infiltration
4. reduced degradation of chalk stream habitats

**23.5.2** Depending on the type of drainage techniques used, there can be flood reduction benefits, pollution control benefits, and landscape and wildlife benefits. When selecting appropriate drainage techniques, it is important to try to maximise the number of benefits, and to prioritise the most sustainable approaches. These can be set out in the form of a hierarchy. The SUDS hierarchy contained within the Council's SFRA is shown below:

**Table 23.1 Sustainable Urban Drainage Hierarchy**

|                  | SUDs Technique  | Flood Reduction | Pollution Reduction | Landscape and Wildlife Benefit |
|------------------|---|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Most Sustainable |   |                 |                     |                                |
|                  | Living Roofs  | √               | √                   | √                              |
|                  | Basins and Ponds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constructed wetlands</li> <li>• Balancing ponds</li> <li>• Detention basins</li> <li>• Retention ponds</li> </ul> | √               | √                   | √                              |
|                  | Filter Strips and Swales  | √               | √                   | √                              |
|                  | Infiltration Devices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soakaways</li> <li>• Infiltration trenches and basins</li> </ul>  | √               | √                   | √                              |
|                  | Permeable Surfaces and Filter Drains  | √               | √                   |                                |

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| SUDs Technique  | Flood Reduction | Pollution Reduction | Landscape and Wildlife Benefit |
|---|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gravelled surfaces</li> <li>Solid paving blocks</li> <li>Porous paviers</li> </ul> |                 |                     |                                |
| Tanked Systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over-sized pipes/tanks</li> <li>Storm cells</li> </ul>              | √               |                     |                                |
| Least Sustainable   |                 |                     |                                |

**23.5.3** The sustainable drainage hierarchy is intended to ensure that all practical and reasonable measures are taken to manage surface water higher up in the hierarchy and that the amount of surface water managed at the bottom of the hierarchy is minimised. The hierarchy is also relevant to paving of front gardens, where the cumulative impact of impermeable paving on run-off rates may be considerable.

**23.5.4** There are many practical issues of design, installation and maintenance in the implementation of effective SUDS. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 requires upper tier authorities to set up a Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) Approving Body or 'SAB' to:

1. Evaluate and approve SUDS proposals for new development or redevelopment where construction work would have drainage implications, and
2. Adopt and maintain SUDS on schemes that meet the evaluation criteria set out in the National SUDS Standards.

**23.5.5** Drainage aspects of policy have become the responsibility of the County Council. However, East Herts still has an involvement in drainage management and the environmental and amenity aspects of drainage schemes. Hertfordshire County Council has produced a SUDs Design Guide For Hertfordshire (March 2015) which sets out the relevant requirements. It is possible that some developments (especially smaller sites) could be offered to East Herts District Council for adoption.

For more information on Hertfordshire County Council's approach as SUDs Approval Body go to:

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/envplan/water/floods/surfacewaterdrainage/](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/envplan/water/floods/surfacewaterdrainage/)

### Policy WAT5 Sustainable Drainage

I. Development must utilise the most sustainable forms of drainage systems in accordance with the SUDS hierarchy, unless there are practical engineering reasons for not doing so.

II. Development should aim to achieve Greenfield run-off rates and ensure that surface water run-off is managed as close to its source as possible.

III. Drainage should be designed and implemented in ways that deliver other policy objectives of this Plan, including water use efficiency and quality, biodiversity, amenity and recreation. The provision of balancing ponds as part of an area of public open space for recreation or wildlife should be designed to ensure the safety of other users of the space. Where SUDs are provided as part of a development, applicants should detail how it will be maintained in the long term.

IV. Where practicable, SUDS should be designed to ensure the sustainable drainage networks have the additional capacity required to cope with infrequent adverse weather conditions and therefore reduce flood risk.

## 23.6 Wastewater Infrastructure

**23.6.1** Effective wastewater infrastructure is fundamental to sustainable urban life and therefore investment and expansion are required. There are a number of Sewage Treatment Works (STWs) in the district, notably at Bishop's Stortford, Buntingford, and at Rye Meads in the far south of the district. Bishop's Stortford and Rye Meads STWs serve not only East Herts but also settlements within the catchment but outside the district.

**23.6.2** Like water supply, waste water treatment is a nationally regulated industry and water quality standards for treatment discharge are balanced with other regulatory issues including consumer water pricing through the water companies' Asset Management Plans, which are updated every five years.

**23.6.3** Rye Meads STW lies within a highly sensitive ecological environment, adjacent to a Site of Special Scientific Interest, Ramsar Site and Special Area of Conservation. East Herts Council will work with the waste water treatment company and other



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Local Planning Authorities in the Rye Meads catchment area, in accordance with the Duty to Co-operate, to ensure that adequate capacity can be found at Rye Meads, or that alternative waste water treatment options can be identified.

**23.6.4** East Herts Council will seek to ensure that there is adequate wastewater network infrastructure to serve all new developments. Developers will be required to demonstrate that there is adequate infrastructure capacity both on and off the site to serve the development and that it would not lead to adverse amenity impacts for existing or future users. In some circumstances this may make it necessary for developers to carry out appropriate appraisals and reports to ascertain whether the proposed development will lead to overloading of existing water and wastewater infrastructure. Where there is a capacity constraint and no improvements are programmed by the waste water treatment company, East Herts will require the developer to provide appropriate improvements that must be completed prior to occupation of the development. Unless special circumstances apply, this requirement is unlikely to apply to minor and household development.

**23.6.5** East Herts Council will work with Stansted Airport, the waste water treatment company, and the Environment Agency to ensure that any fuel discharges from the airport are safely treated and do not compromise the quality of the District's water courses or groundwater.

### Policy WAT6 Wastewater Infrastructure

I. Development proposals must ensure that adequate wastewater infrastructure capacity is available in advance of the occupation of development.

II. Upgrade and expansion of existing, or provision of new, waste water treatment infrastructure will be supported provided that:

- (a) It utilises best available techniques, and provided that
- (b) It does not have an adverse effect on the integrity of Special Protection Areas, Ramsar Sites and Special Areas of Conservation either alone or in combination with other projects and plans, and
- (c) A strategy to meet relevant national and European environmental standards can be demonstrated.





## 24 Environmental Quality

## 24 . Environmental Quality

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### 24 Environmental Quality

#### 24.1 Introduction

- 24.1.1** The control of pollution is critical to achieving the District Plan's strategic objectives by promoting healthy lifestyles and an enhanced quality of life for residents and visitors to the district. Pollution control through development also plays a significant role in planning for climate change and working in harmony with the environment to conserve natural resources and increase biodiversity.
- 24.1.2** Proposals for all types of development must therefore take into account nearby land uses to ensure that the right development is located in the right place across the district, in order to safeguard the quality of the environment. Policies relating to water quality and water pollution are contained within Chapter 23: Water.

#### 24.2 Contaminated Land and Land Instability

- 24.2.1** Land may be contaminated and/or unstable for a number of reasons, such as previous commercial use or use as a landfill site. Such land can be re-used for new purposes but special remedial measures may be needed to reduce hazards arising from the previous use, and new buildings may need to be specially designed. Developers are responsible for ensuring that unacceptable risks from contamination and land instability are not present on site. If necessary, any risks will be successfully addressed through the remediation of contaminated land without undue environmental impact during and following the development.
- 24.2.2** When considering proposals for development, regard will be given to the Council's most recent Contaminated Land Strategy.

For more information on the Council's Contaminated Land Strategy go to:

[www.eastherts.gov.uk/envhealth](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/envhealth)

#### Policy EQ1 Contaminated Land and Land Instability

- I. The District Council will encourage the remediation of contaminated land to ensure that land is brought back into use, subject to the requirements of this policy.
- II. The Council will require evidence, as part of any application, to show that unacceptable risks from contamination and land instability will be successfully addressed through remediation without undue environmental impact during and following the development. In particular, the developer shall carry out an adequate investigation to inform a risk assessment.

III. Where necessary, appropriate monitoring procedures to be undertaken prior, during and post remediation will be agreed with the developer/applicant. This should be set out in a verification report.

### 24.3 Noise Pollution

- 24.3.1** The impact of noise on the environment can be detrimental to health and quality of life. There is therefore a need to control the introduction of noise sources into the environment, as well as ensuring that new noise sensitive development is located away from existing sources of significant noise.
- 24.3.2** One of the most common causes of noise pollution is from traffic noise. In East Herts the proximity of both Luton and Stansted Airports to the district has a specific impact which needs to be taken into account when development proposals are considered. The M11 and the A120 are the main roads serving Stansted Airport. Any increase in activity associated with the airport will subsequently increase the level of traffic on surrounding roads, exacerbating the potential for noise pollution.
- 24.3.3** Noise can also affect the tranquillity of an area. Tranquillity is a key characteristic of the natural environment. Tranquil spaces, often located within the more rural parts of the district, play a multi-functional role as part of the district's green infrastructure network. They attract visitors, improve health and wellbeing by offering a place to relax and exercise, provide a haven for wildlife and improve biodiversity and enhance the character and identity of a place. These areas will be protected from noise pollution to ensure that areas defined by their tranquillity are protected from development that generates noise.
- 24.3.4** Where new noise generating development such as industrial and commercial and outdoor sport and recreation uses are proposed, it is expected that they will be located at an appropriate distance away from noise sensitive development i.e. residential areas, schools and hospitals.
- 24.3.5** The Council is preparing a Noise Assessment Planning Guidance Document to provide advice for applicants of noise generating and noise sensitive developments. It will also set out criteria for the preparation of such assessments as part of the application process.

The Council's (emerging) Noise Assessment Planning Guidance Document can be found on the Council's Website at [www.eastherts.gov.uk/envhealth](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/envhealth)

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### Policy EQ2 Noise Pollution

- I. Development should be designed and operated in a way that minimises the direct and cumulative impact of noise on the surrounding environment. Particular consideration should be given to the proximity of noise sensitive uses, and in particular, the potential impact of development on human health.
- II. Applications should be supported by a Noise Assessment in line with the Council's Noise Assessment Planning Guidance Document.
- III. Noise sensitive development should be located away from existing noise generating sources or programmed developments where possible to prevent prejudicing the continued existing operations. The use of design, layout, landscaping tools and construction methods should be employed to reduce the impact of surrounding noise sources.

### 24.4 Light Pollution

- 24.4.1** Light pollution can cause sleep disturbance and annoyance and is caused by the brightening of the night sky over inhabited areas and excessive brightness from light causing high levels of glare. Dark night skies are important for health and wellbeing, and for the conservation of natural habitats and the behaviour of nocturnal animals and birds.
- 24.4.2** In addition to impacting upon human health and natural habitats, light pollution is a sign of wasted energy from excessive lighting. Lighting at night in commercial areas is often used for security and to increase visual prominence. Lighting schemes must therefore be designed carefully as part of the overall development proposal to prevent light spillage and glare and to represent the minimum necessary for commercial and security purposes. Schemes will be considered against the latest national guidance and lighting standards including the 'Guidance Notes for the Reduction of Obtrusive Light (2011)'.

Guidance Notes for the Reduction of Obtrusive Light (2011) can be accessed on the website of the Institution of Lighting Professionals here:

[www.theilp.org.uk/documents/obtrusive-light/](http://www.theilp.org.uk/documents/obtrusive-light/)

### Policy EQ3 Light Pollution

- I. External lighting schemes must:

- (a) Not have an unacceptable adverse impact on neighbouring uses or the wider landscape;
- (b) Be the minimum required for security and operational purposes;
- (c) Minimise the potential glare and spillage;
- (d) Minimise harm to the amenity of residents and road users and prevent impacts on the local ecology.

II. Where appropriate, the District Council will seek to control the times of illumination.

### 24.5 Air Quality

- 24.5.1** Clean air is critical to health and wellbeing and quality of life and is also crucial to support habitats and biodiversity. The nature of the district, with its dispersed towns, villages and hamlets with poor inter-connectivity by passenger transport, relative affluence and mobility, high car-ownership and close proximity to London and larger towns and cities, all contribute to higher levels of greenhouse gas emissions per person than neighbouring districts.
- 24.5.2** The historic nature and organic growth of the district's principle towns of Bishop's Stortford, Hertford and Ware have in themselves led to inefficient road and transport networks and where these issues coincide with limited connections to major roads, congestion is inevitable. Such congestion can result in high levels of localised pollutants which can cause problems for those with respiratory conditions.
- 24.5.3** Bishop's Stortford in particular suffers from this issue; the combination of the historic road network combined with its proximity to Stansted Airport means that the town centre frequently suffers from congestion and the resultant poor air quality. As such an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) has been established in the town centre (at Hockerill Lights) to monitor levels of pollutants. There is also an AQMA in Hertford (at the Mill Road/A414 roundabout), and in London Road, Sawbridgeworth. These monitoring sites are supported by action plans to improve air quality in these locations. The Council also produces regular update and screening assessments and progress reports for the whole district and regular assessments on each AQMA. The Council also has an Air Quality Action Plan which sets out how the Council will work with partner organisations and residents to contribute towards improving air quality across the District.

More information on Air Quality Management Areas and the Council's Air Quality Action Plan can be found on the Council's Website at [www.eastherts.gov.uk/envhealth](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/envhealth)

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- 24.5.4** The Council has prepared an Air Quality Planning Guidance Document which defines the Council's expectations of developers to ensure a consistent approach and sets criteria for when an Air Pollution Assessment is required and a range of mitigation options. In some cases it may be necessary to place conditions where permission is granted in order to ensure mitigation is delivered. It is intended that the Air Quality Planning Guidance will be adopted by the Council as a Supplementary Planning Document.

The Council's Air Quality Planning Guidance Document can be found on the Council's Website at: [www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase)

- 24.5.5** New vehicle technology, such as hybrid and electric engines, has significant potential to improve air quality by reducing the use of traditional fuel vehicles, which are a main source of pollutants. New technology takes time to establish and the lack of electric charging points is cited as one of the main deterrents for individuals considering switching to such vehicles. While some developers may argue that there is currently insufficient demand to justify the installation of charging points, a shift to this type of technology will only be achievable if charging points are in place to offer choice to users at locations of both journey origin and destination. So, while initial users of developments may drive traditional petrol/diesel vehicles, as older vehicles reach the end of their lifespan there will be the opportunity for a greater numbers of hybrid and electric vehicles to replace them if sufficient access to charging points is in place and available. It is therefore considered that, as the increased availability of charging points will of itself be likely to generate its own demand, all major developments should incorporate sufficient numbers of electric vehicle charging points.

- 24.5.6** In order to minimise the environmental impact of buses on local air quality, and in light of the district having declared AQMAs in three of its five towns, it is considered important that where major developments involve the introduction of new bus routes or significant changes to existing routes, low emission vehicles should be provided to help mitigate the effects of the generated trips.

- 24.5.7** In line with Policy DES4 (Design of Development), the Council will expect proposals to embrace renewable, zero and low-carbon technology to fulfil some, if not all, of the expected energy use of the proposed development. Where proposals are within or near the urban areas of settlements, applications should be supported by an air quality assessment, which details proposed mitigation measures where necessary.

### Policy EQ4 Air Quality

I. The effect of development upon air quality is a material consideration. All applications should take account of the Council's Air Quality Planning Guidance Document, which details when an air quality assessment is required.

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II. All development should take account of the Council's latest Air Quality Action Plan, local Air Quality Strategies, Local Transport Plans, as well as national air quality guidance.

III. All developments should include measures to minimise air quality impact at the design stage and should incorporate best practice in the design, construction and operation of all developments.

IV. Where development (on its own or cumulatively) will have a negative impact on local air quality during either construction or operation, mitigation measures will be sought that will remove overriding impacts, such as an air quality neutral or negative development. Evidence of mitigation measures will be required upfront.

V. Where on-site mitigation is not sufficient, appropriate off-site mitigation measures may be required. Where adequate mitigation cannot be provided, development will not normally be permitted.

VI. Developments must not:

- lead to a breach or worsening of a breach of UK or EU limit values;
- lead to a breach or worsening of a breach of an Air Quality objective or cause the declaration of an Air Quality Management Area or;
- prejudice the implementation of any Air Quality Action Plan or local air quality strategy.

### 24.6 Waste and Recycling

**24.6.1** The Hertfordshire Waste Local Plan is prepared by Hertfordshire County Council. It details policies involving the management of refuse or waste materials other than mineral waste. The Plan contains a hierarchy of disposal, focusing on encouraging waste minimisation, re-use, recycling and the use of waste as fuel. As such, it considers the disposal of waste by landfill as a last resort and endorses the proximity principle; whereby waste should be dealt with as near to the source as possible.

**24.6.2** The Hertfordshire Waste Local Plan forms part of the Development Plan for East Herts. As such, applications will be determined having regard to the Waste Local Plan.

### 24.7 Minerals

**24.7.1** The Minerals Local Plan is prepared by Hertfordshire County Council. It sets out how proposals for the extraction and working of minerals are managed. There is a need to ensure that potential and known mineral reserves are safeguarded from development which may 'sterilise' or prejudice the opportunity to extract them now or in the future. Where a proposed development has the potential to affect mineral

## 24 . Environmental Quality

reserves, appropriate consultation with the County Council must take place. As such, the Minerals Local Plan defines areas known as Minerals Safeguarding Areas and Consultation Areas.

**24.7.2** The Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan forms part of the Development Plan for East Herts. As such, applications will be determined having regard to the Minerals Local Plan.





# 25 Delivery and Monitoring

## 25 . Delivery and Monitoring

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### 25 Delivery and Monitoring

#### 25.1 Introduction

- 25.1.1** Implementation of the objectives and policies in the District Plan relies on the provision of a wide range of infrastructure and services, the majority of which are not provided by the District Council. Successful implementation of the District Plan will therefore require the Council as local planning authority to take on the role of co-ordinator or facilitator, rather than a direct provider of infrastructure and services in most cases.

#### 25.2 Infrastructure and Service Delivery

- 25.2.1** In order to guide the timely provision of infrastructure and services, and to provide evidence for the need for corrective action where necessary, an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) has been prepared. The IDP identifies both those facilities that are needed district wide and those that are needed to support particular strategic development.
- 25.2.2** The IDP will be updated as part of the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) in cooperation with delivery partners.
- 25.2.3** New development has the potential, individually and/or cumulatively to cause significant strain on existing infrastructure or services. All new development proposals will need to take account of these wider impacts on existing communities. In some cases proposals will impact upon strategic infrastructure, for example Rye Meads Sewerage Treatment works, secondary schools, or the strategic highways network. Development can also lead to off-site impacts within the locality, for example on the local road network or open space provision in existing residential or other areas. Where proposals cannot demonstrate the deliverability of supporting infrastructure, they will be refused.
- 25.2.4** Where monitoring undertaken through the IDP demonstrates that any key infrastructure scheme/s (including, for example, a bypass for Hertford or second Stort crossing related to development in the Gilston Area) would not be delivered in a timely manner, this will trigger the need for the consideration of alternative infrastructure provision to facilitate delivery of development, or a review or partial review of the District Plan in accordance with Policy DEL1.

#### Policy DEL1 Infrastructure and Service Delivery

I. The District Council will work in partnership with providers of infrastructure and services to facilitate the timely provision of infrastructure necessary to support sustainable development. In support of this work the Council will:

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(a) Maintain an up-to date Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) to identify the timing, type and number of infrastructure projects required to support the objectives and policies of the strategy as well as the main funding mechanisms and lead agencies responsible for their delivery;

(b) Use the District Plan and IDP to bid for funding necessary to support development, working in partnership with the Local Economic Partnership (LEP), Hertfordshire Infrastructure Planning Partnership (HIPP), the Local Transport Body (LTB), the Local Nature Partnership (LNP), and other bodies as appropriate;

(c) Monitor capacity in infrastructure and services through annual updates of the IDP and future infrastructure needs assessments;

(d) Consider alternative infrastructure provision, or a review or partial review of the District Plan if evidence in the IDP indicates a changed outlook for the realistic prospects for delivery of infrastructure to support development.

II. For individual development proposals, developers will be required to:

(a) Demonstrate, at the planning application stage, that adequate infrastructure capacity can be provided both on and off site to enable the delivery of sustainable development within the site, the locality and the wider area, as appropriate. Where proposals cannot demonstrate the deliverability of supporting infrastructure, they will be refused;

(b) Ensure that development is phased to coincide with the delivery of additional infrastructure or service capacity as set out in the IDP;

(c) Ensure that infrastructure assets and services are delivered to adoptable standards. Suitable long-term management arrangements must be put in place with a view to secure adoption by the appropriate authority in the longer term.

### 25.3 Developer Contributions

**25.3.1** Planning Obligations will be sought under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act in order to secure financial contributions towards the provision of infrastructure and services to support development. Planning obligations will only be sought where they are necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms, directly related to the development, and fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development. Planning obligations are particularly helpful on large development schemes where there are complex infrastructure needs.

**25.3.2** The District Council will monitor and challenge where appropriate, the financial viability of the cumulative planning costs on development. A level of contributions will be sought which does not jeopardise the implementation of the District Plan.

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**25.3.3** In addition, the District Council will also give consideration to introducing a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in order to support the provision of future infrastructure schemes.

### Policy DEL2 Planning Obligations

I. The Council will seek a range of planning obligations. Planning obligations will only be sought where they are necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms, directly related to the development, and fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.

II. The provision of infrastructure referred to in I. above, includes, but is not limited to: affordable housing, open space and recreation facilities, community, education and health facilities, sustainable transport modes, highway improvements, nature conservation, landscape and landscaping improvements, low carbon and decentralised energy, flood mitigation and sustainable construction.

## 25.4 Monitoring

**25.4.1** Regular monitoring of actual development outcomes against the plan is an essential part of ensuring that the plan is effective. Monitoring can indicate areas where interventions may be needed to achieve the objectives of the plan, and may also demonstrate the need for a review or partial review of the plan. The indicators contained within Policies DEL3 (Monitoring Framework) and DEL4 (Monitoring of the Gilston Area) will be monitored on an annual basis through the Authority Monitoring Report, alongside a range of other contextual indicators.

### Policy DEL3 Monitoring Framework

I. The NPPF requires plans to be flexible and responsive to change. If delivery of housing in any given monitoring year falls below 110% of the annual requirement, the Council will consider implementing all or some of the following measures to bring forward development:

- Working with developers and infrastructure providers to remove obstacles to the delivery of sites;
- Seeking alternative sources of funding if problems with infrastructure provision is delaying development of key strategic sites;
- Consideration of the potential to increase density on allocated sites;

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- Consideration of the ability to deliver strategic sites earlier in the Plan period; and
- Working with other authorities under the Duty to Co-operate to address any unmet needs.

II. Where total delivery of housing is less than 75% of the annual requirement for three consecutive monitoring years, this will trigger the need for the consideration of a review or partial review of the District Plan.

III. The target for Affordable Housing is calculated annually based on average completions over the preceding three-year period. Where delivery is less than 75% of the annual target for three consecutive monitoring years, the Council will consider all or some of the following measures:

- Consideration of the potential to increase density on allocated sites;
- Consideration of the ability to deliver strategic sites earlier in the Plan period; and
- Working with other authorities under the Duty to Co-operate to address any unmet needs.

IV. Where delivery of pitches and plots to meet currently identified accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople does not accord with the provisions of HOU9 (Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople), the Council will work with site owners and developers to expedite delivery and ensure that need is met in the specified locations.

**25.4.2** Given the size and complexity of the Gilston Area development, and the fact that it is expected to make a significant contribution towards housing needs within the Plan period, it is considered important to closely monitor its implementation on an annual basis in accordance with Policy DEL4 (Monitoring of the Gilston Area).

### Policy DEL4 Monitoring of the Gilston Area

I. In order to ensure timely delivery of the Gilston Area, the Council will draw up an action plan setting out key milestones for the delivery of the site, including masterplanning, phasing of infrastructure and submission of planning applications, and monitor its progress on an annual basis.

II. The annual rate of housing completions at the Gilston Area will be considered as part of District wide monitoring, in accordance with the provisions of Policy DEL3 (Monitoring Framework).

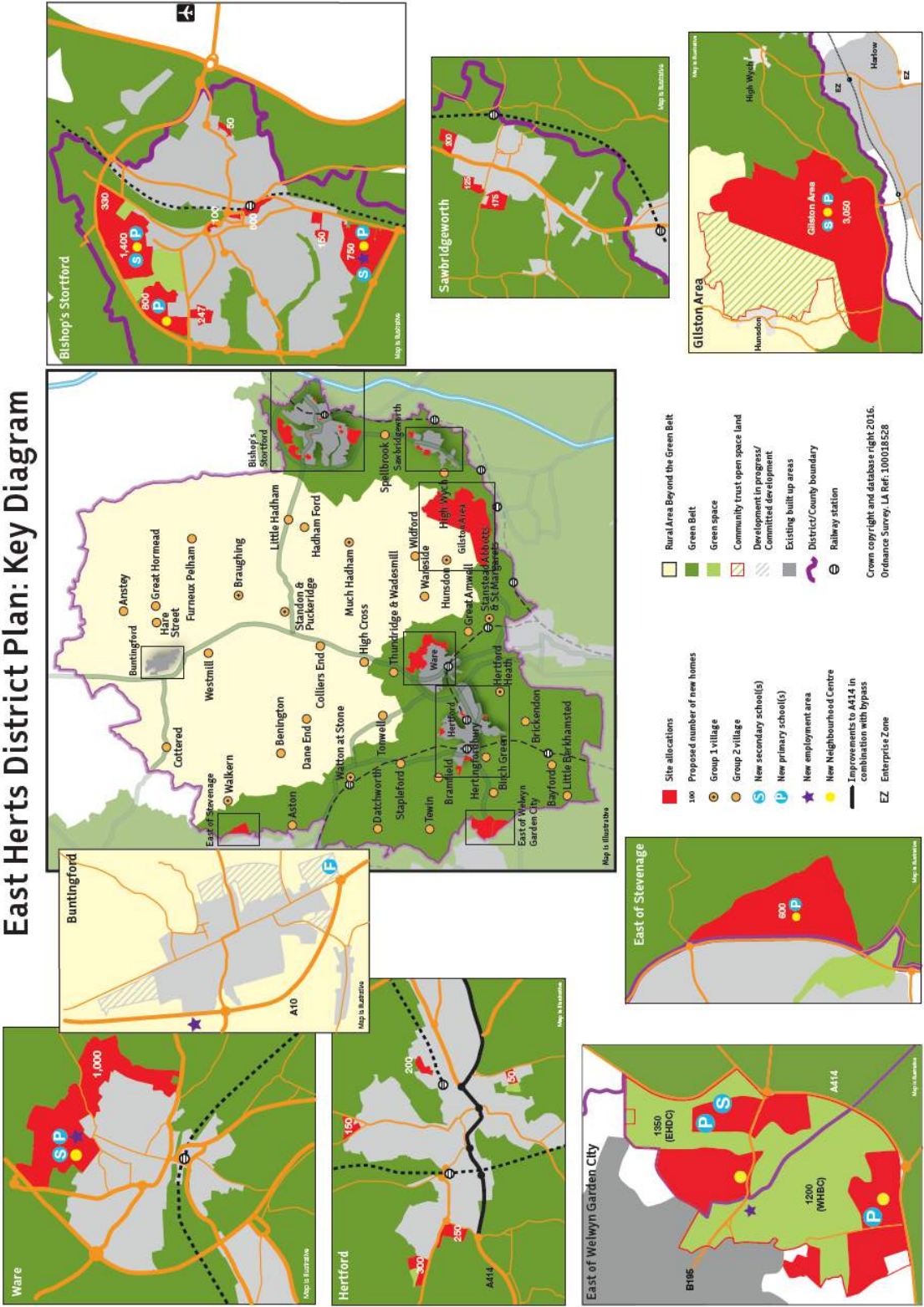
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# Appendix A Key Diagram



Appendix A Key Diagram







# Appendix B

## Strategy Worksheet

## Appendix B Strategy Worksheet

|                   |  | 2011-2017 | 2017-2022 | 2022-2027 | 2027-2033 | 2011-2033 |
|-------------------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Other             | Windfall Allowance - Small Sites and Conversions | 0         | 300       | 375       | 450       | 1,125     |
| Other             | Completions - as at 31/03/2016                   | 3,244     | 0         | 0         | 0         | 3,244     |
| Other             | Commitments - as at 31/03/2016                   | 0         | 3,680     | 1,221     | 0         | 4,901     |
| Other             | Villages   | 0         | 391       | 109       | 0         | 500       |
| SLAA              | SLAA Sites - large sites over 10 dwellings       | 0         | 43        | 0         | 0         | 43        |
| Allocation: BISH7 | The Goods Yard, Bishop's Stortford               | 0         | 480       | 120       | 0         | 600       |
| Allocation: BISH8 | The Causeway/Old River Lane, Bishop's Stortford  | 0         | 0         | 100       | 0         | 100       |
| Allocation: BISH6 | Bishop's Stortford High School Site, London Road | 0         | 0         | 150       | 0         | 150       |
| Allocation: BISH5 | Bishop's Stortford South                         | 0         | 200       | 500       | 50        | 750       |
| Allocation: BISH9 | East of Manor Links                              | 0         | 50        | 0         | 0         | 50        |
| Allocation: HERT2 | Mead Lane Area, Hertford                         | 0         | 50        | 150       | 0         | 200       |
| Allocation: HERT4 | North of Hertford                                | 0         | 50        | 100       | 0         | 150       |
| Allocation: HERT5 | South of Hertford                                | 0         | 50        | 0         | 0         | 50        |
| Allocation: HERT3 | West of Hertford                                 | 0         | 415       | 135       | 0         | 550       |
| Allocation: SAWB2 | Land to the North of West Road, Sawbridgeworth   | 0         | 125       | 0         | 0         | 125       |
| Allocation: SAWB3 | Land to the South of West Road, Sawbridgeworth   | 0         | 175       | 0         | 0         | 175       |
| Allocation: SAWB4 | Land to the North of Sawbridgeworth              | 0         | 200       | 0         | 0         | 200       |
| Allocation: EOS1  | East of Stevenage                                | 0         | 500       | 100       | 0         | 600       |
| Allocation: WARE2 | Land North and East of Ware                      | 0         | 100       | 800       | 100       | 1,000     |
| Allocation: GA1   | The Gilston Area                                 | 0         | 0         | 1,250     | 1,800     | 3,050     |

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|                    |  |              |              |              |              |               |
|--------------------|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Allocation: EWEL 1 | Land East of Welwyn Garden City                            | 0            | 220          | 530          | 600          | 1,350         |
|                    | <b>TOTAL SUPPLY</b>  | <b>3,244</b> | <b>7,029</b> | <b>5,640</b> | <b>3,000</b> | <b>18,913</b> |
|                    | Objectively Assessed Housing Need (839 dwellings per year) | <b>5,034</b> | <b>4,195</b> | <b>4,195</b> | <b>5,034</b> | <b>18,458</b> |
|                    | Shortfall addressed over 10 years                          |              | <b>895</b>   | <b>895</b>   | <b>0</b>     |               |
|                    | OAHN plus shortfall  |              | <b>5,090</b> | <b>5,090</b> | <b>5,034</b> |               |
|                    | 20% buffer moved forward from 2022-2033 to 2017-2022       |              | <b>1,018</b> | <b>-509</b>  | <b>-509</b>  |               |
|                    | <b>TOTAL REQUIREMENT</b>                                   |              | <b>6,108</b> | <b>4,581</b> | <b>4,525</b> |               |

Appendix B . Strategy Worksheet



## Appendix C

# Glossary (NPPF 2012)

## Appendix C . Glossary (NPPF 2012)

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### Appendix C Glossary (NPPF 2012)

| Term   | Definition   |
|--|--|
| Accessible Natural Greenspace (ANG)            | <p>Natural England's 'Nature Nearby: Accessible Natural Greenspace, March 2010' includes the following definitions:</p> <p>Accessible greenspace – places that are available for the general public to use free of charge and without time restrictions (although some sites may be closed to the public overnight and there may be fees for parking a vehicle). The places are available to all, meaning that every reasonable effort is made to comply with the requirements under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA 1995). An accessible place will also be known to the target users, including potential users who live within the site catchment area.</p> <p>Natural greenspace – Places where human control and activities are not intensive so that a feeling of naturalness is allowed to predominate. Natural and semi-natural greenspace exists as a distinct typology but also as discrete areas within the majority of other greenspace typologies.</p> |
| Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) | <p>ANGSt recommends that everyone, wherever they live, should have an accessible natural greenspace:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from home;</li><li>• at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home;</li><li>• one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and</li><li>• one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home; plus</li><li>• a minimum of one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.</li></ul>   |
| Affordable Housing                             | <p>Social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing, provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices. Affordable housing should include provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision.</p> <p>Social rented: housing is owned by local authorities and private registered providers (as defined in section 80 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008), for which guideline target rents are determined through the national rent regime. It may also be owned</p>  |

## Appendix C . Glossary (NPPF 2012)

| Term                                | Definition  |
|-------------------------------------|---|
|                                     | <p>by other persons and provided under equivalent rental arrangements to the above, as agreed with the local authority or with the Homes and Communities Agency.</p> <p>Affordable rented: housing is let by local authorities or private registered providers of social housing to households who are eligible for social rented housing. Affordable Rent is subject to rent controls that require a rent of no more than 80% of the local market rent (including service charges, where applicable).</p> <p>Intermediate housing: homes for sale and rent provided at a cost above social rent, but below market levels subject to the criteria in the Affordable Housing definition above. These can include shared equity (shared ownership and equity loans), other low cost homes for sale and intermediate rent, but not affordable rented housing.</p> <p>Starter Homes: new homes only available for purchase by qualifying first-time buyers. Such homes will be made available for sale at a price which is at least 20% less than its market value, subject to a maximum price cap of £250,000.</p> <p>Homes that do not meet the above definition of affordable housing, such as “low cost market” housing, may not be considered as affordable housing for planning purposes.</p> |
| Aged or Veteran Tree                | A tree which, because of its great age, size or condition is of exceptional value for wildlife, in the landscape, or culturally.  |
| Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) | Areas designated by local authorities because they are not likely to achieve national air quality objectives by the relevant deadlines.   |
| Allocated Sites                     | To deliver the development strategy and meet its housing requirement, for example, the Council allocates land for particular types of land use, such as housing, as part of its planned approach to managing development and shaping the future of the district's towns and villages. Infrastructure providers can then take the planned growth of a settlement into account when delivering their services to ensure that the necessary infrastructure is in place to support growth.  |
| Ancient Woodland                    | An area that has been wooded continuously since at least 1600 AD.   |
| Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)   | The annual monitoring report assesses the implementation of the Local Development Scheme (LDS) and the extent to which policies in the Development Plan are being successfully implemented.   |

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## Appendix C . Glossary (NPPF 2012)

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| Term                                      | Definition  |
|---|---|
| Appropriate Assessment (AA)               | An assessment which identifies any aspect/s of an emerging Plan that would have the potential to have a significant effect on designated wildlife sites (i.e. SACs, SPAs, Ramsar Sites) in light of the Habitats Regulations.<br><br>(See also Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA))   |
| Archaeological Interest                   | There will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially may hold, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point. Heritage assets with archaeological interest are the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places, and of the people and cultures that made them. |
| Article 4 Direction                       | A direction which withdraws automatic planning permission granted by the General Permitted Development Order (see also Permitted Development Rights).   |
| Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land | Land in grades 1, 2 and 3a of the Agricultural Land Classification.   |
| Biodiversity                              | The whole variety of life encompassing all genetics, species and ecosystem variations, including plants and animals.  |
| Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)            | A strategy prepared for a local area aimed at conserving and enhancing biological diversity. East Herts is included within the Hertfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan.  |
| Brownfield Land or Site                   | Previously developed land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land and any associated fixed surface infrastructure. See also 'Previously Developed Land'.   |
| Call for Sites                            | Technical work which seeks suggestions from landowners, developers, and other interested parties for all types of potential future development and land-use, including housing, employment, retail, leisure, community and other uses.  |
| Carbon Emissions                          | See Greenhouse Gases.   |
| Character                                 | A term relating to Conservation Areas or Listed Buildings, but also to the appearance of any rural or urban location in terms of its landscape or the layout of streets and open spaces, often giving places their own distinct identity.   |



## Appendix C . Glossary (NPPF 2012)

| Term  | Definition   |
|---|--|
| Climate Change  | Long-term changes in temperature, precipitation, wind and all other aspects of the Earth's climate. Often regarded as a result of human activity and fossil fuel consumption.  |
| Climate Change Adaptation   | Adjustments to natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic factors or their effects, including from changes in rainfall and rising temperatures, which moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities.  |
| Climate Change Mitigation   | This involves taking action to reduce the impact of human activity on the climate system, primarily through reducing greenhouse gas emissions.   |
| Clusters (a term used in economic regeneration)                           | A group of businesses or organisations which, due to the goods they produce and/or services they provide, have common customers, technology or use similar specialist skills. They group together in order to enhance the overall competitive advantage of individual companies. For East Herts and Hertfordshire, life science industries and film and television industries comprise two such economic clusters. |
| Coalescence   | The merging or coming together of separate towns or villages to form a single entity.  |
| Co-operation for Sustainable Development Board (Co-op Board)              | The Co-op Board was established in 2014 to provide a forum for the discussion of cross boundary issues and the commissioning and management of joint studies.  |
| Community Infrastructure Levy   | A levy allowing local authorities to raise funds from owners or developers of land undertaking new building projects in their area.  |
| Community Right to Build Order  | An Order made by the local planning authority (under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) that grants planning permission for a site-specific development proposal or classes of development.   |
| Competent Person (in terms of site investigation information preparation) | A person with a recognised relevant qualification; sufficient experience in dealing with the type(s) of pollution or land instability; and membership of a relevant professional organisation.   |
| Conformity  | Requirement of Local Plans to be in general conformity/agreement with the policies of the National Planning Policy Framework.  |

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## Appendix C . Glossary (NPPF 2012)

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| Term                               | Definition   |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Conservation (for heritage policy) | The process of maintaining and managing change to a heritage asset in a way that sustains and, where appropriate, enhances its significance.   |
| Conservation Area                  | Areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.  |
| County Council                     | The local authority that is responsible for waste and minerals planning functions in non-unitary, and non-national park, local authority areas. The County Council is also responsible for determining some other types of application and advising on strategic planning issues that are likely to have an impact across the whole county or its sub-regions e.g. transport and education.  |
| Demography                         | Demography is the study of the size, growth, and age and geographical distribution of human populations, and births, deaths, marriages, and migrations.  |
| Density                            | <p>Density is a calculation of the number of houses that may be built on a particular piece of land. It is usually expressed as the number of dwellings per hectare (dph).</p> <p>Net density includes those sites which will be developed including directly associated uses, such as access roads within the site, private garden space, car parking areas, incidental open space, landscaping and children's play areas, where they are provided.</p> <p>Gross density includes large-scale open space, roads, schools, hospitals, and other major supporting infrastructure.</p> |
| Designated Heritage Asset          | A World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area designated under the relevant legislation.   |
| Development                        | Development is defined under the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act as "the carrying out of building, engineering, mining or other operation in, on, over or under land, or the making of any material change in the use of any building or other land." Most forms of development require planning permission (see also 'Permitted Development').   |
| Development Plan                   | This includes adopted Local Plans, Neighbourhood Plans and the London Plan, and is defined in section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.   |

## Appendix C . Glossary (NPPF 2012)

| Term                            | Definition  |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Duty to Co-Operate              | The duty to cooperate was created in the Localism Act 2011. It places a legal duty on local planning authorities, county councils in England and public bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of Local Plan preparation relating to strategic cross boundary matters. Local planning authorities must demonstrate how they have complied with the duty at the independent examination of their Local Plans. |
| Ecological Networks             | These link sites of biodiversity importance.  |
| Economic Development            | Development, including those within the B Use Classes, public and community uses and main town centre uses (but excluding housing development).   |
| Edge of Centre                  | For retail purposes, a location that is well connected and up to 300 metres of the primary shopping area. For all other main town centre uses, a location within 300 metres of a town centre boundary. For office development, this includes locations outside the town centre but within 500 metres of a public transport interchange. In determining whether a site falls within the definition of edge of centre, account should be taken of local circumstances.  |
| Employment Land                 | Land reserved for industry, comprising Use Classes B1 (Business), B2 (General Industrial) and B8 (Storage and Distribution). Such land tends to be located in urban areas or close to transport networks, often containing a cluster of similar business activities.  |
| Engineering Operations          | The statutory definition of development within Section 55 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, includes engineering and other operations (e.g. Groundworks), and the making of any material change in the use of land. The carrying out of such operations and the making of material changes in the use of land are inappropriate development unless they maintain openness and do not conflict with the purposes of including land in the Green Belt.         |
| Evidence Base                   | The evidence that any Development Plan Document is based on consisting of technical data and studies; the views of relevant stakeholders; and other background facts about the area, as appropriate.  |
| Environmental Impact Assessment | A procedure to be followed for certain types of project to ensure that decisions are made in full knowledge of any likely significant effects on the environment.   |
| European Site                   | This includes candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance, Special Areas of Conservation and Special   |

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## Appendix C . Glossary (NPPF 2012)

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| Term                                   | Definition  |
|--|---|
|  | Protection Areas, and is defined in regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.  |
| Flood Plain                            | Generally low-lying areas adjacent to a watercourse, tidal lengths of a river or the sea, where water flows in times of flood or would flow but for the presence of flood defences.   |
| Functional Economic Market Area (FEMA) | A FEMA is an area over which a local economy and its key markets operate.   |
| Green Belt                             | <p>The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence. Green Belt serves five purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;</li> <li>• to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another;</li> <li>• to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;</li> <li>• to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and</li> <li>• to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.</li> </ul> |
| Green Infrastructure                   | Green Infrastructure is a strategic network of multi-functional green space, both new and existing, rural and urban, which supports natural and ecological processes and is integral to the health and quality of life in sustainable communities. It provides habitats for and aids migration of wildlife, flood water storage, urban cooling and local access to shady outdoor space as well as creating attractive spaces for recreation.  |
| Green Wedges                           | Green wedges comprise the open areas around and between parts of settlements, which maintain the distinction between the countryside and built up areas, prevent the coalescence (merging) of adjacent places and can also provide recreational opportunities.  |
| Greenfield Land or Site                | Land (or a defined site) usually farmland, that has not previously been developed.  |
| Greenhouse Gases                       | Naturally occurring examples include water vapour, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and ozone. Some human activities increase these gases, including fossil fuel combustion within motor vehicles and some power stations.  |
| Group 1, 2 or 3 Village                | The District Plan identifies three types of village:  |

## Appendix C . Glossary (NPPF 2012)

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| Term   | Definition  |
|--|---|
|  | <p>Group 1 Villages: villages where development for housing, employment, leisure, recreation and community facilities will be permitted, in order to help sustain vital and viable rural communities.</p> <p>Group 2 Villages: villages where limited infill development, together with small-scale employment, leisure, recreation and community facilities will be permitted. In addition, small-scale development identified in an adopted Neighbourhood Plan will be permitted.</p> <p>Group 3 Villages: villages where limited infill development identified in an adopted Neighbourhood Plan will be permitted.</p> |
| Gypsies and Travellers (Planning Definition included in 'Planning policy for traveller sites') | Persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependants' educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling show people or circus people travelling together as such.  |
| Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)  | <p>An assessment which identifies any aspects of an emerging Plan that would have the potential to have a significant effect on designated wildlife sites (i.e. SACs, SPAs, Ramsar Sites) in light of the Habitats Regulations.</p> <p>(See also Appropriate Assessment)</p>  |
| Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Planning Partnership (HIPP)                                   | A partnership established to work together with Hertfordshire Forward, Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, the Local Transport Body for Hertfordshire, the Local Nature Partnership, other local authorities within the wider south east and other appropriate organisations, groups and partnerships in areas of shared interest to develop and where possible and necessary agree joint approaches to common issues.  |
| Heritage Asset   | A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).  |
| Historic Parks and Gardens   | A park or garden of special historic interest. Graded I (highest quality), II* or II. Designated by Historic England.   |
| Housing Market Area  | This is a geographical area which is relatively self-contained in terms of reflecting people's choice of location for a new home.   |

## Appendix C . Glossary (NPPF 2012)

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| Term  | Definition   |
|---|--|
| Housing Mix   | The mix of different types and tenures of housing, for example, affordable and market housing, owner-occupied and private-rented.  |
| Infrastructure  | Providing the necessary supporting 'infrastructure' of utility services, transport, schools, open space, community, health and leisure services. See also Green Infrastructure.  |
| Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP)  | The Infrastructure Delivery Plan establishes a framework for private and public investment. It identifies as far as possible the infrastructure needs of new development, and the associated costs, phasing, funding sources and responsibilities for delivery.  |
| International, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity | All international sites (Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, and Ramsar sites), national sites (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) and locally designated sites including Local Wildlife Sites.  |
| Landfill  | The permanent disposal of waste into the ground, by the filling of man-made voids or similar features, or the construction of landforms above ground level (land-raising).   |
| Listed Building   | A building of special architectural or historic interest. Listed buildings are graded I, II* or II with grade I being the highest. Listing includes the interior as well as the exterior of the building, and any buildings or permanent structures (e.g. walls) within its curtilage. Listing highlights what is significant about a building or site, and helps to ensure that any future changes to it do not result in the loss of its significance. Historic England is responsible for designating buildings for listing in England. |
| Local Development Order   | An order made by a local planning authority (under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) that grants planning permission for a specific development proposal or classes of development.  |
| Local Development Scheme (LDS)  | The Local Planning Authority's timetable for the preparation of Development Plan Documents.  |
| Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)  | A body, designated by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, established for the purpose of creating or improving the conditions for economic growth in an area.   |
| Local Green Space Designation   | The Local Green Space designation is a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities.  |



## Appendix C . Glossary (NPPF 2012)

| Term                                 | Definition  |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Local Nature Partnership             | A body, designated by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, established for the purpose of protecting and improving the natural environment in an area and the benefits derived from it.  |
| Local Nature Reserve                 | Non-statutory habitats of local significance designated by local authorities where protection and public understanding of nature conservation is encouraged. (See also Site of Nature Conservation Importance or Site of Biological Interest).  |
| Local Planning Authority             | The public authority whose duty it is to carry out specific planning functions for a particular area.   |
| Local Transport Plan (LTP)           | A statutory document which sets out the strategy for the management, maintenance and development of the area's transport system. This five-year integrated transport strategy is prepared by local authorities in partnership with the community, seeking funding to help provide local transport projects. The Plan also sets out the resources predicted for delivery of the targets identified in the strategy.  |
| Locally Important Biodiversity Sites | Normally smaller, isolated sites, including trees, hedgerows or ponds that may not be designated but make a contribution to local or wider ecological networks.   |
| Main town centre uses                | Retail development (including warehouse clubs and factory outlet centres); leisure, entertainment facilities the more intensive sport and recreation uses (including cinemas, restaurants, drive-through restaurants, bars and pubs, night-clubs, casinos, health and fitness centres, indoor bowling centres, and bingo halls); offices; and arts, culture and tourism development (including theatres, museums, galleries and concert halls, hotels and conference facilities). |
| Master Plan                          | A plan that shows an overall development concept that includes urban design, landscaping, infrastructure, service provision, circulation, present and future land use and built form.   |
| Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)    | A Memorandum of Understanding describes a bilateral or multilateral agreement between two or more parties.  |
| Minerals Plan                        | Planning Policy Guidance advises that mineral planning authorities should plan for the steady and adequate supply of minerals in one or more of the following ways (in order of priority): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. designating Specific Sites – where viable resources are known to exist, landowners are supportive of minerals development and the proposal is likely to be acceptable in planning terms.</li> </ol>  |

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## Appendix C . Glossary (NPPF 2012)

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| Term                                      | Definition   |
|---|--|
|   | <p>Such sites may also include essential operations associated with mineral extraction;</p> <p>2. designating Preferred Areas, which are areas of known resources where planning permission might reasonably be anticipated. Such areas may also include essential operations associated with mineral extraction; and/or</p> <p>3. designating Areas of Search – areas where knowledge of mineral resources may be less certain but within which planning permission may be granted, particularly if there is a potential shortfall in supply.</p> |
| Mitigation                                | See Climate Change Mitigation.   |
| Mixed Use Development                     | A development which contains a variety of uses such as businesses, housing, leisure and recreation. Such developments contribute towards building sustainable communities by increasing accessibility to a range of activities and promoting non-car modes of travel.  |
| Modal Shift                               | A change of transport mode (for example, car, bus, train, bicycle, walking). In planning terms this usually implies a shift away from the private car to more sustainable transport modes, whether passenger transport or walking and cycling.   |
| Monitoring                                | See Authority Monitoring Report.   |
| National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) | The National Planning Policy Framework was published on 27 March 2012 which sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.  |
| Nature Improvement Areas                  | Inter-connected networks of wildlife habitats intended to re-establish thriving wildlife populations and help species respond to the challenges of climate change.   |
| Neighbourhood Development Order           | An Order made by a local planning authority (under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) through which Parish Councils and neighbourhood forums can grant planning permission for a specific development proposal or classes of development.   |
| Neighbourhood Plan                        | A plan prepared by a Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum for a particular neighbourhood area (made under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).   |
| Open Space                                | All space of public value, including public landscaped areas, playing fields, parks and play areas, and also including not just land, but also areas of water such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs, which can offer opportunities for sport and recreation or can also act as a visual amenity and a haven for wildlife.   |



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| Term                                    | Definition   |
|---|--|
| Original Building                       | A building and any outbuildings provided at the same time as it existed on 1 July 1948 or, if constructed after 1 July 1948, as it was built originally.   |
| Out of Centre                           | A location which is not in or on the edge of a centre but not necessarily outside the urban area.  |
| Out of Town                             | A location out of centre that is outside the existing urban area.  |
| Permeability                            | The extent to which an environment allows for a choice of routes both through and within it, and allows opportunities for movement.  |
| Permitted Development Rights            | A national grant of planning permission which allows certain building works and changes of use to be carried out without having to make a planning application. Permitted development rights are subject to conditions and limitations to control impact and to protect local amenity. |
| Planning Condition                      | A condition imposed on a grant of planning permission (in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) or a condition included in a Local Development Order or Neighbourhood Development Order.   |
| Planning Obligation                     | A legally enforceable obligation entered into under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to mitigate the impacts of a development proposal.   |
| Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)        | A web-based resource which brings together planning practice guidance for England in an accessible and usable way – <a href="http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/">http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/</a>  |
| Plateau                                 | A landscape of fairly level high ground, which in rural areas tends to be a prominent landscape feature, often supporting a unique biodiversity.   |
| Playing Field                           | The whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010.  |
| Policies Map (previously Proposals Map) | The Policies Map illustrates on a map, reproduced from or based upon a map base to a registered scale, appropriate policies contained in the District Plan.  |
| Pollution                               | Anything that affects the quality of land, air, water or soils, which might lead to an adverse impact on human health, the natural environment or general amenity. Pollution can arise from a range of emissions, including smoke, fumes, gases, dust, steam, odour, noise and light.  |

## Appendix C . Glossary (NPPF 2012)

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| Term   | Definition   |
|--|--|
| Previously Developed Land (PDL) or 'Brownfield' Land | Land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land (although it should not be assumed that the whole of the curtilage should be developed) and any associated fixed surface infrastructure. This excludes: land that is or has been occupied by agricultural or forestry buildings; land that has been developed for minerals extraction or waste disposal by landfill purposes where provision for restoration has been made through development management procedures; land in built-up areas such as private residential gardens, parks, recreation grounds and allotments; and land that was previously-developed but where the remains of the permanent structure or fixed surface structure have blended into the landscape in the process of time. |
| Primary Shopping Area                                | Defined area where retail development is concentrated (generally comprising the primary and those secondary frontages which are adjoining and closely related to the primary shopping frontage).   |
| Primary and Secondary Shopping Frontages             | Primary frontages are likely to include a high proportion of retail uses which may include food, drinks, clothing and household goods. Secondary frontages provide greater opportunities for a diversity of uses such as restaurants, cinemas and businesses.  |
| Priority Habitats                                    | Species and Habitats of Principal Importance included in the England Biodiversity List published by the Secretary of State under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.   |
| Public Open Space                                    | Open space, including not just land, but also inland bodies of water such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport and outdoor recreation and can also act as a visual amenity. In some instances, Public Open Space can be designated by a council, where public access may or may not be formally established, but which fulfils or has the potential to fulfil a recreational or non-recreational role (for example, amenity, ecological, educational, social or cultural usages).   |
| Public Realm   | Those parts of a village or town (whether publicly or privately owned) available, for everyone to use. This includes streets, squares, parks, etc.   |
| Ramsar Sites   | Wetlands of international importance, designated under the 1971 Ramsar Convention.   |
| Renewable and Low Carbon Energy                      | Includes energy for heating and cooling as well as generating electricity. Renewable energy covers those energy flows that occur naturally and repeatedly in the environment – from the wind, the fall of water, the movement of the oceans, from the sun and also from biomass and deep geothermal heat. Low carbon technologies are  |

## Appendix C . Glossary (NPPF 2012)

| Term                               | Definition   |
|------------------------------------|--|
|                                    | those that can help reduce emissions (compared to conventional use of fossil fuels).   |
| Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt   | This East Herts specific policy operates a similar level of restraint to Green Belt. The Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt covers two-thirds of the District not covered by Green Belt, outside designated settlement boundaries.   |
| Rural Diversification              | The expansion, enlargement or variation of the range of products or fields of operation of a rural business (branching out from traditional farming activities, for example new income generating enterprises, such as renewable energy, tourism and food processing).   |
| Rural Exception Sites              | Small sites used to provide affordable housing in perpetuity where sites would not normally be developed for housing. Rural exception sites seek to address the needs of the local community by accommodating households who are either current residents or have an existing family or employment connection. Small numbers of market homes may be allowed at the local authority's discretion, for example where essential to enable the delivery of affordable units without grant funding. |
| Scheduled Monument                 | Nationally important monuments, usually archaeological remains, which enjoy greater protection against inappropriate development through the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.  |
| Section 106 Agreement              | A legal agreement under section 106 of the 1990 Town & Country Planning Act. Section 106 agreements are legal agreements between a planning authority and a developer, or undertakings offered unilaterally by a developer, that ensure that certain extra works related to a development are undertaken.  |
| Setting of a Heritage Asset        | The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.  |
| Significance (for heritage policy) | The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.   |
| SME (Small to Medium Enterprise)   | An independent business managed by its owner or part owners and having a small market share either by number of employees or turnover.   |

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| Term                                       | Definition   |
|--|--|
| Special Areas of Conservation              | Areas given special protection under the European Union's Habitats Directive, which is transposed into UK law by the Habitats and Conservation of Species Regulations 2010.  |
| Special Protection Areas                   | Areas which have been identified as being of international importance for the breeding, feeding, wintering or the migration of rare and vulnerable species of birds found within European Union countries. They are European designated sites, classified under the Birds Directive.   |
| Site Investigation Information             | Includes a risk assessment of land potentially affected by contamination, or ground stability and slope stability reports, as appropriate. All investigations of land potentially affected by contamination should be carried out in accordance with established procedures (such as BS 10175 (2011 + A1:2013) Code of Practice for the Investigation of Potentially Contaminated Sites). The minimum information that should be provided by an applicant is the report of a desk study and site reconnaissance. |
| Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) | Sites designated by Natural England under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.   |
| Starter Homes                              | <p>Starter Homes are new homes only available for purchase by qualifying first-time buyers. Such homes will be made available for sale at a price which is at least 20% less than its market value, subject to a maximum price cap of £250,000.</p> <p>(See also Affordable Housing)</p>   |
| Statutory                                  | Required by law (statute), usually through an Act of Parliament.   |
| Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)   | The statement of community involvement sets out the processes which authorities must follow in involving local communities in the preparation of local development documents and development management decisions.   |
| Stepping Stones                            | Pockets of habitat that, while not necessarily connected, facilitate the movement of species across otherwise inhospitable landscapes.   |
| Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA)     | A procedure (set out in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004) which requires the formal environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.   |

## Appendix C . Glossary (NPPF 2012)

| Term  | Definition  |
|---|---|
| Strategic Flood Risk Assessment               | An assessment of the likelihood of flooding in a particular area so that development needs and mitigation measures can be carefully considered.   |
| Strategic Land Availability Assessment (SLAA) | An assessment of land availability which identifies a future supply of land which is suitable, available and achievable for housing and economic development uses over the plan period. The SLAA assesses whether land <b>could</b> come forward for development, not whether it <b>should</b> .  |
| Supplementary Planning Document               | Documents which add further detail to the policies in the Local Plan. They can be used to provide further guidance for development on specific sites, or on particular issues, such as design. Supplementary planning documents are capable of being a material consideration in planning decisions but are not part of the development plan.   |
| Sustainability Appraisal                      | A mechanism for considering and communicating the likely effects of a Plan, and alternatives, in terms of sustainability issues with a view to avoiding and mitigating adverse effects and maximising positives. SA of local plans is legally required.   |
| Sustainable Development                       | A widely used definition drawn up by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987: "Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."   |
| Sustainable Transport Modes                   | Any efficient, safe and accessible means of transport with overall low impact on the environment, including walking and cycling, low and ultra-low emission vehicles, car sharing and public transport.   |
| Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SuDs)      | An alternative solution to the direct channelling of water. SuDs are designed to control the run-off from a development; to improve the quality of the run-off; and to enhance the nature conservation, landscape and amenity value of the site and its surroundings.   |
| Town Centre                                   | Area defined on the Policies Map, including the primary shopping area and areas predominantly occupied by main town centre uses within or adjacent to the primary shopping area. References to town centres or centres apply to city centres, town centres, district centres and local centres but exclude small parades of shops of purely neighbourhood significance. Unless they are identified as centres in local plans, existing out-of-centre developments, comprising or including main town centre uses, do not constitute town centres. |

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| Term   | Definition  |
|--|---|
| Transport Assessment   | A comprehensive and systematic process that sets out transport issues relating to a proposed development. It identifies what measures will be required to improve accessibility and safety for all modes of travel, particularly for alternatives to the car such as walking, cycling and public transport and what measures will need to be taken to deal with the anticipated transport impacts of the development. |
| Transport Statement  | A simplified version of a transport assessment where it is agreed the transport issues arising out of development proposals are limited and a full transport assessment is not required.  |
| Travelling Showpeople<br>(Planning Definition included in Planning Policy for traveller sites) | Members of a group organised for the purposes of holding fairs, circuses or shows (whether or not travelling together as such). This includes such persons who on the grounds of their own or their family's or dependants' more localised pattern of trading, educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers.   |
| Tree Preservation Order (TPO)  | A mechanism for securing the preservation of a single or groups of trees of acknowledged amenity value. A tree subject to a TPO may not normally be topped, lopped or felled without consent of the local planning authority.   |
| Urban Extension  | Involves the planned expansion of a town and can contribute to creating more sustainable patterns of development when located in the right place, with well-planned infrastructure including access to a range of facilities, and when developed at appropriate densities.  |
| Urban Sprawl   | The uncontrolled or unplanned extension of urban areas into the countryside.  |
| Use Class  | <p>The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 2007 puts uses of land and buildings into various categories. Planning permission is not needed for changes of use within the same use class. Classes are as follows:</p> <p>A1: Shops</p> <p>A2: Professional and Financial Services</p> <p>A3: Restaurants and Cafés</p>   |

## Appendix C . Glossary (NPPF 2012)

| Term                         | Definition  |
|------------------------------|---|
|                              | <p>A4: Drinking establishments</p> <p>A5: Hot Food Take-Aways</p> <p>B1: Business</p> <p>B2: General Industrial</p> <p>B3-B7: Special Industrial Groups</p> <p>B8: Storage and Distribution</p> <p>C1: Hotels</p> <p>C2: Residential</p> <p>C3: Dwelling houses</p> <p>D1: Non-Residential institutions</p> <p>D2: Assembly and Leisure</p>                         |
| Vernacular                   | The way in which ordinary buildings were built in a particular place, making use of local styles, techniques and materials.   |
| Viability Assessment         | Where the deliverability of a development may be compromised by the scale of planning obligations and other costs, a viability assessment may be necessary. A site is viable if the value generated by its development exceeds the costs of developing it and also provides sufficient incentive for the land to come forward and the development to be undertaken. |
| Vitality                     | In terms of retailing, the capacity of a centre to grow or develop its liveliness and level of activity.  |
| Village Development Boundary | A boundary drawn, usually quite tightly, around the main built up area of a village, within which development may be allowed in principle.  |
| Waste Local Plan             | A statutory Development Plan prepared by the waste planning authority, setting out policies in relation to waste management and related developments.   |
| Wildlife Sites               | Designated land of local and regional importance defined as discrete areas of land considered to be of significance for their wildlife features. They are the most important places for wildlife outside legally protected land such as SSSIs.  |

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East Herts Council | East Herts District Plan (September 2018)



Appendix C . Glossary (NPPF 2012)

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| Term              | Definition  |
|-------------------|---|
| Wildlife Corridor | Areas of habitat connecting wildlife populations.   |
| Windfall Site     | Sites which have not been specifically identified as available through the Local Plan process. They normally comprise previously-developed sites that have unexpectedly become available. |



# East Herts District Plan

## Adoption Statement

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In accordance with Regulation 26 and 35 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) this Adoption Statement hereby gives notice that on 11 September 2018 East Herts Council adopted the East Herts District Plan as a development plan document.

The East Herts District Plan was the subject of an independent examination conducted by Christine Thorby, DIPTP MRTPI IHBC, an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State. In her report published in July 2018 the Inspector confirmed, subject to a number of main modifications, the Plan was sound and recommended its adoption. The recommended main modifications, along with consequential minor modifications, have been included in the adopted East Herts District Plan document, which now carries full weight in the consideration of planning applications and replaces the 'saved' policies of the East Herts Local Plan Second Review (2007).

Any person aggrieved by the East Herts District Plan may make an application to the High Court under Section 113(3) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 on the grounds that:

- i. the East Herts District Plan is not within the powers conferred by Part 2 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004; or
- ii. a procedural requirement has not been complied with.

Any such application must be made promptly and in any event not later than the end of the period of six weeks beginning with the day after the East Herts District Plan was adopted (11 September 2018).

In accordance with Regulations 26 and 35 of the 2012 Regulations the following documents have been made available:

- i. the East Herts District Plan;
- ii. this Adoption Statement; and
- iii. the Sustainability Appraisal Report document.

The documents listed at (i) (ii) and (iii) above can be viewed on the Council's website at [www.eastherts.gov.uk/districtplan](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/districtplan) and are available for inspection during normal office hours at the East Herts Council Offices in Hertford and Bishop's Stortford, town council offices and libraries across the district.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>East Herts Council</b><br>Wallfields, Pegs Lane, Hertford,<br>SG13 8EQ                                 | <b>East Herts Council</b><br>Charringtons House, The Causeway,<br>Bishop's Stortford, CM23 2EN  |
| <b>Bishop's Stortford Town Council</b><br>The Old Monastery, Windhill,<br>Bishop's<br>Stortford, CM23 2ND | <b>Bishop's Stortford Public Library</b><br>6 The Causeway, Bishop's Stortford,<br>CM23 2EJ     |
| <b>Buntingford Town Council</b><br>The Manor House, 21 High Street,<br>Buntingford, SG9 9AB               | <b>Buntingford Public Library</b><br>77 High Street, Buntingford, SG9 9AE                       |
| <b>Hertford Town Council</b><br>The Castle, Hertford, SG14 1HR  | <b>Hertford Public Library</b><br>Dolphin Yard, Maidenhead Street,<br>Hertford, SG14 1DR        |
| <b>Knebworth Public Library</b><br>7 St Martins Road, Knebworth,<br>SG3 6ER                               | <b>Sawbridgeworth Town Council</b><br>Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street,<br>Sawbridgeworth, CM21 9AN |
| <b>Sawbridgeworth Public Library</b><br>The Forebury, Sawbridgeworth,<br>CM21 9BD                         | <b>Ware Town Council</b><br>The Priory, High Street, Ware, SG12<br>9AL                          |
| <b>Ware Public Library</b><br>87 High Street, Ware, SG12 9AD  |   |

If you require further information please email [planningpolicy@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@eastherts.gov.uk) or phone 01279 655261.

A copy of this Adoption Statement will be sent to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.



## EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 11 SEPTEMBER 2018

## REPORT BY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

### EAST HERTS DISTRICT PLAN - SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL ADOPTION STATEMENT

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WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

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#### **Purpose/Summary of Report**

- To inform Members of the content of the final Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Statement of the East Herts District Plan.
- To recommend that the Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Statement be agreed for publication alongside the East Herts District Plan.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b><u>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE:</u> To recommend to Council that:</b> |  |
| <b>(A)</b>   | <b>the content of the Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Statement as set out in Essential Reference Paper 'B', be noted;</b>   |
| <b>(B)</b>   | <b>the Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Statement be published alongside the adopted District Plan 2011-2033 in accordance with Regulation 16 of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations 2004.</b> |

## 1.0 Background

- 1.1 The SA considers and communicates the likely significant effects of an emerging plan, and the reasonable alternatives considered during the plan-making process. The aim of the SA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding or mitigating negative effects and maximising positive effects.
- 1.2 The process of Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is undertaken in line with the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations), which transpose into national law the European Union Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment'. SA incorporates the requirement for SEA and widens the scope of the assessment to also include social and economic issues.
- 1.3 The SA has been undertaken over many years in an integrated process parallel to the preparation of the District Plan. Through this integrated approach, the SA seeks to maximise the District Plan's contribution to sustainable development. The final step of this integrated approach is the publication of a final Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Statement which is attached at **Essential Reference Paper 'B'**.

## 2.0 Report

- 2.1 The Report on the Adoption of the East Herts District Plan (Agenda Item 9) summarises the key steps and milestones undertaken throughout the plan-making process. The report illustrates how the process of Sustainability Appraisal has been undertaken at every step, including the preparation of the Main Modifications prepared in response to the Examination in Public. Following consideration of the representations made in response to the consultation on the Main Modifications, the Inspector has recommended some further

amendments to the Plan in terms of the detailed wording of the following Main Modifications. This Adoption Statement SA therefore also considers the Inspector's amendments.

2.2 As soon as reasonably practicable after the District Plan is adopted, the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 require the Council to make available:

- (i) the District Plan;
- (ii) an Adoption Statement;
- (iii) the Sustainability Appraisal report;
- (iv) details of where the District Plan is available for inspection and the places and times at which the document can be inspected.

2.3 Furthermore, the SEA Regulations set out (Regulation 16) the post-adoption procedures and requires, that as soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of a plan for which an SA/SEA has been carried out, the planning authority must make a copy of the plan publicly available alongside a copy of the SA Report and an 'SEA Adoption Statement', and inform the public and consultation bodies of the availability of these documents.

2.4 In this context, this SA Adoption Statement for the East Herts District Plan must explain:

- How environmental (and sustainability) considerations have been integrated into the Local Plan;
- How the SA Report has been taken into account during preparation of the plan;
- The reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with;
- How the opinions expressed by the public and consultation bodies during consultation on the plan and SA Report have been taken into account; and

- The measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant effects identified for the Local Plan.

2.5 The SA Adoption Statement is therefore structured as follows:

- Chapter 2 presents the narrative for plan-making and the accompanying SA process to date. This incorporates a description of the elements required by the first three bullets above. The chapter explains how the appraisal of reasonable alternatives has been undertaken at each stage, and how the plan-making process incorporated the SA process in a fully integrated way.
- Chapter 3 summarises how the consultation responses have been taken into account at each stage of plan-making. There were relatively few comments made which specifically referred to the SA; these were reviewed and it was determined that no further SA work was required.
- Chapter 4 presents the monitoring programme for the SA.
- Chapter 5 sets out some overall conclusions on the SA process.

2.6 The process of monitoring the effects of the Plan is a continual one. The SA Adoption Statement collates a number of existing monitoring indicators into the SA Framework themes. The Council will be updating its Authority Monitoring Report to incorporate new and existing indicators, including those required by the National Planning Policy Framework. This ongoing monitoring enables the Council to respond quickly to changing circumstances.

### 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

Information on the District Plan Examination can be found here:

<https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/districtplanexamination>

The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 are available here:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/767/contents/made>

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 are available here:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2004/1633/schedule/1/made>

All Sustainability Appraisals prepared for the East Herts District Plan are available here:

<http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/submission>

Contact Member: Cllr Linda Haysey – Leader of the Council

[linda.haysey@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:linda.haysey@eastherts.gov.uk)

Contact Officer: Kevin Steptoe – Head of Planning and Building Control

Contact Tel No 01992 531407

[kevin.steptoe@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.steptoe@eastherts.gov.uk)

Report Author: Jenny Pierce – Senior Planning Project Officer – Policy and Implementation

[jenny.pierce@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:jenny.pierce@eastherts.gov.uk)

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**IMPLICATIONS/CONSULTATIONS**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives | <p>Priority 1 – Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities</p> <p>Priority 2 – Enhance the quality of people's lives</p> <p>Priority 3 – Enable a flourishing local economy</p>   |
| Consultation:  | <p>A wide range of consultation has been undertaken in preparing the District Plan, and at each stage a Sustainability Appraisal has accompanied the Plan as a consultation document.</p>  |
| Legal:   | <p>The process of Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is undertaken in line with the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations), which transpose into national law the European Union Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment'.</p> <p>The process of SA is therefore also undertaken in line with the process of preparing a local plan. Preparation of a local plan is a statutory duty upon every Local Planning Authority. Local plans are prepared within the framework set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 ('the Act'), as amended by the Localism Act 2011, and in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.</p> <p>The District Plan and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal has been prepared in accordance with the Council's Local Development Scheme. And Statement of Community Involvement.</p> |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Financial:                                 | The cost of the preparing a District Plan is significant and has been budgeted over the duration of its preparation. The cost of the adoption process, notification, publicity and printing of the adopted Plan and associated documents is to be met within existing budgets. Additional costs may be incurred if there is a legal challenge following adoption.   |
| Human Resource:                            | Staff resource is in place to ensure the ongoing timely adoption of the District Plan and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal.  |
| Risk Management:                           | The Sustainability Appraisal process is a legal requirement. To not publish the SA will leave the Council at risk of legal challenge. The SA process is subject to the same Examination process as the District Plan and has therefore been found to be an adequate assessment in this context.   |
| Health and wellbeing – issues and impacts: | The link between planning and health has long been established. The built and natural environments are major determinants of health and wellbeing. The District Plan will have positive impacts on health and wellbeing through a range of policy approaches that seek to create sustainable communities. The SA process incorporates an assessment of the implications of the District Plan on health and wellbeing matters. |
| Equality Impact Assessment required:       | No. The policies of the plan, including the development strategy and design and housing policies make provision for the disabled and for other protected groups. The preparation of the plan and the examination has had due regard to its impact on equality in accordance with the Public Sector Equality duty. The SA process incorporates an assessment of the implications of the District Plan on equality matters.     |

# Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the East Herts District Plan

SA Adoption Statement

East Hertfordshire District Council

August 2018

## Quality information

| Prepared by                            | Checked by                        | Verified by                       | Approved by                       |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Alastair Peattie<br>Associate Director | Steve Smith<br>Technical Director | Steve Smith<br>Technical Director | Steve Smith<br>Technical Director |

## Revision History

| Revision | Revision date  | Details                       | Name             | Position           |
|----------|----------------|-------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| v1       | 20 July 2018   | Draft for internal review     | Alastair Peattie | Associate Director |
| v2       | 27 July 2018   | Draft for client review       | Alastair Peattie | Associate Director |
| v3       | 01 August 2018 | Final following client review | Alastair Peattie | Associate Director |

**Prepared for:**

East Herts District Council

**Prepared by:**

AECOM Infrastructure & Environment UK Limited  
3rd Floor, Portwall Place  
Portwall Lane  
Bristol BS1 6NA  
United Kingdom

T: +44 117 901 7000  
aecom.com

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# 1. Introduction

## Background

- 1.1 The East Herts District Local Plan (hereafter referred to as the 'District Plan') was submitted to Government, for Examination by an appointed Planning Inspector, in March 2017. Following a year-long Examination process, the Inspector published a report into the Plan's legal compliance and soundness in July 2018. The Inspector concluded that the plan is legally compliant and sound, subject to a series of modifications being made. The District Plan, incorporating modifications, is being put forward for adoption at a Full Council meeting on 11th September 2018.
- 1.2 A parallel process of Sustainability Appraisal (SA) was undertaken alongside plan-making, led by consultants AECOM.

## SA explained

- 1.3 SA considers and communicates the likely significant effects of an emerging plan, and the reasonable alternatives considered during the plan-making process, in terms of key sustainability issues. The aim of SA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding or mitigating negative effects and maximising positive effects. Through this approach, the SA seeks to maximise the emerging Local Plan's contribution to sustainable development.
- 1.4 An SA is undertaken in line with the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations) which transpose into national law European Union Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment'. SA incorporates the requirement for SEA and widens the scope of the assessment to also include social and economic issues.

## This SA Adoption Statement

- 1.5 Regulation 16 of the SEA Regulations sets out the post-adoption procedures with respect to SEA, and requires that, as soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of a plan for which an SA/SEA has been carried out, the planning authority must make a copy of the plan publicly available alongside a copy of the SA Report and an 'SEA Adoption Statement', and inform the public and consultation bodies of the availability of these documents. The consultation bodies are the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England.
- 1.6 In addition, Regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations (2012) sets out a need to publish the SA Report alongside the adopted Local Plan.
- 1.7 In the context of the requirements of the SEA Regulations, this SA Adoption Statement for the East Herts District Plan must explain:
  - How environmental (and sustainability) considerations have been integrated into the Local Plan;
  - How the SA Report has been taken into account during preparation of the plan;
  - The reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with;
  - How the opinions expressed by the public and consultation bodies during consultation on the plan and SA Report have been taken into account; and
  - The measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant effects identified for the Local Plan.

1.8 In association with the above requirements, the SA Adoption Statement is structured as follows:

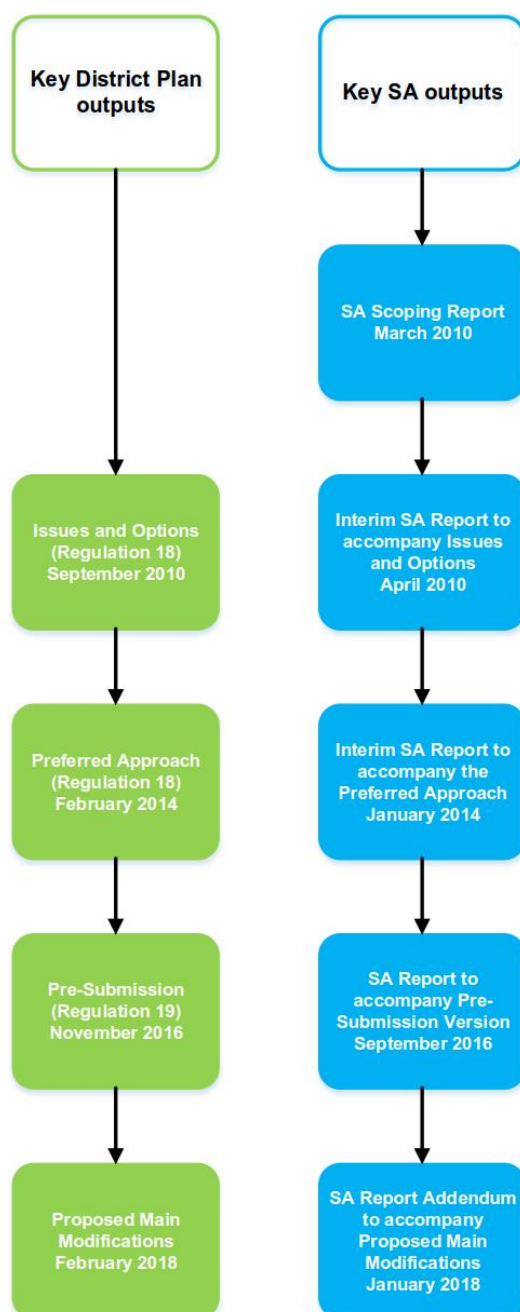
- **Chapter 2** presents the narrative for plan-making and the accompanying SA process to date. This incorporates a description of the elements required by the first three bullet points above.
- **Chapter 3** describes how consultation responses have been taken into account through the Local Plan/SA process.
- **Chapter 4** presents the monitoring programme for the SA.
- **Chapter 5** sets out some overall conclusions on the SA process.

## 2. How the SA process has informed and influenced the development of the District Plan

### Introduction

- 2.1 The SA process has informed and influenced the East Herts District Plan throughout its development. Reflecting this, five main SA documents have been prepared to accompany key points in plan development.
- 2.2 **Figure 1** below summarise the key documents which have been prepared for the District Plan and accompanying SA process to date.

**Figure 1: Key outputs of the East Herts District Plan and accompanying SA process (February 2010 to February 2018)**



- 2.3 As demonstrated in **Figure 1**, the SA process has been carried out iteratively and informed the development of the District Plan at each key stage. The SA primarily influenced the Plan through the development and appraisal of reasonable alternatives as well as through the appraisal of the emerging Draft Plan (proposed policies and allocations). This section is structured accordingly.

## Appraisal of reasonable alternatives

- 2.4 As part of the SA process, a series of reasonable alternatives or choices open to the Council with respect to the spatial development strategy were appraised and the findings fed back to the Council. In this way, the SA informed and influenced the development of the District Plan.
- 2.5 The narrative within this section is structured according to the main plan-making/SA steps, which are as follows:
- Issues and Options (2010)
  - Preferred Approach (2014)
  - Pre-Submission (2016)

## Issues and Options (2010)

- 2.6 Two rounds of public engagement in 2008 sought to raise awareness and elicit residents' likes and dislikes. SA first actively informed the emerging plan in 2010, when an Interim SA Report was published for consultation alongside the Council's 'Issues and Options' consultation document.<sup>1</sup>
- 2.7 The Interim SA Report<sup>2</sup> set out an appraisal of six distinct development strategy options and six housing distribution options. Alternative growth options were also appraised for the following key areas: Bishop's Stortford; Buntingford; Hertford; Sawbridgeworth; Ware; Villages; and North of Harlow.
- 2.8 Appraisal findings from 2010 fed into subsequent plan-making. In particular, appraisal findings in relation to the different spatial options fed into the identification of 69 'areas of search' (see Step 3 below).

## Preferred Options (2014)

- 2.9 In 2012 the Council embarked on a 'stepped' approach to spatial strategy-making. Each step corresponded with a chapter of the Supporting Document to the District Plan, which was presented at a series of committee meetings between March 2012 and December 2013. For more information see [www.eastherts.gov.uk/SSS](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/SSS) (SSS/001).
- **Step 1** involved exploring the nature of the task.
    - Consideration was given to progress on the District Plan to date and the scope of forthcoming work taking into account factors such as the national planning policy context (e.g. relating to localism and the duty to cooperate) and the critical role of infrastructure planning / delivery.
  - **Step 2** involved exploring the strategic planning issues.
    - Issues were explored under the following thematic headings: Housing; Economy; Education; Transport; Water; Telecoms, Gas and electricity; Natural and historic environment; Green Belt; Community and leisure; Natural resources; and Environmental quality.
  - **Step 3** involved developing a series of assessment criteria under 'topic' headings.
    - The topic headings were: Land availability, Employment potential, Primary schools, Secondary schools, Highways infrastructure, Vehicular access, Access

<sup>1</sup> See [www.eastherts.gov.uk/pdp](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/pdp) (SSS/001)

<sup>2</sup> See [www.eastherts.gov.uk/submission](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/submission) (SUB/007)

to bus services, Access to rail, Waste water, Flood risk, Wildlife sites, Historic assets, Landscape character, Green Belt, Strategic gaps, Boundary limits, Community facilities, Agricultural land, Environmental stewardship, and Noise.

- These topic headings were identified taking into account the established SA Framework (see discussion above).
- **Step 4** involved drawing on the criteria established at Step 3 to assess 69 ‘areas of search’.
  - Assessment involved a ‘sieving’ process, where: Sieve 1 looked at each area in isolation; and Sieve 2 looked at combinations around each of the main towns.
  - 18 areas of search dropped-out from further consideration at that stage. Also, a number of options were ‘refined’ in that: 1) sub-areas were removed from further consideration; and/or the ‘scale (i.e. the level of growth) assumption’ was modified.
- **Step 5** involved further sieving of the shortlisted areas of search taking into account potential impacts on urban form and economic development.
- **Step 6** took into account further information gathered through a Green Belt Review, submissions made by Hertfordshire County Council (in relation to schools and transport), and submissions made by landowners/developers.
  - None of the 51 shortlisted areas of search dropped-out at Steps 5 or 6, but the assessment did lead to a number of further modifications to scale assumptions.

2.10 Step 3 - 6 are important from an SA perspective as they essentially involved identifying and then appraising site options. The Supporting Document outlines how the SA, in particular SA topics were integrated into the plan-making process in Chapter 1, Table 1.4, which is provided below as Table 2.1. It is available to view and download on the Council's website.<sup>3</sup>

**Table 2.1: Integration of the SA framework with the plan-making process**

| SA framework topic   | Plan-making process   |
|--|---|
| Air Quality  | Step 2: Environmental Quality Strategic Overview<br>Step 4: Areas of Search Assessments<br>Step 5: Scenario Testing<br><br>Development impacts are considered in terms of additional traffic resulting from cumulative impact of development, based on traffic modelling results.   |
| Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure                            | Step 2: Natural & Historic Environment Strategic Overview<br>Step 3: Designated Wildlife Sites Topic Assessment<br>Step 4: Areas of Search Assessment<br>Step 5: Scenario Testing: Habitats Regulations Assessment<br>Step 6: Preferred Strategy<br><br>This includes consideration of sites designated at European, national, and County level. Green Infrastructure opportunities are considered through the formulation of the development scenarios. This includes consideration of the role and function of the Key Biodiversity Areas. A Green Infrastructure strategy will support the draft development strategy. |
| Climate Change (mitigation and adaptation) (includes flood risk) | Step 2: Natural & Historic Environment Strategic Overview<br>Step 2: Natural Resources Strategic Overview<br>Step 3: Flood Risk Topic<br>Step 4: Areas of Search Assessment<br>Step 6: Preferred Strategy<br><br>Overall climate change impacts as a result of increased emissions are addressed through the approach to sustainable transport. Climate Change adaptation is addressed through the approach to Green Infrastructure and drainage. The strategic overview of Natural Resources considers opportunities for low and zero carbon energy.   |
| Community and  | Step 2: Community Infrastructure Strategic Overview   |

<sup>3</sup> [www.eastherts.gov.uk/SSS](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/SSS) (SSS/001)

**SA framework topic      Plan-making process**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Wellbeing  | <p>Step 2: Housing Strategic Overview<br/> Step 2: Environmental Quality Strategic Overview<br/> Step 3: Maintaining Tranquillity Topic<br/> Step 3: Noise Topic<br/> Step 6: Preferred Strategy</p> <p>The SA Scoping Report identified a number of elements to this, including health, crime, economic wellbeing, and social inclusion. The plan-making process promotes sustainable communities, in which there is easy access from housing to a range of services and facilities. It also considers the implications of housing and demographic change on various sections of the population, including the young and the elderly. Green Infrastructure and Sustainable Communities are considered through the plan-making process and provide opportunities for public health through walking and cycling. A strategic design framework which may address site-level considerations including designing out crime and encouraging healthy lifestyles. The development strategy will provide a policy context for Neighbourhood Planning to further many of the local aspects of community and wellbeing.</p> |
| Economy and Employment                           | <p>Step 2: Economy Strategic Overview<br/> Step 3: Employment Potential Topic<br/> Step 5: Scenario Testing<br/> Step 6: Preferred Strategy</p> <p>The cumulative impact assessment will assess the employment offer against the levels of housing and form a basis for the housing and employment components of the development strategy.</p>  |
| Historic Environment                             | <p>Step 2: Natural &amp; Historic Environment Strategic Overview<br/> Step 3: Historic Assets Topic<br/> Step 3: Landscape Character Topic<br/> Step 4: Areas of Search<br/> Step 5: Scenario Testing<br/> Step 6: Preferred Strategy</p> <p>Scenario testing will involve an integrated appraisal of the whole settlement character and setting.</p>   |
| Housing<br>(including gypsies<br>and travellers) | <p>Step 2: Housing Strategic Overview<br/> Step 5: Scenario Testing<br/> Step 6: Preferred Strategy</p> <p>Housing mix and tenure, and special housing needs are considered in the strategic overview on housing and demographic change. Housing market areas inform the development of scenarios for testing the cumulative impact of development.</p>   |
| Land (includes<br>waste)                         | <p>Step 2: Natural Resources Strategic Overview<br/> Step 2: Green Belt Strategic Overview<br/> Step 3: Minerals and Waste Designations Topic<br/> Step 3: Green Belt Topic<br/> Step 3: Boundary Limits Topic<br/> Step 3: Strategic Gaps Topic<br/> Step 3: Agricultural Land Classifications Topic<br/> Step 3: Environmental Stewardship Topic<br/> Step 6: Preferred Strategy</p>  |
| Landscape  | <p>Step 2: Natural &amp; Historic Environment Strategic Overview<br/> Step 3: Landscape Character Assessment Topic<br/> Step 5: Scenario Testing<br/> Step 6: Preferred Strategy</p> <p>Scenario testing will involve an integrated appraisal of the whole settlement character and setting.</p>  |
| Transport  | <p>Step 2: Transport Strategic Overview<br/> Step 3: Highways Infrastructure<br/> Step 3: Vehicular access<br/> Step 3: Access to Bus services</p>  |

**SA framework topic**      **Plan-making process**

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
|                | <p>Step 3: Access to Railway Stations<br/>Step 5: Scenario Testing<br/>Step 6: Preferred Strategy</p> <p>Traffic modelling of alternative development scenarios will be undertaken to enable a more realistic look at the network effects of traffic.</p>   |
| Water          | <p>Step 2: Water Strategic Overview<br/>Step 2: Waste Water Impacts<br/>Step 5: Scenario Testing<br/>Step 6: Preferred Strategies</p> <p>Water cycle issues will be considered throughout the process, including the effect on groundwater and the aquifer, and environmental effects including the European Water Framework Directive.</p>   |
| European Sites | <p>Step 2: Natural &amp; Historic Environment<br/>Step 3: Designated Wildlife Sites<br/>Step 5: Scenario Testing<br/>Step 6: Preferred Strategies</p> <p>A full Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) will be conducted as part of scenario testing. HRA is a requirement of the Habitats Directive. European sites are those designated as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)</li> <li>• Special Protection Areas (SPAs)</li> <li>• Ramsar Sites</li> </ul> <p>For the Issues and Options stage, an HRA Screening report was prepared to identify any potential impact pathways between development in East Herts and the following European Sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wormley-Hoddesdonpark Woods SAC</li> <li>• Epping Forest SAC</li> <li>• Lee Valley SPA</li> <li>• Lee Valley Ramsar</li> <li>• Eversden and Wimpole Woods</li> </ul> <p>The Screening Report concluded that options for significant development could not be screened out as having no likely significant effects on the European Sites. It therefore recommended that a more detailed Appropriate Assessment will be required, based on firmer growth options, in order to determine in-combination effects, and the amount of mitigation (if any) required. This work will be undertaken at Step 5.</p> |

2.11 On the basis of the stepped process of development options appraisal the Council was able to establish a number of alternative spatial strategies in 2014. These are set out below:

- **Option 1** proposed the delivery of 15,932 new homes (3,000 in the Gilston Area, 1,800 North and East of Ware and 450 East of Welwyn Garden City).
- **Option 2** proposed the delivery of 15,382 new homes through 'maximising' growth at two of the Broad Locations - East of Welwyn Garden City (1,700 new homes) and North and East of Ware (3,000 new homes) - at the expense of growth in the Gilston Area.
- **Option 3** proposed the delivery of 15,382 new homes through 'maximising' growth at two of the Broad Locations - East of Welwyn Garden City (1,700 new homes) and West of Sawbridgeworth (with a bypass) (3,000 new homes) - at the expense of growth in the Gilston Area.



- **Option 4** proposed the delivery of 15,682 new homes, in part through an urban extension East of Stevenage (5,000 new homes).
  - **Option 5** proposed the delivery of 15,682 new homes - including development in the Gilston Area (5,000 new homes) at the expense of development at the other Broad Locations.
  - **Option 6** proposed the delivery of 15,682 new homes - included the concept of a new settlement in a transport corridor (5,000 new homes). The indicative, 'non-location-specific' nature of the option was appropriate at that stage, given the paucity of available evidence in relation to specific locations for a new settlement.
  - **Option 7** proposed the delivery of 15,102 new homes primarily through development of 10,000 homes in the Gilston Area. This option did not propose any urban extensions to the market towns.
  - **Option 8** proposed the delivery of 25,382 new homes through development of 1,700 homes East of Welwyn Garden City, 3,000 homes North and East of Ware and 10,000 homes in the Gilston Area. This enabled the testing of higher levels of growth which might result if the Council had to accept the unmet need of other districts.
- 2.12 The eight alternative spatial strategies were subject to appraisal through the SA process. Summary findings of this work were presented within Chapter 11 of the SA Report and detailed appraisal findings within Appendix B of that report which was published in 2014 alongside the Preferred Options consultation document.<sup>4</sup> The Council's reasons for selecting the preferred approach (Option 1) in light of the appraisal findings were presented within Chapter 11, Table 11.3 of the Interim SA Report (2014).

## Pre-Submission (2016)

- 2.13 Subsequent to the Preferred Options consultation in 2014, the evidence base and further technical work was progressed. It was recognised that further work was needed to refine understanding of spatial strategy alternatives (i.e. continue the process of refinement discussed above)<sup>5</sup> and ultimately arrive at reasonable alternatives for appraisal/consultation.

## Developing Reasonable Alternatives for the West Essex and East Hertfordshire Housing Market Area

- 2.14 It is important at this point to recognise work undertaken at the broader spatial scale of the West Essex and East Hertfordshire Housing Market Area (HMA). The HMA comprises the four districts of East Herts, Epping Forest, Harlow and Uttlesford. A three step approach was taken, which ultimately resulted in the establishment of a preferred broad spatial strategy for the HMA.

### Step 1 - Establish understanding of housing and economic needs

- 2.15 A joint Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) was undertaken for the four HMA authorities in order to establish Objectively Assessed Housing Need (OAHN) for the HMA.
- 2.16 The SHMA, published in September 2015, identified OAHN for the HMA to be 46,100 dwellings over the period 2011 - 2033, equivalent to an average of 2,095 dwellings per year. This included an Objectively Assessed Need for Affordable Housing of 13,600 dwellings.<sup>6</sup>
- 2.17 In August 2016, Opinion Research Services (ORS) updated the OAHN (but without undertaking a full review of the SHMA) to take into account more recent information including the Department for Communities and Local Government's (now the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) 2014-based household projections and suggested a revised OAHN for the HMA of 54,608 new homes disaggregated as follows:

- **19,427 dwellings in East Hertfordshire (883 per year);**

<sup>4</sup> [www.eastherts.gov.uk/PDP](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/PDP) (PDP/001)

<sup>5</sup> National Planning Practice Guidance is clear that understanding of alternatives should be 'refined' over time through the SA process.

<sup>6</sup> Opinion Research Services (September 2015) West Essex and East Hertfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment: Report of Findings [www.eastherts.gov.uk/HOP](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/HOP) (HOP/001)



- 13,278 dwellings in Epping Forest (604 per year);
- 7,824 dwellings in Harlow (356 per year); and
- 14,080 dwellings in Uttlesford (640 per year).

## Step 2 - Develop and appraise strategic spatial alternatives

- 2.18 In response to a need to fulfil Duty to Co-operate requirements, the West Essex and East Hertfordshire authorities explored options for meeting OAHN in the sub-region. This included the consideration of a range of locational options for delivering housing.
- 2.19 To support this process the four authorities commissioned a study which:
- identified options for spatially distributing the housing need identified in the SHMA (2015), the DCLG 2012-based household projections and the August 2016 advice from ORS, across the HMA, based on an analysis of the policy context and evidence base;
  - provided an evidence-based Sustainability Appraisal setting out the anticipated significant positive and negative impacts of each option (including opportunities to deliver infrastructure, employment development, regeneration benefits, etc.) and potential mitigation measures (where relevant); and
  - facilitated the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the four authorities which set out a high level agreement as to how new housing should be distributed across the HMA.
- 2.20 These activities are collectively referred to as the Strategic Spatial Options Study. It was anticipated that the study would provide a critical piece of evidence for demonstrating to the Planning Inspectorate at the independent Examinations into the four local plans that the key strategic issue of housing growth has been robustly addressed and that the Duty to Co-operate had been clearly complied with.
- 2.21 As part of the Strategic Spatial Options Study, a range of spatial options for distributing housing across the HMA were considered. Three levels of growth were considered:
- ~46,100 new homes in line with the 2015 SHMA
  - ~49,638 new homes in line with the DCLG 2012-based household projections
  - ~57,400 new homes in line with early advice from ORS in light of more recent information including the DCLG 2014-based household projections (NB this figure was later revised down to 54,608 – see above)
- 2.22 In particular, the spatial options explored different levels of growth in and around Harlow, a key urban centre within the HMA:
- ~10,500 (lower growth)
  - ~14,150 (medium growth)
  - ~17,650 (higher growth)
  - ~20,985 (maximum growth)
- 2.23 The study identified the following reasonable strategic spatial options:
- **Spatial options to deliver ~46,100 new homes across the HMA:**
    - A. Each authority meets its OAHN within its own boundaries (NB ~14,150 at Harlow)
    - B. Less development at Harlow and accelerated development on the A120 (NB ~10,500 at Harlow)
    - C. Less development at Harlow and two new settlements in East Herts (NB ~10,500 at Harlow)

D. Maximum growth at Harlow (NB ~17,650 at Harlow; reduced allocations in constrained areas of the HMA<sup>7</sup>)

- **Spatial option to deliver ~49,638 new homes:**

E. Higher growth across the HMA (NB ~17,650 at Harlow; allocations in constrained areas)

- **Spatial option to deliver ~57,400 new homes:**

F. Maximum growth across the HMA (NB ~ 20,985 at Harlow)

### Step 3 - Identify the preferred strategy

2.24 To assist in discharging the Duty to Co-operate, the Co-operation for Sustainable Development Member Board (the Co-op Member Board) for the HMA considered the six options (A-F) above for accommodating new housing development across the HMA area up to 2033. The implications of the six HMA spatial strategy options (A-F) were investigated through four means:

1. Transport modelling by Essex County Council to explore their implications in relation to traffic flows and the need for road upgrades or additional highways infrastructure;
2. Sustainability Appraisal to assess their implications in relation to a range of topics including biodiversity, community and wellbeing, historic environment, landscape and water. The findings of the SA were published in 2016;<sup>8</sup>
3. Habitat Regulations Assessment to determine their implications, if any, for the integrity of the Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation; and
4. Strategic Site Assessment to assess the suitability of the potential sites in and around Harlow that could deliver new housing development.

2.25 In light of this investigation, the Co-op Member Board identified a Preferred Spatial Option to deliver c. 51,000 new homes across the HMA to 2033 broken down in **Table 2.2** below.

**Table 2.2: The preferred broad strategy for the HMA**

| Local authority   | Net new dwellings 2011-2033 |
|---|-----------------------------|
| East Herts District Council   | c. 18,000                   |
| Epping Forest District Council                                      | c. 11,400                   |
| Harlow District Council   | c. 9,200                    |
| Uttlesford District Council   | c. 12,500                   |
| <b>Total across the HMA</b>   | <b>c. 51,100</b>            |
| ...of which the area in and around Harlow <sup>9</sup> will provide |                             |
|   | c. 16,100                   |

2.26 The preferred strategy was established drawing on evidence available at the time on the basis that:

- At c. 51,000 new homes, the planned level of housing growth was higher than both the established OAHN within the published 2015 SHMA (46,100) and the figure based on the DCLG 2012-based household projections (49,638). It was lower than ORS' estimated OAHN figure taking into account then recent information including the CLG 2014-based

<sup>7</sup> Figures reduced across settlements in East Herts (Bishop's Stortford, Hertford, Sawbridgeworth and Ware) and Epping Forest to minimise Green Belt incursion.

<sup>8</sup> Epping, East Herts, Harlow and Uttlesford District Councils (2016) SA of Strategic Spatial Options for the West Essex and East Hertfordshire Housing Market Area. [www.eastherts.gov.uk/HOP/HOP/002](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/HOP/HOP/002)

<sup>9</sup> 'in and around Harlow' refers to development in Harlow Town as well as around Harlow in adjoining Districts.

household projections (54,608) but nonetheless represented good progress towards this higher figure. Overall, the figure of c. 51,000 indicates that the four HMA authorities are positively seeking opportunities to meet the development needs of their areas in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and, furthermore, significantly boosting the supply of housing (NPPF, para. 47).

- Harlow represents the most sustainable location within the HMA at which to concentrate development given its role as a sub-regional centre for employment (especially in technology); its Enterprise Zone status; the need to rejuvenate the town centre; the opportunity to capitalise on its transport connections (for example, good rail links to London, Stansted Airport and Cambridge) and deliver north-south and east-west sustainable transport corridors traversing the town; its important location on the London – Stansted – Cambridge corridor; and, above all, the wider economic growth aspirations for the town. The findings and recommendation of the London Stansted Cambridge Corridor (LSCC) Growth Commission report, published in July 2016, stated that “*Broxbourne, Harlow and Stevenage have significant strategies and ambitions for growth and development. They can play an important role in supporting the Corridor’s tech and life sciences clusters. Current development and future plans will greatly improve the industrial, commercial and residential offer. These areas must be supported to provide the right types of development that enhance the quality of place for the Corridor’s knowledge-based industries and residents*” (our emphasis).<sup>10</sup>
- The transport modelling undertaken at that time demonstrated that growth of between 14,000 and 17,000 new homes in and around Harlow could be accommodated provided that the mitigation measures set out in the then Draft [now signed] Highways and Transportation Infrastructure MoU for the West Essex and East Hertfordshire HMA were delivered during the plan period. Evidence suggested that growth beyond 2033 is likely to be possible subject to further transport modelling and the identification and delivery of additional strategic highway mitigation measures.
- The Strategic Site Assessment (AECOM, September 2016) indicated that sufficient suitable strategic sites were available in and around Harlow to deliver the figure of c. 16,100 (together with sites either already completed or granted planning permission as well as urban brownfield sites). The Strategic Site Assessment is available on the East Herts District Plan evidence-base webpage.<sup>11</sup>

2.27 The latest SHMA update (2016) identified a slightly increased OAHN for three of the four local authorities in the HMA. However, as the increase was largely anticipated and accounted for in the HMA level work and preferred strategy, the updated overall housing need across the entire HMA remained broadly consistent with what had already been agreed (signed Memorandum of Understanding, March 2017).

2.28 It was not considered necessary to revisit alternatives for the level and distribution of growth for the HMA set out in the signed MoU (March 2017). The SA of Strategic Spatial Options published in 2016 considered three alternatives for the overall level of growth in the HMA, which included the delivery of ~ 46,000, ~ 49,638 and ~ 57,400 new homes within the HMA.<sup>12</sup> As such, higher numbers including figures approximating to and in excess of 51,710 new dwellings had already been tested and so there was no need to revisit the HMA-level optioneering work.

2.29 As a result, the HMA authorities are satisfied that the approach set out within the MoU will ensure that the predicted housing need of the HMA will be met over the course of the Local Plan periods.

<sup>10</sup> London Stansted Cambridge Corridor Growth Consortium (2016). Findings and recommendation of the London Stansted Cambridge Growth Commission [www.lscggrowthcommission.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/LSCC-Growth-Commission-Final-Report-full.pdf](http://www.lscggrowthcommission.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/LSCC-Growth-Commission-Final-Report-full.pdf).

<sup>11</sup> Harlow, Epping Forest, East Herts and Uttlesford District Councils (2016) Harlow Strategic Site Assessment. Prepared by AECOM. [www.eastherts.gov.uk/HOP/HOP/003](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/HOP/HOP/003)

<sup>12</sup> Epping, East Herts, Harlow and Uttlesford District Councils (2016) SA of Strategic Spatial Options for the West Essex and East Hertfordshire Housing Market Area. [www.eastherts.gov.uk/HOP/HOP/002](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/HOP/HOP/002)

## Developing Reasonable Alternatives for East Herts District

- 2.30 Returning to East Herts's District Plan, as explained earlier in this Section, the Council embarked on a 'stepped' approach to spatial strategy-making in 2012. Each of the steps corresponded with a Chapter of the Supporting Document, which included the identification and appraisal of site options (Steps 3 to 6). This work informed the selection of site allocations as well as the development of the preferred spatial strategy as set out in the Preferred Options Document in 2014.
- 2.31 Following the end of the Preferred Options consultation in May 2014, a range of new information and evidence emerged, including but not limited to a Green Belt Review (2015), updated Strategic Land Availability Assessment (SLAA 2016), further transport modelling and the progression of various Neighbourhood Plans. This new evidence along with the representations received at the Preferred Options stage were considered by the Council and informed further work in relation to the development and refinement of spatial strategy options at the HMA as well as District level.
- 2.32 This further work took the form of a number of settlement appraisals that sought to continue the 'stepped' approach and narrative of the Supporting Document, in particular Chapters 4 to 6, by detailing information and evidence for each settlement which had emerged since the Preferred Options consultation ended in May 2014. This included all of the sites submitted to the Council through the 'Call for Sites' process and considered through the updated SLAA Report (2016).
- 2.33 As part of the further work undertaken by the Council presented in the settlement appraisals, consideration was given to potential alternative options for development and further SA work was carried out. This took into consideration all the updated technical work (Green Belt Review, updated SLAA), consultation responses and current development situation (planning applications). The detail of this work is presented in the settlement appraisals which are available separately on the Council's website.<sup>13</sup>
- 2.34 The further technical work carried out by the Council informed the development and refinement of reasonable spatial strategy options for the East Herts District Plan in 2016. It is important to remember that this work was carried out in the context of, and informed, the Strategic Spatial Options Study for the HMA referred to earlier in this Section. The work undertaken by the Co-op. Member Board to develop and test options for distributing different levels of growth across the HMA formed a critical component of the evidence base informing the District Plan. This information, including the SA of the strategic spatial options for the HMA<sup>14</sup>, is available to view and download on the Council's website.<sup>15</sup>
- 2.35 The findings of the emerging Strategic Spatial Options Study were discussed at a meeting between Council officers and AECOM in August 2016. This, along with the further evidence at the District level, including updated technical evidence, emerging settlement appraisals and consultation responses, informed the identification of more localised spatial strategy options ('reasonable alternatives') to be explored through the SA process for the East Herts District Plan. The options identified were as follows:

**Option 1** - accommodate ~18,000 new homes over the plan period (OAHN = 16,400<sup>16</sup> but we know from the CLG 2014 household projections that the need is trending upwards):

- a. Preferred distribution as set out in the Strategic Spatial Options Study.
- b. Preferred distribution (1a) but with ~3,000 fewer homes within the Green Belt at key settlements including Bishop's Stortford (reduction of 750 dwellings), Hertford (reduction of 750 dwellings), Sawbridgeworth (reduction of 500 dwellings) and Ware (reduction of 1,000 dwellings). The ~3,000 would instead be dispersed across the rural area.
- c. Preferred distribution (1a) but with ~3,000 fewer homes within the Green Belt at key settlements including Bishop's Stortford (reduction of 750 dwellings), Hertford (reduction of 750 dwellings), Sawbridgeworth (reduction of 500 dwelling) and Ware (reduction of

<sup>13</sup> [www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/evidencebase)

<sup>14</sup> Sustainability Appraisal of the Spatial Strategy Options for the West Essex and East Hertfordshire Housing Market Area (2016) Available [online]: [www.eastherts.gov.uk/HOP/HOP/002](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/HOP/HOP/002)

<sup>15</sup> Harlow Strategic Site Assessment (2016) Available [online]: [www.eastherts.gov.uk/HOP/HOP/003](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/HOP/HOP/003)

<sup>16</sup> Opinion Research Services (September 2015) West Essex and East Hertfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment: Report of Findings [www.eastherts.gov.uk/HOP/HOP/001](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/HOP/HOP/001)

1,000 dwellings). The ~3,000 would instead be focused at two new settlements (near Little Hadham and Watton-at-Stone).

**Option 2** - accommodate ~19,500 new homes over the plan period (updated OAHN = 19,500<sup>17</sup>):

- a. Preferred distribution (1a) plus other sites around settlements identified through the evidence base, including additional sites in Buntingford and north of Harlow.

- 2.36 The four reasonable alternatives identified above were subject to appraisal through the SA process. The summary appraisal findings were presented in Chapter 7 and the detailed appraisal matrices presented in Appendix IV of the SA Report that accompanied the Pre-Submission District Plan on consultation in September 2016 and which was submitted alongside the District Plan for independent Examination in March 2017. The findings of the SA informed the Council's outline reasons for selecting the preferred approach (Option 1a) in light of the alternatives considered, see Chapter 8 of the SA Report (2016).

## Appraisal of the Draft Plan

- 2.37 At various stages of plan making, the SA process has appraised and informed emerging District Plan policies and allocations.

## Preferred Options (2014)

- 2.38 As highlighted in the introduction to this Section, the Preferred Options Draft District Plan was released for consultation in February 2014. The document presented a full Draft District Plan, including a range of policies and allocations for guiding development in East Herts. These were developed to reflect the various evidence base studies prepared to support the development of the Plan to date and also to reflect the findings of the appraisal of the preferred development strategy and reasonable alternatives through the SA process.
- 2.39 The Preferred Options consultation was accompanied by an Interim SA Report (2014). This was designed to inform the consultation through presenting an appraisal of the planning policies and allocations presented in the Preferred Options document. The appraisal of the Draft Plan in Chapter 13 of the SA Report proposed a number of recommendations with respect to the policies and allocations. It also indicated how previous SA work had influenced the policies presented in the Preferred Options document.

## Pre-Submission (2016)

- 2.40 The planning policies for the District Plan were then updated for the Regulation 19 Pre-Submission consultation, and again appraised through the SA process and recommendations made. The findings of the appraisal and the subsequent recommendations were presented in Part 2 (Chapters 9 to 21) of the SA Report (Sept 2016) accompanying the Pre-Submission document on consultation in November 2016.

## Proposed Main Modifications (2018)

- 2.41 The District Plan was submitted to Government for Examination in March 2017. It was then the focus of Examination hearings in October/November 2017 as well as a joint hearing session with Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council in January 2018. During the hearings, the Inspector gave her preliminary views on the matters discussed and indicated that modifications would be necessary to make the District Plan 'sound'. She invited the Council to develop a list of proposed modifications, for her agreement and subsequent publication.
- 2.42 The proposed modifications were published for consultation alongside a SA Report Addendum<sup>18</sup> in February 2018. The SA Report Addendum presented an appraisal of the

<sup>17</sup> Opinion Research Services (August 2016). Updating the Overall Housing Need Based on 2014 projections for West Essex & East Herts [www.eastherts.gov.uk/HOP](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/HOP) (HOP/011)

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/examinationdocuments> (ED182)

proposed Main Modifications to the District Plan. It also gave consideration to reasonable alternatives in light of the proposed Main Modifications.

### 3. Consultation responses and how they have been taken into account

- 3.1 Regulation 16 of the SEA Regulations requires that the SA Adoption Statement includes a description of how the opinions expressed by the public and consultation bodies during consultation on the plan and SA Report were taken into account.
- 3.2 As discussed in Chapter 2 (and as visualised in **Figure 1**), at each stage of the District Plan's development, an SA Report was published alongside the Plan for consultation.
- 3.3 Consultation was carried out with:
- the three statutory bodies for SEA (the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England);
  - other key stakeholders; and
  - the general public.

#### Responses received at Regulation 18 and 19 stages

- 3.4 The responses received prior and subsequent to publication of the District Plan have been presented in the District Plan (Regulation 22) Consultation Statement. This includes a description of the key consultation processes undertaken for the District Plan, a summary of the main issues raised by responses and how they have been addressed.
- 3.5 The Statement of Consultation can be accessed at the following location:  
[www.eastherts.gov.uk/submission](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/submission) (SUB/009)
- 3.6 Any representations referring directly to the published SA documents were taken into account and informed subsequent stages of the SA process.

#### Responses received at the Main Modifications stage

- 3.7 A number of representations were received that referred directly to the SA Report Addendum published in February 2018. These were reviewed and taken into account and it was determined that no further SA work was necessary.



## 4. Monitoring

- 4.1 The SEA Regulations require that: “*The responsible authority shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action.*”
- 4.2 The Regulations also state that the SA Adoption Statement should set out “*...the measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme.*”
- 4.3 The purpose of monitoring is to measure the significant sustainability effects of a plan, as well as to measure success against the plan’s objectives. This will enable appropriate interventions to be undertaken if monitoring highlights negative trends relating to the relevant elements. It is therefore beneficial if the monitoring strategy builds on monitoring systems which are already in place. To this end, many of the indicators of progress chosen for the SA are based on data that is already being routinely collected at a local level by East Herts District Council and its partner organisations. It should also be noted that monitoring can provide useful information to inform the development of future plans and programmes, including future iterations of the District Plan.
- 4.4 **Table 4.1** therefore outlines a monitoring programme for measuring the District Plan’s implementation in relation to the SA framework and outcomes, including areas where the SA identified significant effects or where significant opportunities for an improvement in sustainability performance may arise. It also seeks to monitor where uncertainties relating to the appraisal findings arose and suggests where monitoring is required to help ensure that the benefits of the District Plan are achieved through the planning process.

**Table 4.1: SA monitoring programme for the East Herts District Plan**

| Sustainability topic                  | Indicator   | Responsibility              | Frequency |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Air quality                           | East Herts Council’s regular air quality review and assessment work as required by the Environment Act 1995.  | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
| Biodiversity and green infrastructure | Change in number and area of statutorily protected sites. This will monitor the legally protected site network of SSSIs and LNRs which are also a statutory designation.  | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
|                                       | Change in number and area of non-statutory sites. These will be anything else that is considered to have some form of informal biodiversity or geodiversity recognition namely, Wildlife sites, important geological/ geomorphological sites, Wildlife Trust or other reserves. | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
|                                       | Change in number and area of ancient woodlands.   | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
| Climate change                        | Number of new developments producing at least 10% of total predicted energy requirements in accordance with Policy CC3.   | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
|                                       | Amount of new sources of renewable energy generation permitted.   | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
| Community and wellbeing               | Number of planning permissions granted on land designated for open space, sport and recreation under policy CFLR1 contrary to policy.   | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
|                                       | Amount of new open space, sport and recreation facilities completed by typology and settlement.   | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
|                                       | Number of planning permissions for residential development granted that result in meeting Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards.  | East Herts District Council | Annual    |



| Sustainability topic   | Indicator  | Responsibility              | Frequency |
|------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------|
|                        | Number of planning permissions granted on land designated as Local Green Space under policy CFLR2 which are contrary to policy.                      | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
|                        | Number of planning permissions granted that result in the loss of uses, buildings or land for public or community contrary to Policy CFLR8.          | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
|                        | Amount of new uses, buildings or land for public or community use completed by settlement.   | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
|                        | Delivery of strategic and local infrastructure to support new development.   | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
| Economy and employment | Number of additional jobs provided in the District between 2011-2033.  | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
|                        | Amount of additional employment land allocated for Use Classes B1/B2/B8 between 2011-2033.   | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
|                        | % of new employment floorspace completed by type on Previously Developed Land (PDL).   | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
|                        | Net additional retail floorspace completed between 2011-2033, by settlement and primary shopping area.   | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
| Historic environment   | Change in number of designated historical assets.  | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
|                        | Number of Conservation Area appraisals completed.  | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
|                        | Number of listed buildings on the national 'Buildings at Risk Register'.   | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
|                        | Number of approvals which include a consideration of a designated heritage asset.  | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
|                        | Number of refusals which include consideration of a designated heritage asset.   | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
|                        | Number of approvals which were objected to by Historic England.  | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
| Housing                | Net additional dwellings completed between 2011-2033, by settlement and broad location for growth.   | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
|                        | Net additional dwellings in future years and phasing (trajectory).   | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
|                        | Net additional dwellings completed on Allocated sites.   | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
|                        | Net additional dwellings completed in the monitoring year, by size, type and tenure and by settlement and broad location for growth.                 | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
|                        | % of affordable housing permissions completed in accordance with Policy HOU3 in terms of site capacity/size thresholds.                              | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
|                        | Amount of new specialist accommodation to meet the specific needs of older and vulnerable people, falling within Use Classes C2, C3, or sui-generis. | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
|                        | Number of new Gypsy and Traveller pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots completed.   | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
| Land                   | % of new and converted dwellings on Previously Developed Land (PDL).   | East Herts District Council | Annual    |

| Sustainability topic | Indicator  | Responsibility              | Frequency |
|----------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Landscape            | Number of planning permissions granted on land in the Green Belt contrary to Policy GBR1.  | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
|                      | Number of dwellings permitted in the Green Belt contrary to Policy GBR1.   | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
| Transport            | Amount of new residential development completed within 30 minutes public transport time of six key services.   | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
|                      | Amount of completed development complying with car parking standards.  | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
|                      | Delivery of strategic and local infrastructure to support new development.   | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
| Water                | Number of permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency and/or Hertfordshire County Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority, on either flood defence or water quality grounds. | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
|                      | % of new residential development achieving mains water consumption of 110 litres or less per head per day.   | East Herts District Council | Annual    |
|                      | Delivery of strategic and local infrastructure to support new development.   | East Herts District Council | Annual    |

## 5. Conclusions on the SA process

- 5.1 This SA Adoption Statement demonstrates that a robust and iterative SA process has been progressed alongside plan-making, with appraisal findings feeding in to decision-making at numerous junctures, and with numerous reports having been published for consultation alongside plan documents. Any representations received were taken into account and informed subsequent stages of the SA process.
- 5.2 In summary, the following reports were published as part of the SA process:
- SA Scoping Report (2010)
  - Two Interim SA Reports (2010 and 2014)
  - The SA Report (2016)
  - One SA Report Addendum (2018)
- 5.3 Most importantly, in terms of compliance with both the SEA and Local Planning Regulations, the SA Report was published alongside the Pre-Submission (Regulation 19) version of the District Plan in 2016, presenting the required information. The report served to inform representations on the Plan, and then served to inform plan finalisation.
- 5.4 This SA Adoption Statement is the final step in the SA process.



## EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 11 SEPTEMBER 2018

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF BISHOP'S STORTFORD TOWN COUNCIL – REPORT ON SECOND STAGE CONSULTATION

WARD(S) AFFECTED: BISHOP'S STORTFORD ALL SAINTS, CENTRAL, MEADS, SILVERLEYS AND SOUTH; MUCH HADHAM

### **Purpose/Summary of Report**

- To report the responses received during the second stage consultation period for the Community Governance Review of Bishop's Stortford Town Council and to invite the Executive to forward their recommendations to the Council for consideration when agreeing the final outcome of the review.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE: That:**

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| (A) | <b>The Executive consider the responses received to the second stage consultation on the Community Governance Review of Bishop's Stortford Town Council as set out in section 7 of the report, and</b> |
| (B) | <b>The Executive forward their recommendations to the Council for consideration when agreeing the final outcome of the Community Governance Review.</b>  |

## **1.0 Background – Community Governance Reviews**

- 1.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 ('the 2007 Act') empowers a principal authority such as East Herts Council to review and make changes to the governance arrangements for parishes and parish/town councils in its area.
- 1.2 The procedure for making decisions on these matters is a Community Governance Review. This is a review of the whole or part of the district with a view to making recommendations on one or more of the following:
  - Creating, merging or abolishing parishes;
  - Boundary alterations between existing parishes;
  - The naming of parishes and the style of new parishes;
  - The establishment of parish councils;
  - Electoral arrangements for parish councils (the year of election; number of councillors; warding), and/or
  - Grouping parishes under a common parish council or degrouping parishes.
- 1.3 A Community Governance Review may be triggered by a statutory petition or a formal 'application' in the terms of the 2007 Act, or the Council may decide to undertake a review at any time, e.g. in response to population changes or new housing development, as part of a periodic programme of reviews or in response to a request from a town/parish council.
- 1.4 In undertaking a review the Council must consult local electors and other interested parties and must follow guidance issued by the Secretary of State and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE).
- 1.5 A Community Governance Review begins when the Council publishes terms of reference for the review and ends when it

agrees the final recommendations (which must be within 12 months of the review starting) and adopts a Community Governance Reorganisation Order detailing any changes in accordance with those recommendations. Any revised electoral arrangements take effect at the next ordinary parish elections, which in East Herts are scheduled for May 2019.

- 1.6 In accordance with regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2000, functions relating to Community Governance Reviews are not to be the responsibility of an authority's executive. The draft and final recommendations of the review must therefore be agreed by the Council or under delegated arrangements agreed by the Council.

## **2.0 Community Governance Review of Bishop's Stortford Town Council**

- 2.1 The Council on 16 December 2015 agreed to undertake a Community Governance Review of Bishop's Stortford Town Council, including the town boundary. The review was agreed following a request from Bishop's Stortford Town Council, which identified two issues for consideration:

- (i) The parish boundary between Bishop's Stortford and Thorley:- The Town Council identified development which crosses the parish boundary - for example at St Michael's Mead - and areas of future development to the south of the town either consented or envisaged in the district plan.

Parts of the areas identified are currently in Thorley Parish but the Town Council considers the developments are, or will be, seen by residents as part of Bishop's Stortford and therefore suggested that its boundary with Thorley Parish be re-drawn to follow the existing district ward boundary, with all land north of St James' Way - including St Michael's Mead, the land south of Whittington Way and the Thorley Street

and Pig Lane areas - being transferred from Thorley Parish Council to Bishop's Stortford Town Council.

- (ii) The ward boundaries within the town:- The Town Council also made a number of detailed proposals for changes to ward boundaries within the town to address perceived anomalies, such as roads or developments split between two or more wards.

Eighteen separate minor changes to ward boundaries were proposed as shown in **Essential Reference Paper B**. A total of approximately 450 properties, currently housing about 850 electors, are affected by the proposals across the eighteen locations.

### **3.0 Issues for consideration and decision-making criteria for the review**

- 3.1 Section 93 of the 2007 Act requires principal councils to ensure that community governance within the area under review will be (i) reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and (ii) effective and convenient
- 3.2 When considering these criteria, councils should take into account factors including the impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and the size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish. The LGBCE guidance states that 'the general rule should be that the parish is based on an area which reflects community identity and interest and which is of a size which is viable as an administrative unit of local government'.
- 3.3 In relation to boundaries, the guidance states that these 'should reflect the "no-man's land" between communities represented by areas of low population or barriers such as rivers, roads or railways.'



- 3.4 In accordance with the above principles, the Council has set out policies in the terms of reference for the review including the following:-

Community identities and interests

- a) The Council considers that parishes should reflect distinctive and recognisable communities of interest, with their own sense of identity and that electors should be able to identify clearly with the parish in which they are resident. The feeling of local community and the wishes of local inhabitants are therefore important considerations in the review.
- b) The Council will give careful consideration both to traditional community identities and historic parish arrangements; and to any changes that have happened over time, for example population movements or new development, that may have led to a different community identity in an area.

Parish boundaries

- c) The Council considers that the boundaries between parishes will normally reflect the distinct community identities of the respective areas. Boundaries will often follow areas of low population between settlements or pronounced physical barriers (either natural or built) such as watercourses, marshland or moorland; parks, canals, railways or major roads.
- d) Should a reorganisation of parish boundaries occur as a result of the review, the Council will aim to select boundaries that are and are likely to remain easily identifiable.

Effective and convenient community governance

- e) The Council wishes to ensure that parishes should be viable as an administrative unit and should possess a precept that enables them effectively to promote the well-being of their residents and contribute to the provision of services in their areas.

#### **4.0 Electoral arrangements**

4.1 Once the Council has determined whether it will make any changes to parish boundaries, it must go on to consider if any changes are required to the electoral arrangements for the parish(es):-

- Warding:- The Council must consider whether a parish should be, or should continue to be, divided into wards for the purposes of elections to the parish council and the number and boundaries of parish wards, taking account of population distribution and community identity and interests in the area.
- The number of councillors:- The Council must consider the number of councillors to be elected for each parish/ward and the number of electors they will represent.

4.2 The Council will also have regard to existing levels of representation, the pattern of existing council sizes which have stood the test of time and the take-up of seats at elections. There is no duty to ensure electoral equality between parishes or wards, but the LGBCE believes it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government, either for voters or councillors, to have significant differences in representation.

#### **5.0 Initial consultation and draft recommendations**

- 5.1 The review began on 13 February 2018 with the publication of terms of reference setting out the aims, process and timetable, the matters on which it would focus and policies that the District Council considers relevant. The first period of public consultation ran until 6 April 2018, during which local residents and all interested parties were invited to make initial submissions on the Town Council's proposals and any other matters that they felt should be considered.
- 5.2 In relation to the package of proposed minor changes to ward boundaries within Bishop's Stortford Town Council, twelve consultation responses were received. Of these, one respondent opposed the changes and four stated 'no comment' or similar. The other seven respondents were broadly supportive of the changes.
- 5.3 In relation to the parish boundary between Bishop's Stortford and Thorley, responses were received from nine local organisations and 125 individuals. A large majority of respondents did not support the Town Council's proposals. In addition, 394 individually signed pro-forma letters were received objecting to the proposed Thorley boundary change and a petition was received, signed by a total of 960 persons, calling for 'no change to the current boundary between Thorley village and Bishop's Stortford'.
- 5.4 Although many responses cited reasons related to over-development, preservation of Green Belt or opposition to development on the Whittington Way site (which are matters for the planning process rather than a community governance review), others did reference matters specifically relevant to the criteria. Many were concerned that if the town council's proposal was agreed, Thorley Parish would no longer be viable as an administrative area. Although most responses were from people living outside the area affected, a large majority of responses from within that area were opposed to the proposal,

and of these, most were from the Thorley Street and Pig Lane areas or Rectory Close.

- 5.5 Following the close of the initial consultation, the submissions received were reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 17 April 2018 and the Executive on 24 April 2018, which made recommendations to the Council for consideration when agreeing its draft recommendations for the review.
- 5.6 The Council meeting on 16 May 2018 discussed the Community Governance Review. In considering whether or not the proposals from the Town Council should be recommended, the council took into account the responses received to the consultation, the LGBCE's guidance on community governance reviews, geographical data, electorate projections and the recommendations of the Executive which in turn were informed by the comments of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- 5.7 Following consideration in turn of each element of the Town Council's proposal, the Council recommended that some but not all of the areas identified by the Town Council should be transferred to the Town Council's area, and proposed some other changes to governance arrangements. The Council's decisions formed the basis of the draft recommendations of the Community Governance Review, to be subject to a further round of public consultation as follows:-

### **Minor ward boundary changes within Bishop's Stortford**

- a) The Council considered that the proposals address anomalies that have arisen in the main due to new or infill development across the existing ward boundaries and that they have the potential to provide practical and convenient arrangements for electors and to slightly improve electoral equality between the wards. The council therefore

recommended that the detailed ward boundary changes within the existing area of Bishop's Stortford Town Council, as proposed by the Town Council and shown in the maps included in Essential Reference Paper B of the report submitted, be agreed.

### **The boundary between Bishop's Stortford and Thorley**

- b) **St Michael's Mead** – The Council noted that this development has extended across the existing parish boundary which as a result no longer meets the guidance for such boundaries. St Michael's Mead adjoins the built-up area of Bishop's Stortford, within which most of the estate is situated. Relatively few initial consultation responses were received from St Michael's Mead residents of Thorley compared to those in other parts of Thorley Parish. The Council recommended that the whole of St Michael's Mead should be incorporated within the area of Bishop's Stortford Town Council.
  
- c) **Land south of Whittington Way** – Electorate forecasts based on planning consents and projections in the District Plan suggest that by February 2023 there will be approximately 500 electors living on this site. The current parish boundary runs through the site and therefore, when it is developed, the boundary will no longer meet the guidance. The majority of the site is in Thorley but the Council considers that once developed the area will have more in common with the town of Bishop's Stortford, will be different in character to other parts of Thorley, and that future residents of this urban extension are likely to feel part of the Bishop's Stortford community. The Council recommended that the site of proposed development south of Whittington Way should be incorporated within the area of Bishop's Stortford Town Council.

- d) **Thorley Street, Pig Lane and Twyford Bury Lane areas** – The Council did not consider that the Town Council had provided any compelling evidence that Thorley Street and the areas east of London Road and the railway, including Pig Lane and Twyford Bury Lane, should be transferred to Bishop's Stortford. It felt that these areas had much in common with the remainder of Thorley Parish and noted that a majority of the responses from Thorley residents opposing the Town Council's proposal had come from these areas. The Council recommended that the Thorley Street, Pig Lane and Twyford Bury Lane areas should remain part of Thorley Parish.
- e) **Rectory Close** – This road is currently split between the two parishes as the current boundary runs between numbers 4 and 5. The Council recommended that this anomaly should be corrected and that all properties in Rectory Close should be incorporated into Thorley Parish.
- f) **Park View Cottages** – Numbers 6 to 9 Park View Cottages are situated east of London Road and south of the junction with Whittington Way but are currently within Bishop's Stortford Town Council's area. The Council recommended that the area in which these properties are situated should be incorporated into Thorley Parish.
- g) **Thorley Parish Council electoral arrangements** – The original proposal from the Town Council would have left Thorley Parish with only 47 current electors. This would jeopardise the viability of the parish. Under the Council's more limited proposals, Thorley Parish would have a current electorate of just over 220. The Council believes that the areas included in the revised boundary of the parish will share the common traditions, sense of place and identity that many respondents have referred to. Given this and the relatively small electorate (the Council noted that at 513,

Thorley currently has the lowest electorate of any warded parish within East Hertfordshire), the Council recommended that Thorley Parish on its revised boundaries should no longer be divided into wards. Taking into account the relative size of other parish councils within East Herts, the Council further recommended that the new Thorley Parish Council should comprise of five parish councillors rather than the current seven.

h) **District Council ward boundaries** – Any changes to parish boundaries agreed as part of the Community Governance Review will not automatically change the equivalent boundaries for District or County Council elections. In order to maintain consistency the Council recommended that the LGBCE be asked to change the relevant District Ward and County Division boundaries to align them with the revised parish boundaries above.

5.8 A map showing the proposed revised parish boundary reflecting the above draft recommendations, is attached at **Essential Reference Paper C**.

## **6.0 Second stage consultation**

6.1 The Council's draft recommendations were then published for a further round of public consultation from 31 May 2018 until 10 August 2018 (extended during the process from the original deadline of 27 July 2018).

6.2 As for the first round of public consultation, a range of methods and channels were used to publicise the draft recommendations and invite electors and others to respond including:

- Notification to the relevant parish/town councils and to the County Council

- Notification to elected representatives for the areas under review and local political parties
- Letters/e-mails to community groups and business organisations based in the areas under review
- Consultation leaflets distributed via the Council offices at Wallfields and Charringtons, Bishop's Stortford Library, community centres/halls and other local venues
- Consultation leaflets also delivered to all properties directly affected by the draft recommendations
- A dedicated page for the review on the 'consultations' section of the EHDC website consultation with an online form for responses and periodic links from the home page
- Press releases, social media and 'network' posts.

6.3 Responses were accepted by post, e-mail or via the online form or a hard copy version of the form distributed at the St Barnabas Centre public meeting (see 6.7 below) and with subsequent consultation leaflets.

6.4 During the consultation period and as part their responses to the consultation, two organisations submitted further proposals which were then added into the consultation and responses invited on the further proposals as follows:-

- Bishops Stortford Town Council proposed that the number of town councillors be reduced from 18 to 17 in order to improve electoral equality in the medium term, to be achieved by reducing the number of town councillors elected to represent All Saints ward from four to three.
- Thorley Parish Council suggested three alternative options for changes to the parish boundary between Thorley and Bishop's Stortford as follows:-
  - Option one – Under this option Thorley Parish would retain all of its existing area and would also



incorporate a strip of land north of the current boundary with Bishop's Stortford and south of Thorley Lane/Obrey Way/Whittington Way, from Moor Hall Lane in the west to London Road in the east.

- Option two – Under this option Thorley Parish would retain all of its existing area and would also incorporate a strip of land, longer than that in Option 1, north of the current boundary with Bishop's Stortford and south of Great Hadham Road, Thorley Lane West, Mercers Avenue, Milliners Way, Thorley Lane, Obrey Way and Whittington Way.
- Option three – Under this option Thorley Parish would incorporate a strip of land north of the current boundary with Bishop's Stortford as in Option 1. In addition the section of St Michael's Mead that is currently in Thorley (but not Southern Country Park) would transfer to Bishop's Stortford.

6.5 Maps provided by the Parish Council illustrating the three options above are set out in **Essential Reference Paper D** attached.

6.6 As well as amending the online consultation to seek views on the above three options, an addendum consultation form was distributed in hard copy on this matter.

6.7 During the consultation period, members of the Old Thorley and Twyford Residents' Association promoted an e-petition on the Council's website calling for a public meeting to discuss the draft recommendations. The Council arranged a public meeting as part of the consultation process – this took place at the St Barnabas Centre in Thorley on 18 July 2018 and the notes of the meeting are available as a background paper to this report.

## **7.0 Results of the second stage consultation**

7.1 In total 483 responses were received to the second stage consultation as follows:-

- 7 organisations: - Bishop's Stortford Town Council
  - Thorley Parish Council
  - Bishop's Stortford Civic Federation
  - Old Thorley and Twyford Residents' Association
  - Parsonage Residents' Association
  - Friends of Southern Country Park
  - Hertfordshire County Council on behalf of two county councillors
- 136 individual direct responses, mostly from residents of Thorley or Bishop's Stortford South ward.
- 340 'Petition Forms' signed by individual residents and collected by Thorley Parish Council. The 'Petition Forms' set out four elements of the Council's draft recommendations together with associated questions and ask the signatories to agree or disagree with each proposition. The majority of the forms were signed by residents of Thorley or Bishop's Stortford South Ward with a small number from elsewhere in Bishop's Stortford or further afield. It is possible that some signatories also submitted individual responses included above.

7.2 Below is a brief 'headline' summary of the points made in their responses by each of the organisations listed above. The direct responses received from individuals and organisations are available in full as a background paper to this report:

- **Bishop's Stortford Town Council** – Supports EHDC's draft recommendations (but makes no comment on the proposed arrangements for Thorley Parish Council). Requests a reduction in the number of Town Councillors from 18 to 17. Does not support any of the alternative options proposed by Thorley Parish Council.
- **Thorley Parish Council** – Does not support EHDC's recommendations in respect of St Michael's Mead or the land south of Whittington Way. Proposes three alternative options for changes to the parish boundary. Welcomes EHDC's recommendations in respect of Thorley Street/Pig Lane, Rectory Close and Park View Cottages.
- **Bishop's Stortford Civic Federation** – Challenges the assertion that there will be significant development on the Thorley part of the Bishop's Stortford South site by 2023 and concludes that there is currently no case for changing the boundaries between Bishop's Stortford and Thorley; and that the appropriate time to consider this issue, if necessary, should be after 2022.
- **Old Thorley and Twyford Residents' Association** – Opposes the recommendations regarding land south of Whittington Way. Supports the other EHDC recommendations except the reduction in number of Thorley Parish Councillors. Have proposed a further alternative option for a revised parish boundary that is a variation of Thorley Parish Council's Option 3 and would restore Thorley to pre-1990's status as an unwarded parish.
- **Parsonage Residents' Association** – Opposes the ward boundary changes, stating that 'ward boundaries should remain the same or be kept to local main roads'. Challenges the assertion that the status of Thorley Village as a Group 3

village within the emerging District Plan will not be affected by the proposed parish boundary change.

- **Friends of Southern Country Park** – Support Option 3 as proposed by Thorley Parish Council.
- **Hertfordshire County Council** canvassed its councillors and forwarded responses from County Councillors Colin Woodward and John Wyllie, both of whom support the EHDC/Town Council proposals and oppose the Thorley Parish Council alternative options.

7.3 An analysis of the individual responses received in respect of each element of the Council's draft recommendations is set out below:-

(a) **Minor ward boundary changes within the Bishop's Stortford Town Council area**

There were 14 responses in favour of the proposed package of minor ward boundary changes within the existing Bishop's Stortford Town Council area, 22 against and 15 respondents stated 'don't know'.

Text in the 'comments' box suggests that some of those who opposed the changes were focussed on the Thorley boundary issue and either did not realise that this question concerned the minor changes elsewhere in Bishop's Stortford or were voting 'against' in order to reinforce a general 'no change' message.

(b) **Reduction in the number of Bishop's Stortford Town Councillors from 18 to 17**

Only two respondents expressed a view on this proposal – one in favour and one 'don't know'.

**(c) St Michael's Mead**

There were 32 responses in favour of the proposal to transfer all of St Michael's Mead into Bishop's Stortford and 57 against. 7 respondents stated 'don't know' and one 'possible'.

Some respondents in favour of the change referred to St Michael's Mead as an urban extension of Bishop's Stortford and stated that many of its residents already thought of themselves as living in Bishop's Stortford or that they were not involved in large numbers in Thorley village life.

Some respondents did not object to the transfer of St Michael's Mead but felt that this should not include Southern Country Park which had no residents and which should remain in Thorley.

Some respondents opposed to the change agreed that it made sense for St Michael's Mead to be entirely within one parish but felt that this should be Thorley rather than Bishop's Stortford. Points raised included the fact that vehicular access to St Michael's Mead is from Thorley. Other respondents stated that they were happy with the status quo and that no compelling case had been made for the change or advantage demonstrated for residents.

Of the 'Petition Forms' submitted by Thorley Parish Council, 64 responses were in favour of the proposal to transfer all of St Michael's Mead into Bishop's Stortford and 247 were against. There were 29 blank or 'don't know'/'n/a' responses.

**(d) Land south of Whittington Way**

There were 12 responses in favour of the proposal to transfer the whole of the land allocated for housing development south of Whittington Way into Bishop's Stortford and 90 against. 2 respondents stated 'don't know'.

Of the 'Petition Forms' submitted by Thorley Parish Council, 15 responses were in favour of the proposal to transfer the land south of Whittington Way into Bishop's Stortford and 305 were against. 20 responses were blank.

In relation to the comments and supporting reasons submitted by respondents, those in favour of the change made points including:-

- The District Plan envisages relatively high density housing on the site which will be more urban in nature than the rest of Thorley parish.
- Future residents of the site are likely to feel part of Bishop's Stortford and the Town Council would be better placed to represent them.
- The residents would use services provided by the Town Council and should therefore contribute to the cost of those services via the precept.
- Bishop's Stortford Town Council stated that the change could help to safeguard the future viability of Thorley Parish by retaining its predominantly rural character.

Respondents who opposed the change raised a range of points. As in the first stage of consultation, there were a number of comments about planning issues or overdevelopment. However, a number of arguments relevant to the review were advanced including:-

- The land is not 'no-man's land' but is an integral part of Thorley, linking the upper and lower parts of the village.
- The review is premature as the proposed development has not yet received planning permission. It is therefore impossible to be certain (a) that it will go ahead or (b) what the character of any development will be.
- Even if planning permission is granted, the phasing of the development is not yet known with certainty. Recent information suggests that only 200 houses might be developed on the site by 2022 and that these would be predominantly or even exclusively on the section of the site that is already within Bishop's Stortford (immediately south of Whittington Way).
- Insufficient evidence has been provided to support the conjecture that future residents of the site will see themselves as part of the Bishop's Stortford community, rather than that of Thorley. They may wish to be part of a rural parish. The housing will be marketed as a village development.
- Many other residents of the wider area use the facilities in Bishop's Stortford town centre despite not being part of Bishop's Stortford Town Council.
- The majority of the site is in Thorley. There is no reason why any new development should not be included within Thorley. This may enhance the viability of the parish.
- There is no need to rush the review or speculate. Decisions should be made if and when the site has been developed, taking into account the actual views of future residents.

**(e) Thorley Street, Pig Lane, Twyford Bury Lane**

There were 87 responses in favour of the proposal that Thorley Street and the areas around Pig Lane and Twyford Bury Lane should remain in Thorley Parish and 6 against. 4 respondents stated 'don't know' and 1 'no comment'.

Of the 'Petition Forms' submitted by Thorley Parish Council, 300 responses were in favour of the proposal, 18 were against and 22 responses were blank.

**(f) Rectory Close**

There were 67 responses in favour of the proposal that all of Rectory Close should be within Thorley and 20 against. 9 respondents stated 'don't know' and 1 'no comment'.

Of the 'Petition Forms' submitted by Thorley Parish Council, 280 responses were in favour of the proposal, 24 were against and there were 36 blank or 'don't know' responses.

**(g) Park View Cottages**

There were 63 responses in favour of the proposal that numbers 6-9 Park View Cottages should be transferred to Thorley Parish and 19 against. 14 respondents stated 'don't know' and 1 'no comment'.

**(h) Thorley Parish Council electoral arrangements**

There were 13 responses in favour of the proposal that Thorley Parish Council on its new boundaries should be unwarded and composed of five councillors rather than seven as at present and 61 against. 19 respondents stated 'don't know' and 1 'no comment'.



A number of respondents agreed with the move to an unwarded parish council but not the reduction in the number of parish councillors.

(i) **Consequential changes to District ward/County division boundaries**

There were 27 responses in favour of the proposal that the LGBCE be asked to bring the District and County division boundaries into line with any revised parish ward boundaries and 46 against. 24 respondents stated 'don't know'.

Text in the 'comments' box suggests that some of those who opposed this proposal did so because they are opposed to the proposed parish boundary changes rather than the principal of coterminous boundaries.

(j) **Thorley Parish Council's alternative options**

As stated above, the scope of the consultation was extended to facilitate responses on to the three alternative options for changes to the parish boundary suggested by Thorley Parish Council. Responses were received as follows:-

- **Option 1** (Thorley Parish to retain existing area and to take on a strip of Bishop's Stortford up to Whittington Way):
  - 24 responses in favour, 15 against.
- **Option 2** (Thorley Parish to retain existing area and to take on a longer strip of Bishop's Stortford including more of St Michael's Mead):
  - 29 responses in favour, 13 against.

- **Option 3** (Thorley Parish to take on a strip of Bishop's Stortford up to Whittington Way but all of St Michael's Mead (but not Southern County Park) to move to Bishop's Stortford):
  - 11 responses in favour, 25 against, 3 'don't know'.

**(k) General/other issues**

In addition to the above site-specific points, a number of general issues were raised in the comments submitted by respondents. These included criticism of the adequacy of the consultation; assertions that the status quo is working well, that the review is premature and that no benefits from the proposed changes had been demonstrated for residents; and a perception that the boundary issues which the current review was seeking to address had themselves be caused by a previous flawed boundary review.

**8.0 Bishop's Stortford Town Council – electoral arrangements**

- 8.1 As stated above, the net effect of the proposed changes to ward boundaries within Bishop's Stortford would be slightly to improve electoral equality between wards. Currently the average number of electors per town councillor across all five Bishop's Stortford wards is 1,599. Central ward currently has the highest ratio at 1,870 and Silverleys the lowest at 1,399.
- 8.2 In carrying out the review, the Council is required to take into account both the number and distribution of electors currently and any changes that are likely to take place during the period of five years from the start of the review.
- 8.3 Electorate forecasts suggest that within Bishop's Stortford, electors of Central Ward are currently slightly under-represented on the town council and that if no boundary

changes are made this under-representation will increase slightly over the next five years, whilst by 2023 electors of All Saints and South Wards may be relatively over-represented due to new development elsewhere in the town.

- 8.4 If the Council's draft recommendations were to be agreed, the under-representation in Central Ward and the over-representation in South Ward are less significant but the relative over-representation in All Saints Ward would remain an issue. However, this would be addressed by the Town Council's proposal to reduce the number of town councillors elected to represent All Saints Ward from four to three.

## **9.0 Conclusions**

- 9.1 The second stage consultation period for the Community Governance Review of Bishop's Stortford Town Council closed on Friday 10 August 2018. This report sets out the issues for consideration in the review and the results of that consultation. The Executive is invited to make recommendations to the Council meeting on 17 October 2018 which is scheduled to agree the final outcome of the Community Governance Review.
- 9.2 It is proposed that any Community Governance Reorganisation Order will be made at the Council Meeting on 17 October 2018, in order to allow for the implementation of any agreed changes in the revised register of electors on 1 December 2018 and (if applicable) in the council tax base data ahead of the new financial year.

## **10.0 Implications/Consultations**

- 10.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found in **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

## **Background Papers**

- (i) Full schedule of responses received to the second stage consultation on the Community Governance Review
- (ii) Notes of the public consultation meeting held on 18 July 2018 at the St Barnabas Centre, Thorley.

These can be viewed at:

<http://democracy.eastherts.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=119&MId=3380&J=2>

Contact Member: Councillor G Williamson, Executive Member for Finance and Support Services  
[geoffrey.williamson@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:geoffrey.williamson@eastherts.gov.uk)

Contact Officer: Alison Stuart – Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer  
Contact Tel No – Extn: 2170  
[alison.stuart@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:alison.stuart@eastherts.gov.uk)

## **ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'**

### **IMPLICATIONS/CONSULTATIONS**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/Objectives | Priority 1 – Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities  |
| Consultation:   | Chief Executive/Returning Officer/Electoral Registration Officer<br>Head of Legal and Democratic Services   |
| Legal:  | The processes associated with undertaking a Community Governance Review are prescribed by statute and associated statutory guidance. The relevant legal provisions and implications are set out in the body of the report.  |
| Financial:  | Any costs arising from undertaking and/or implementing the recommendations of the Community Governance Review will be met from existing staff/budgetary resources within Legal and Democratic Services or other relevant service area.  |
| Human Resource:   | There are no ongoing staffing implications of the report. Any staff requirements of undertaking and/or implementing the recommendations of the Community Governance Review will be met from existing resources within Legal and Democratic Services or other relevant service area. |
| Risk Management:  | No significant implications.  |
| Health and wellbeing – issues and impacts:                    | Effective and convenient community governance arrangements can contribute to the promotion of improved health and wellbeing for communities.  |
| Equality Impact Assessment required:                          | No.   |

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# **BISHOP'S STORTFORD TOWN COUNCIL – COPY OF REQUEST TO EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR A COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

**Sent:** 20 December 2016 09:29  
**To:** kevin.williams@eastherts.gov.uk  
**Subject:** Formal request - Community Governance Review  
**Attachments:** Bishop's Stortford Ward Boundary Maps.doc

Dear Kevin

Further to our previous conversations and emails I am now able to confirm that, having regard to

- a. existing and planned future developments which are contiguous with the built up area of Bishop's Stortford parish yet breach current parish boundaries and
- b. the fact that, as a result of development since the parish boundary was last reviewed, the current parish boundary to the south/west of the Town no longer meets the criteria for parish boundaries set out in the document "Guidance on community governance reviews" published by the Department for Communities and Local Government
- c. that anomalies exist in ward boundaries within the parish due to various historical reasons

Bishop's Stortford Town Council formally requests a community governance review and in particular:

1. That the boundary of the parish of Bishop's Stortford be amended so that the whole of the District South Ward is included within the parish of Bishop's Stortford
  2. That changes to ward boundaries within the parish of Bishop's Stortford be made as set out below
  3. That the District Council requests the Boundary Commission to make changes in District Wards and County Divisions corresponding to the changes in the parish ward boundaries
1. Changes to roads which have residents in more than one ward and where it is requested that the boundary be re-drawn so that all properties are in the ward which currently has the largest number of electors:

| Street/Road   | Current Properties          | Proposed Properties |
|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Collins Cross | All Saints: 13<br>Meads: 37 | Meads: 50           |
| High Street   | Central: 3<br>Meads: 1      | Central: 4          |



|                                       |                              |                |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Parsonage Lane                        | All Saints: 70<br>Meads: 2   | All Saints: 72 |
| Wentworth Drive                       | Central: 6<br>Silverleys: 72 | Silverleys: 78 |
| Westfield Road                        | Meads: 19<br>Silverleys: 4   | Meads: 23      |
| Dane O'coys Road, Whitehall Road      | Meads: 3<br>Silverleys: 20   | Silverleys: 23 |
| Great Hadham Road (Honeysuckle House) | Silverleys: 2<br>South: 1    | Silverleys: 3  |
| Lea Grove                             | All Saints: 8<br>Meads: 5    | All Saints: 13 |
| South Road                            | Central: 40<br>South: 5      | Central: 45    |
| South Street                          | Central: 26<br>Meads: 11     | Central: 37    |
| Potter Street                         | Central: 1<br>Meads: 3       | Meads: 4       |

2. Changes to roads which have residents in more than one ward and where it is requested that the boundary be re-drawn so that the road(s) are in the ward from which access is gained or for some other reason as noted

| Street                              | Current                     | Proposed        | Note  |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Bells Hill, Regency Close, Windhill | Meads: 35<br>Silverleys: 73 | Silverleys: 108 | Bells Hill & Windhill are split; Regency Close is accessed from Bells Hill so logically should move with Bells Hill |
| Styleman's Farm (Hallingbury Road)  | South: 2                    | All Saints: 2   | Properties are separated from South ward by the River Stort. Access is from All Saints                              |
| Mulberry Court                      | South: 16                   | Central: 16     | Access is from Central Ward only  |



| Street   | Current                                    | Proposed                 | Note   |
|--|--|--------------------------|--|
| The Thatchers,<br>Stockmen Field,<br>Drovers Way,<br>Wainwright Street,<br>Brewers Close,<br>Thresher Close,<br>The Carpenters,<br>Tailors | Central: 224<br>South: 119                 | South: 343               | Several roads in this natural group are split. Access is from South Ward               |
| Tanners Wharf  | All Saints: 76<br>Central: 19<br>South: 10 | Central: 105             | Access is from Central Ward  |
| Priory Court   | Silverleys: 35                             | Central: 35              | This is a 'backland' development the Monastery estate from Access is from Central Ward |
| Thorley Hill   | Central: 28<br>South: 54                   | Central: 26<br>South: 56 | Change boundary so that split is at a natural point (a road)                           |

The approximate effect of these changes on the numbers of electors (based on the 2015 electoral register) is set out below

| Ward                  | Elector Gain | Elector Loss | Overall Change | Current Electors | Electors After Change | % Difference | Electors Per Town Councillor - current | Electors Per Town Councillor after changes | Electors Per District Councillor - current | Electors Per District Councillor after changes |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------|--|--|--|--|
| All Saints            | 27           | 131          | -104           | 5794             | 5690                  | -1.79%       | 1449                                   | 1423                                       | 1931                                       | 1897   |
| Central               | 233          | 464          | -231           | 6948             | 6717                  | -3.32%       | 1737                                   | 1679                                       | 2316                                       | 2239   |
| Meads                 | 35           | 116          | -81            | 4359             | 4278                  | -1.86%       | 1453                                   | 1426                                       | 2180                                       | 2139   |
| Silverleys            | 133          | 54           | 79             | 4061             | 4140                  | 1.95%        | 1354                                   | 1380                                       | 2031                                       | 2070   |
| South                 | 411          | 74           | 337            | 5964             | 6301                  | 5.65%        | 1491                                   | 1575                                       | 1988                                       | 2100   |
|                       |              |              |                |                  |                       |              |  |  |  |  |
| (Max-Min)/average (ie |              |              |                |                  |                       |              | 25.6%                                  | 20.0%                                      | 18.4%                                      | 16.4%  |

Yours sincerely

James Parker  
Chief Executive Officer

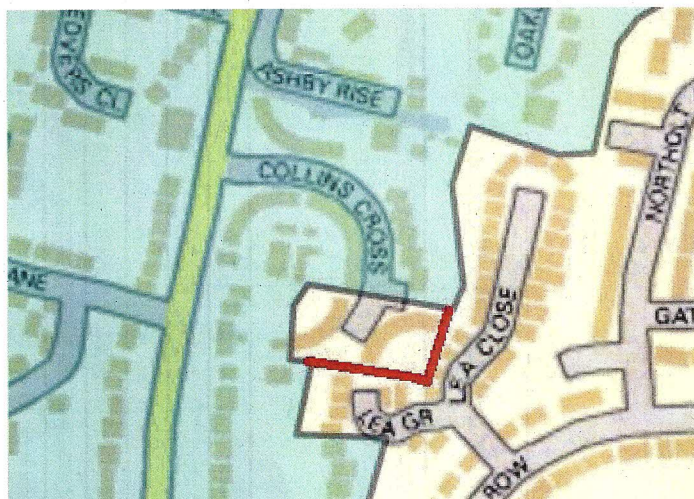
Bishop's Stortford Town Council  
The Old Monastery  
Windhill  
Bishop's Stortford  
CM23 2ND



## ***Bishop's Stortford Ward Boundary Changes Maps***

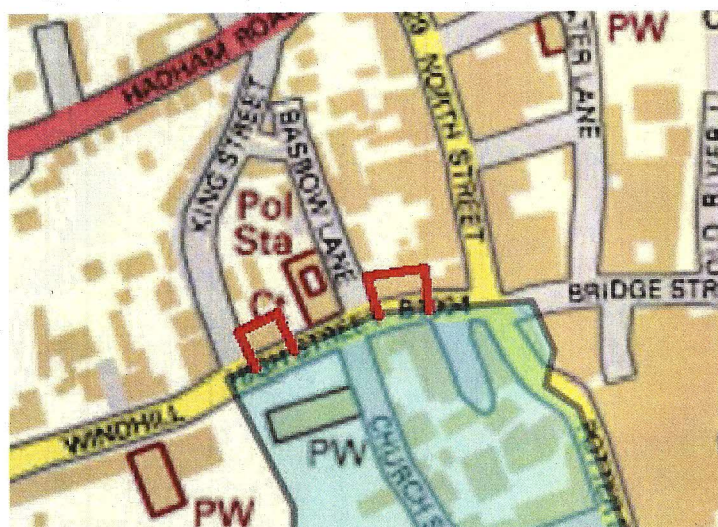
In all cases change ward boundary to red outline

### **Collins Cross (Transfer to Meads, blue)**



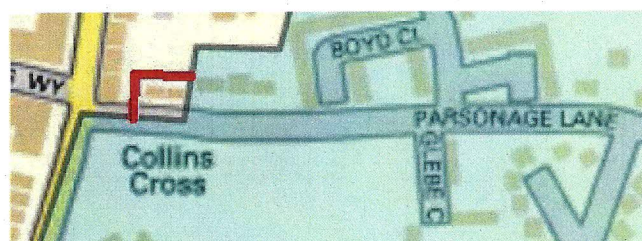
Transfer to Meads (blue)

### **High Street**



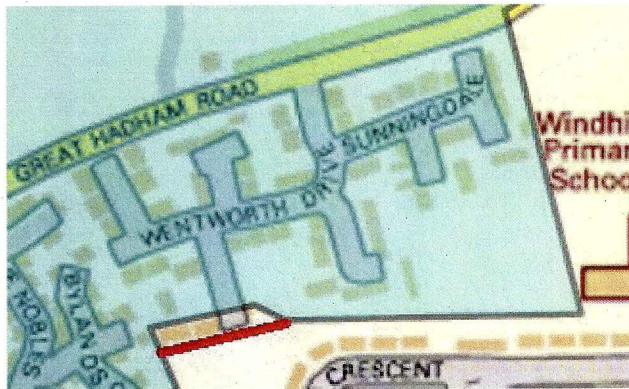
Transfer to Central (blue)

### **Parsonage Lane**



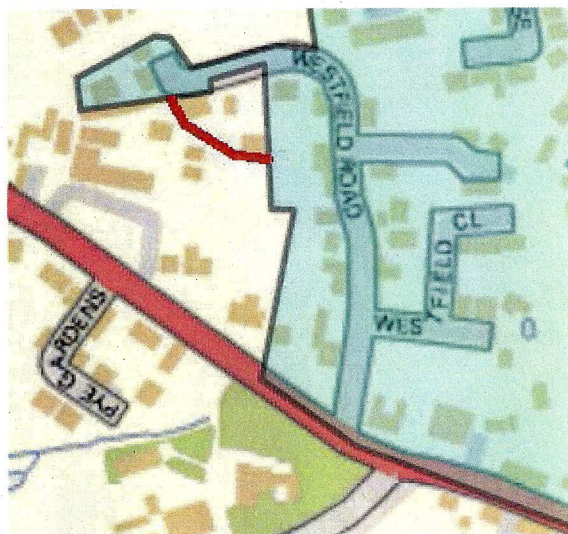
Transfer to All Saints (blue)

## Wentworth Drive



Transfer to Silverleys (blue)

## Westfield Road



Transfer to Meads (blue)

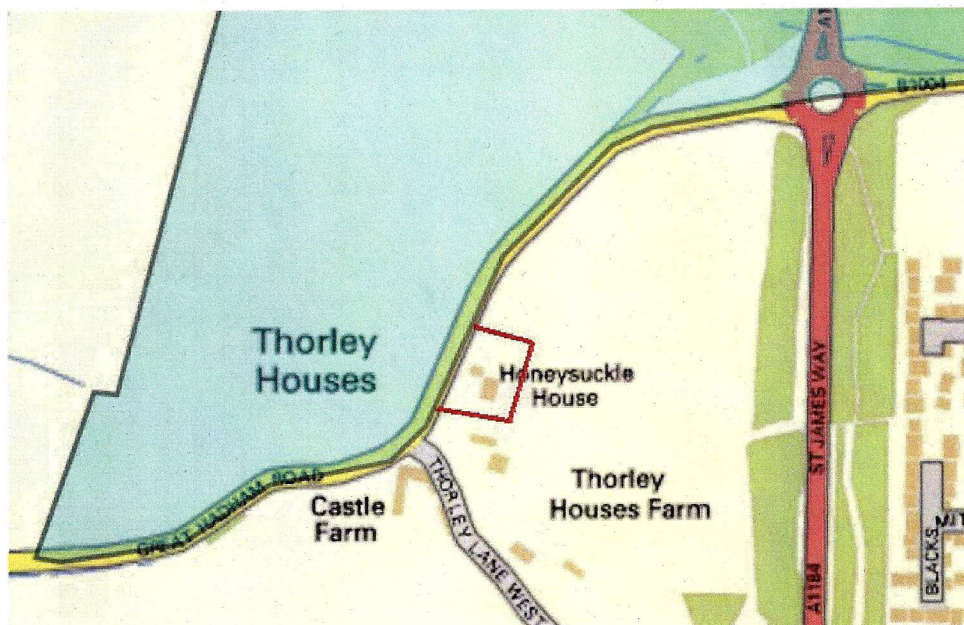


### Dane O'Coys Road, Whitehall Road



Transfer to  
Silverleys (blue)

### Great Hadham Road (Honeysuckle House)



Transfer to  
Silverley  
(blue)

## Lea Grove



Transfer to All Saints (blue)

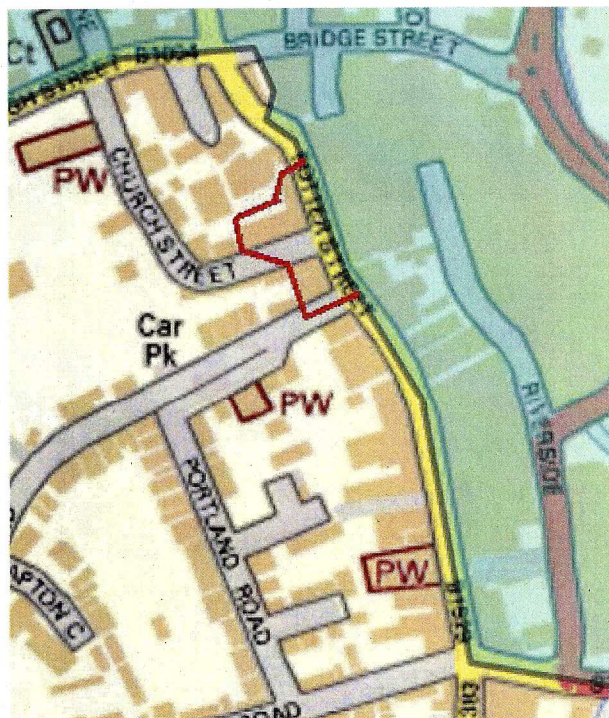
## South Street



Transfer to Central (blue)



### Potter Street



Transfer to Meads (blue)

### Bells Hill, Regency Close, Windhill



Transfer to Silverleys (blue)

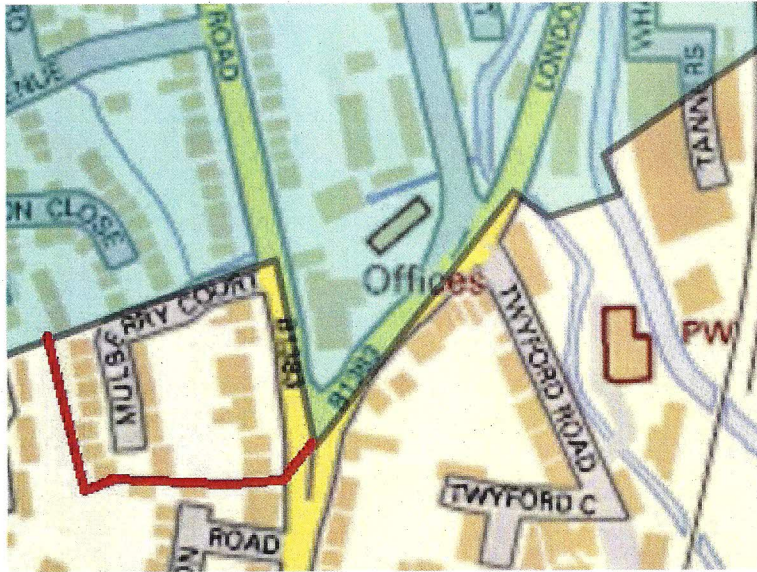
## Styleman's Farm (Hallingbury Road)



Transfer  
to All  
Saints  
(blue)

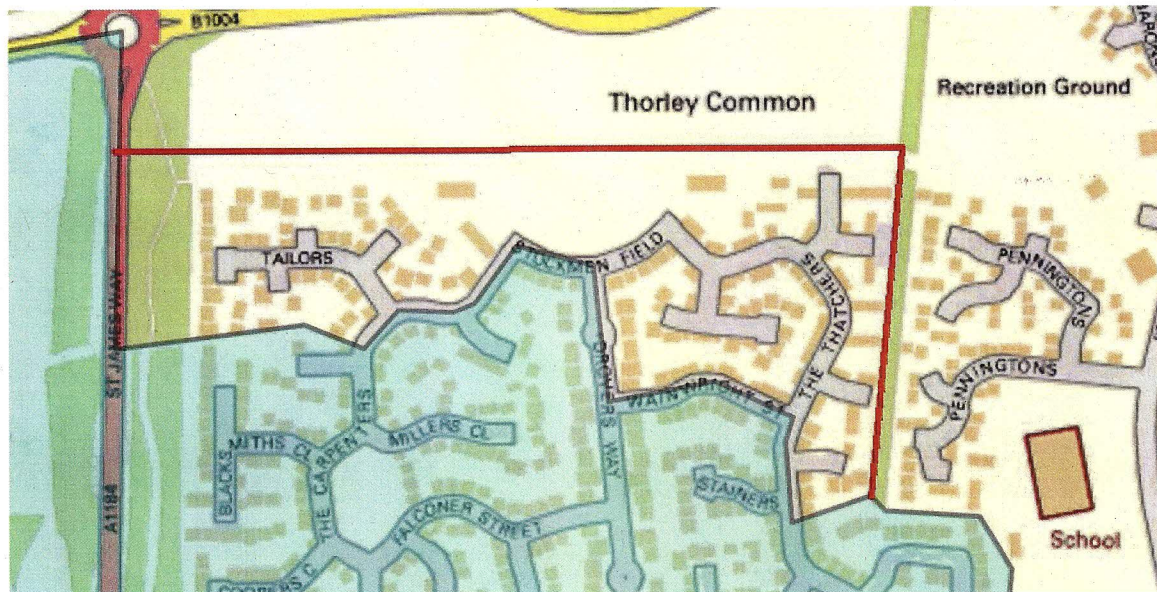


## Mulberry Court, South Road



Transfer to Central (blue)

## The Thatchers, Stockmen Field, Drovers Way, Wainwright Street, Brewers Close, Thresher Close, The Carpenters, Tailors



Transfer to South (blue)



## Tanners Wharf



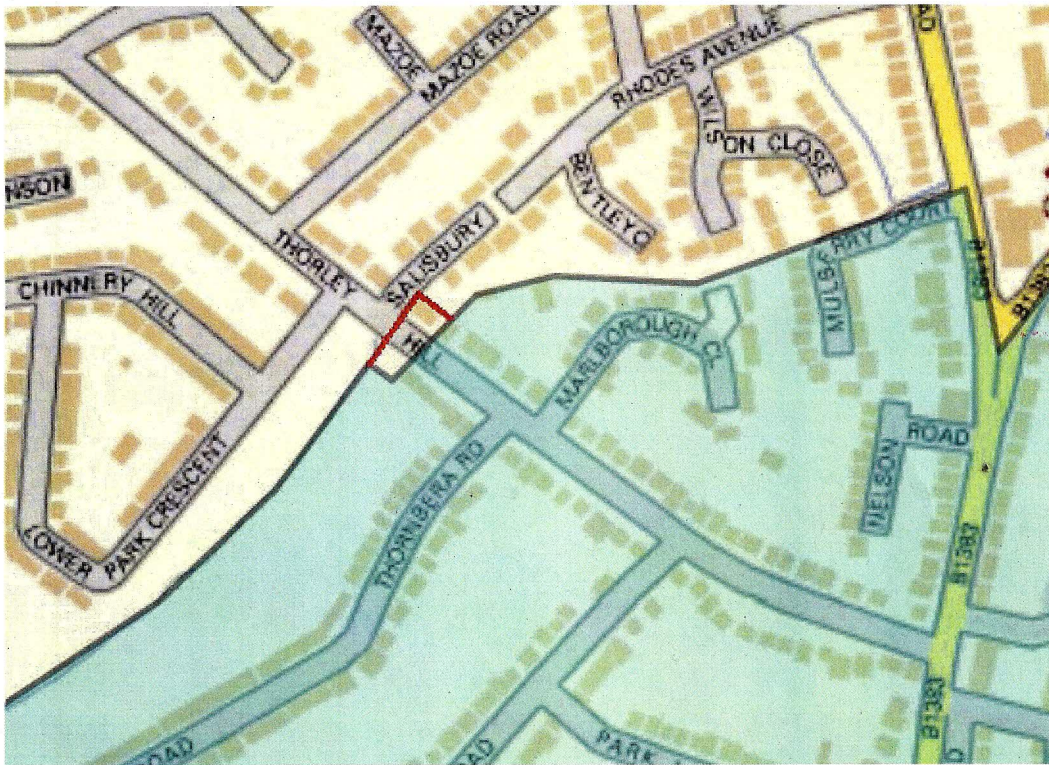
Transfer to Central (blue)

## Priory Court



Transfer to Central (blue)

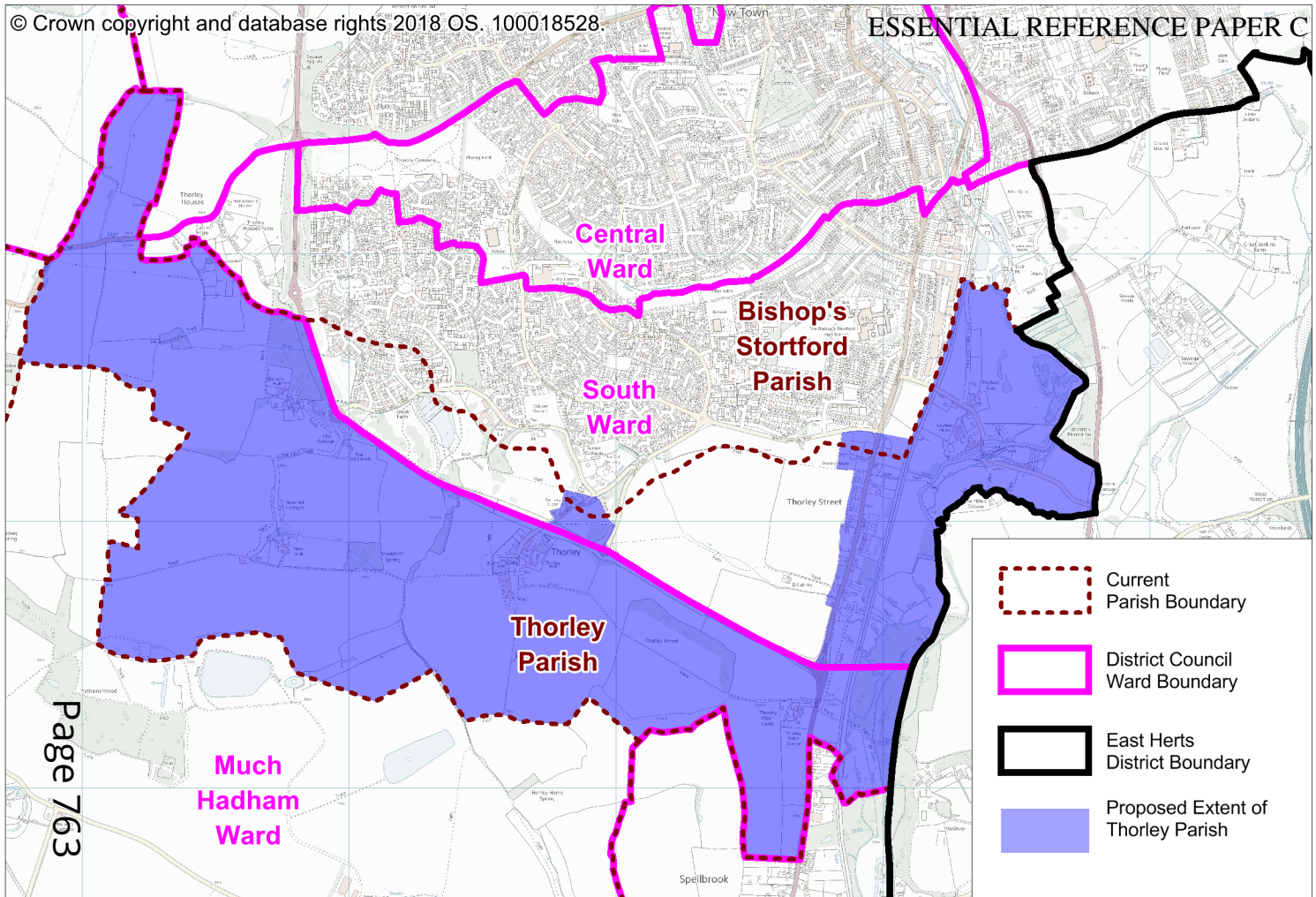
## Thorley Hill



Transfer to South (blue)

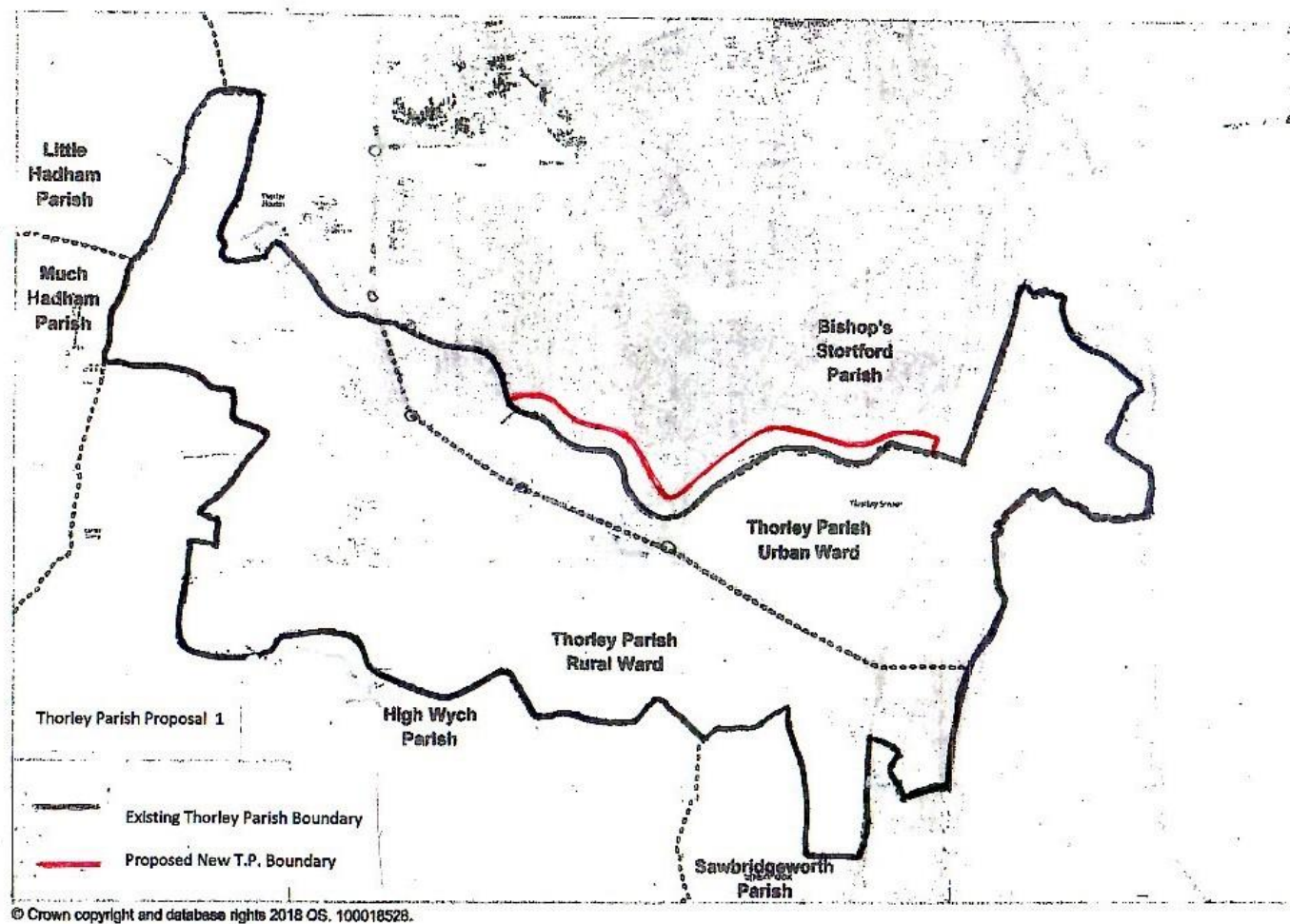
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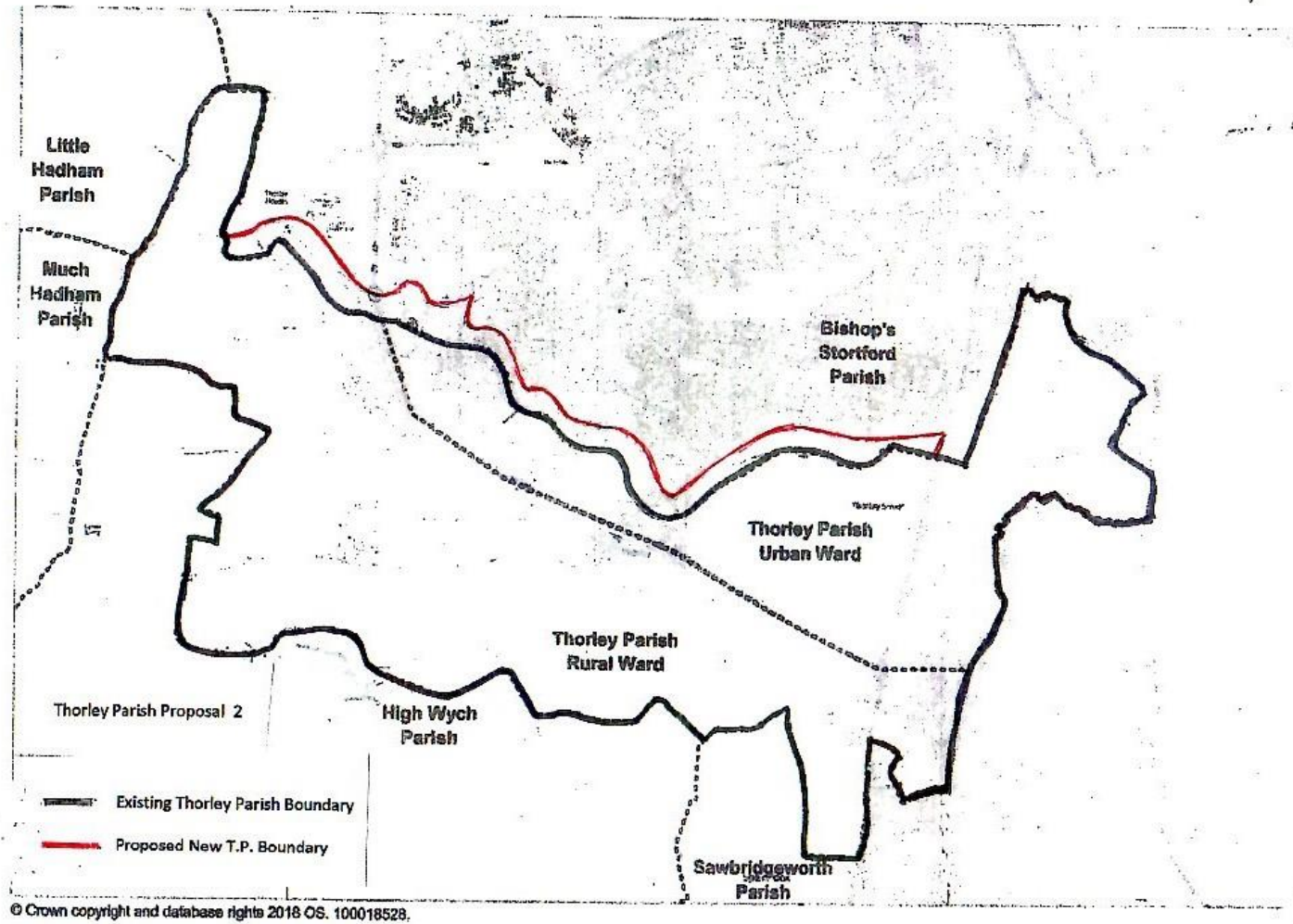


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THORLEY PARISH COUNCIL PROPOSED OPTION 1

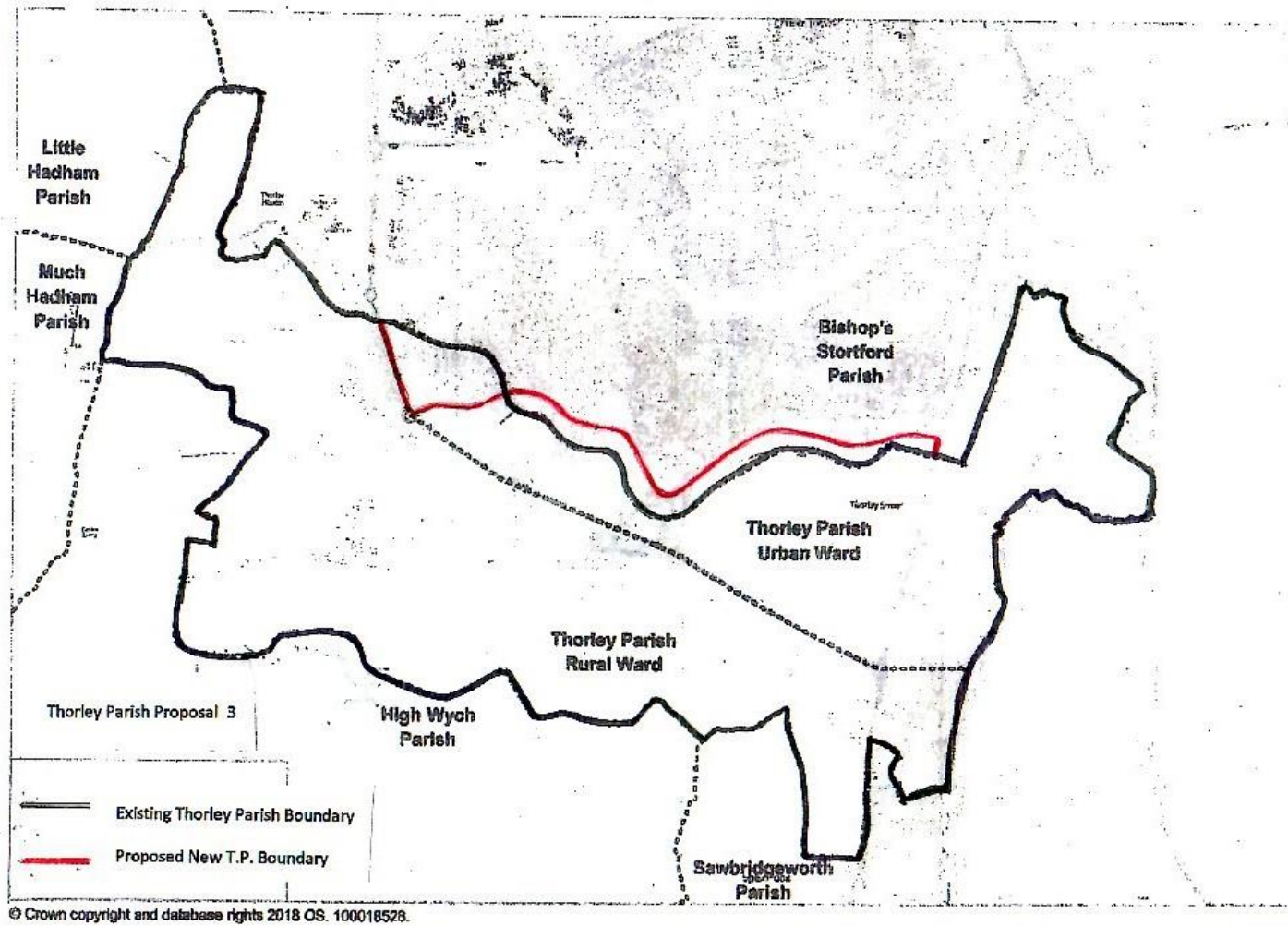


# THORLEY PARISH COUNCIL PROPOSED OPTION 2





# THORLEY PARISH COUNCIL PROPOSED OPTION 3



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## EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 11 SEPTEMBER 2018

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL – REPORT ON SECOND STAGE CONSULTATION

WARD(S) AFFECTED: BUNTINGFORD, MUNDENS & COTTERED

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### **Purpose/Summary of Report**

- To report the responses received during the second stage consultation period for the Community Governance Review of Buntingford Town Council and to invite the Executive to forward their recommendations to the Council for consideration when agreeing the final outcome of the review.

| <b><u>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE: That:</u></b> |   |
|--|---|
| (A)  | <b>The Executive consider the responses received to the second stage consultation on the Community Governance Review of Buntingford Town Council as set out in section 7 of the report, and</b> |
| (B)  | <b>The Executive forward their recommendations to the Council for consideration when agreeing the final outcome of the Community Governance Review.</b>   |

## **1.0 Background – Community Governance Reviews**

- 1.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 ('the 2007 Act') empowers a principal authority such as East Herts Council to review and make changes to the governance arrangements for parishes and parish/town councils in its area.
- 1.2 The procedure for making decisions on these matters is a Community Governance Review. This is a review of the whole or part of the district with a view to making recommendations on one or more of the following:
  - Creating, merging or abolishing parishes;
  - Boundary alterations between existing parishes;
  - The naming of parishes and the style of new parishes;
  - The establishment of parish councils;
  - Electoral arrangements for parish councils (the year of election; number of councillors; warding), and/or
  - Grouping parishes under a common parish council or degrouping parishes.
- 1.3 A Community Governance Review may be triggered by a statutory petition or a formal 'application' in the terms of the 2007 Act, or the Council may decide to undertake a review at any time, e.g. in response to population changes or new housing development, as part of a periodic programme of reviews or in response to a request from a town/parish council.
- 1.4 In undertaking a review the Council must consult local electors and other interested parties and must follow guidance issued by the Secretary of State and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE).
- 1.5 A Community Governance Review begins when the Council publishes terms of reference for the review and ends when it

agrees the final recommendations (which must be within 12 months of the review starting) and adopts a Community Governance Reorganisation Order detailing any changes in accordance with those recommendations. Any revised electoral arrangements take effect at the next ordinary parish elections, which in East Herts are scheduled for May 2019.

- 1.6 In accordance with regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2000, functions relating to Community Governance Reviews are not to be the responsibility of an authority's executive. The draft and final recommendations of the review must therefore be agreed by the Council or under delegated arrangements agreed by the Council.

## **2.0 Community Governance Review of Buntingford Town Council**

- 2.1 The Council on 27 July 2016 agreed to undertake a Community Governance Review of Buntingford Town Council, including the town boundary. The review was agreed following a request from Buntingford Town Council, which identified the following two areas currently in neighbouring parishes that the Town Council proposed should be transferred to the Town Council's area:-

- Parkside and new housing development north of Park Farm Industrial Estate (currently in Cottered Parish); and
- Buntingford Business Park (currently in Aspenden Parish).

- 2.2 The Town Council stated that in its view these areas are, or will be, seen by residents and/or workers as part of Buntingford town and they are some distance from the villages of Cottered and Aspenden respectively.

### **3.0 Issues for consideration and decision-making criteria for the review**

- 3.1 Section 93 of the 2007 Act requires principal councils to ensure that community governance within the area under review will be (i) reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and (ii) effective and convenient
- 3.2 When considering these criteria, councils should take into account factors including the impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and the size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish. The LGBCE guidance states that ‘the general rule should be that the parish is based on an area which reflects community identity and interest and which is of a size which is viable as an administrative unit of local government’. In relation to boundaries, the guidance states that these ‘should reflect the “no-man’s land” between communities represented by areas of low population or barriers such as rivers, roads or railways.’
- 3.3 In accordance with the above principles, the Council has set out policies in the terms of reference for the review including the following:-

#### Community identities and interests

- a) The Council considers that parishes should reflect distinctive and recognisable communities of interest, with their own sense of identity and that electors should be able to identify clearly with the parish in which they are resident. The feeling of local community and the wishes of local inhabitants are therefore important considerations in the review.
- b) The Council will give careful consideration both to traditional community identities and historic parish arrangements; and

to any changes that have happened over time, for example population movements or new development, that may have led to a different community identity in an area.

#### Parish boundaries

- c) The Council considers that the boundaries between parishes will normally reflect the distinct community identities of the respective areas. Boundaries will often follow areas of low population between settlements or pronounced physical barriers (either natural or built) such as watercourses, marshland or moorland; parks, canals, railways or major roads.
- d) Should a reorganisation of parish boundaries occur as a result of the review, the Council will aim to select boundaries that are and are likely to remain easily identifiable.

#### Effective and convenient community governance

- e) The Council wishes to ensure that parishes should be viable as an administrative unit and should possess a precept that enables them effectively to promote the well-being of their residents and contribute to the provision of services in their areas.

### **4.0 Electoral arrangements**

4.1 Once the Council has determined whether it will make any changes to parish boundaries, it must go on to consider if any changes are required to the electoral arrangements for the parish(es):-

- Warding:- The Council must consider whether a parish should be, or should continue to be, divided into wards for the purposes of elections to the parish council and the number and

boundaries of parish wards, taking account of population distribution and community identity and interests in the area.

- The number of councillors:- The Council must consider the number of councillors to be elected for each parish/ward and the number of electors they will represent.

4.4 The Council will also have regard to existing levels of representation, the pattern of existing council sizes which have stood the test of time and the take-up of seats at elections. There is no duty to ensure electoral equality between parishes or wards, but the LGBCE believes it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government, either for voters or councillors, to have significant differences in representation.

## **5.0 Initial consultation and draft recommendations**

5.1 The review began on 13 February 2018 with the publication of terms of reference setting out the aims, process and timetable, the matters on which it would focus and policies that the District Council considers relevant. The first period of public consultation ran until 6 April 2018, during which local residents and all interested parties were invited to make initial submissions on the Town Council's proposals and any other matters that they felt should be considered.

5.2 In total 42 responses were received to the consultation – 33 from individual residents, eight from statutory bodies or local organisations and one other.

5.3 In relation to the parish boundary between Buntingford and Cottered, eleven respondents agreed with the Town Council's proposed change, whilst 31 respondents opposed it.

5.4 In relation to the parish boundary between Buntingford and Aspenden, fifteen respondents agreed with the Town Council's



proposed change whilst twenty respondents opposed the change.

- 5.5 Following the close of the initial consultation, the submissions received were reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 17 April 2018 and the Executive on 24 April 2018, which made recommendations to the Council for consideration when agreeing its draft recommendations for the review.
- 5.6 The Council meeting on 16 May 2018 discussed the Community Governance Review. In considering whether or not the proposals from the Town Council should be recommended, the council took into account the responses received to the consultation, the LGBCE's guidance on community governance reviews, geographical data, electorate projections and the recommendations of the Executive which in turn were informed by the comments of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- 5.7 Following consideration in turn of each element of the Town Council's proposal, the Council recommended that one of the areas identified by the Town Council, but not the other, should be transferred to the Town Council's area. The Council's decisions formed the basis of the draft recommendations of the Community Governance Review, to be subject to a further round of public consultation as follows:-

**(a) Residential development north of Park Farm Industrial Estate**

Regarding the boundary between Buntingford and Cottered, the Council noted that the area identified by the Town Council is closer to the built up area of Buntingford town than it is to Cottered village, which is approximately two miles distant and separated by largely undeveloped land.

The new boundary proposed (the A10 bypass) meets the criteria in the guidance and once the residential development at the south of the area identified is completed, a built-up area will extend more or less continuously from Buntingford town to Parkside in the north of the area.

The Council recommended that the area between the A10 bypass and Ermine Street to the north of Park Farm Industrial Estate, including Parkside and the new housing development marketed as The Maples, which is currently in Cottered Parish, should be incorporated within the Buntingford Town Council area.

#### **(b) Buntingford Business Park**

In relation to the boundary between Buntingford and Aspenden, the council noted that Buntingford Business Park is not a residential area and that it lies to the west of the A10 bypass which is the existing boundary and meets statutory guidance.

The Council did not feel that compelling evidence had been submitted to support the proposal to incorporate this area into Buntingford and therefore recommended that no change should be made to the parish boundary between Buntingford and Aspenden.

#### **(c) District ward boundaries**

Any changes to parish boundaries agreed as part of the Community Governance Review will not automatically change the equivalent boundaries for District Council elections. In order to maintain consistency the Council recommended that the LGBCE should be asked to change the relevant District ward boundaries to align them with any revised parish boundaries above.

- 5.8 A map showing the proposed revised parish boundaries reflecting the above draft recommendations, is attached at **Essential Reference Paper B**.

## **6.0 Second stage consultation**

- 6.1 The Council's draft recommendations were then published for a further round of public consultation from 31 May 2018 until 27 July 2018.
- 6.2 As for the first round of public consultation, a range of methods and channels were used to publicise the draft recommendations and invite electors and others to respond including:
- Notification to the relevant parish/town councils and to the County Council
  - Notification to elected representatives for the areas under review and local political parties
  - Letters/e-mails to community groups and business organisations based in the areas under review
  - Consultation leaflets distributed via the Council offices at Wallfields and Charringtons, Buntingford Library, community centres/halls and other local venues
  - Consultation leaflets also delivered to all properties directly affected by the draft recommendations
  - A dedicated page for the review on the 'consultations' section of the EHDC website consultation with an online form for responses and periodic links from the home page
  - Press releases, social media and 'network' posts.
- 6.3 Responses were accepted by post, e-mail or via the online form.

## **7.0 Results of the second stage consultation**

7.1 In total 18 responses were received to the second stage consultation as follows:-

- 2 organisations: - Buntingford Town Council  
- Cottered & Throcking Parish Council
- 16 individual responses

7.2 Below is a brief 'headline' summary of the points made in their responses by each of the organisations listed above. The responses received from individuals and organisations are available in full in a background paper to this report:

- **Buntingford Town Council** – supports the proposed change, which it feels will 'enhance the well-being of residents, the positive contribution to the provision of services, the promotion of the feeling of local community and the creation of a viable administrative unit'. The Town Council feels that electors who reside or will reside in the development to the north of Buntingford and Parkside identify with the parish of Buntingford, the centre of which is a short walk from the properties, rather than with Cottered, the settlement of which is 2.7 miles away. It further states that if the parish boundary is revised, residents of the areas under review will contribute to the precept that promotes the well-being of their area and provides services required; and that the development north of Buntingford has been included within the settlement boundary of Buntingford in the adopted Buntingford Community Area Neighbourhood Plan and the emerging East Herts District Plan.
- **Cottered & Throcking Parish Council** - strongly opposes the proposed change and believes that the Council's draft recommendation regarding the parish boundary between

Buntingford and Cottered is 'ill-considered, unjustified, inappropriate, and simply wrong'. The Parish Council also strongly believes that the process by which EHDC has arrived at the draft recommendation is 'opaque and defective'.

The Parish Council states that it has 'found absolutely no indication that the views expressed and submissions made by [itself] and by other local organisations and individual residents have been assessed against the criteria set out in published guidance or weighed against opposing views and submissions

The Parish Council also questions the adequacy of the consultation process and states that parish councillors have recently visited residents in Parkside and the new development. They state that several were unaware of the review and none supported the draft recommendation.

The Parish Council states that 'such is the strength of public feeling in our communities that we may feel duty-bound to use all available mechanisms to challenge the process and the recommendation'.

- 7.3 An analysis of the individual responses received in respect of each element of the Council's draft recommendations is set out below:-

**(a) Residential development north of Park Farm Industrial Estate**

Of the individual responses to the second stage consultation, three supported the proposal to transfer the area including The Maples (Redrow development) and Parkside from Cottered to Buntingford and thirteen opposed it. Eleven responses came from within the area directly affected, of which ten opposed the change. Two residents of Parkside made a distinction between

the areas proposed for transfer, feeling that Parkside should remain in Cottered even if the area of the new Redrow development was to transfer to Buntingford.

Respondents who supported the change stated that the new development sits at the top of Buntingford High Street and will be affected by Town Council decisions; that residents will use the town's facilities and should contribute to their cost; and that the bypass represents a logical boundary.

Respondents who opposed the change advanced a number of arguments including:

- The status quo works well and the change is unnecessary
- There is no benefit to residents in changing.
- The change is not supported by residents in the affected area, their previous objections have been ignored.
- Residents wish to remain part of Cottered, they use village facilities and events and benefit from lower council tax and discount on booking village hall.
- Changing the boundary will deprive Cottered Parish Council of funds required for e.g. traffic calming.
- Development within Cottered would enhance and invigorate the parish community.
- Buntingford Town Council has not previously communicated with affected residents and is only showing interest now due to the potential financial benefits from new development.
- Residents have not been consulted adequately/have not received written material.
- EHDC is bullying parishes due to Town Council representation on the District Council.
- Buntingford is already too built up and new residents do not appreciate the semi-rural community
- Parkside is separate from the new Redrow development and is a mile outside Buntingford.

#### **(b) Buntingford Business Park**

There were six responses in favour of the recommendation that the area occupied by Buntingford Business Park should remain within Aspenden Parish, and three against. Four respondents stated 'don't know'.

**(c) District ward boundaries**

There were three responses in favour of the proposal that the LGBCE be requested to bring the District ward boundaries into line with any revised parish boundaries, and eight against. Two respondents stated 'don't know'.

Text in the 'comments' box suggests that some of those who opposed this proposal did so because they are opposed to the proposed parish boundary changes rather than the principal of coterminous boundaries.

**8.0 Electoral arrangements – warding and the number of town/parish councillors**

- 8.1 In carrying out the review, the Council is required to take into account both the number and distribution of electors currently and any changes that are likely to take place during the period of five years from the start of the review.
- 8.2 Regarding whether a parish should be divided into wards, the 2007 Act requires the Council to consider whether:
  - a) the number, or distribution of the local government electors for the parish would make a single election of councillors impracticable or inconvenient; and
  - b) it is desirable that any area or areas of the parish should be separately represented.

- 8.3 Buntingford Town Council, Aspenden Parish Council and Cottered Parish Council are all currently unwarded.
- 8.4 The following tables show the current and forecast electorates and elector-to-councillor ratios for each of the parish/town councils, for each of two alternative outcomes of the review:-

(a) No change to boundaries

| Parish             | No. of Cllrs | Current electorate Feb 2018 | Ratio | Forecast electorate Feb 2023 | Ratio |
|--------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-------|------------------------------|-------|
| <b>Aspenden</b>    | 6            | 196                         | 33    | 197                          | 33    |
| <b>Buntingford</b> | 12           | 4,579                       | 382   | 5,982                        | 498   |
| <b>Cottered</b>    | 6            | 557                         | 93    | 861                          | 143   |

(b) Following implementation of the draft recommendations

| Parish             | No. of Cllrs | Current electorate Feb 2018 | Ratio | Forecast electorate Feb 2023 | Ratio |
|--------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-------|------------------------------|-------|
| <b>Aspenden</b>    | 6            | 196                         | 33    | 197                          | 33    |
| <b>Buntingford</b> | 12           | 4,637                       | 386   | 6,348                        | 529   |
| <b>Cottered</b>    | 6            | 499                         | 83    | 495                          | 82    |

- 8.5 It is not suggested that the above changes would in themselves require any change to be made to the electoral arrangements at this stage. However, a respondent to the first round of consultation suggested that as further development takes place, a wider review of the electoral arrangements in Buntingford may be required in future, possibly including warding of the Town Council.

## 9.0 **Conclusions**

- 9.1 The second stage consultation period for the Community Governance Review of Buntingford Town Council closed on Friday 27 July 2018. This report sets out the issues for



consideration in the review and the results of that consultation. The Executive is invited to make recommendations to the Council meeting on 17 October 2018 which is scheduled to agree the final outcome of the Community Governance Review.

- 9.2 It is proposed that any Community Governance Reorganisation Order will be made at the Council Meeting on 17 October 2018, in order to allow for the implementation of any agreed changes in the revised register of electors on 1 December 2018 and (if applicable) in the council tax base data ahead of the new financial year.

## 10.0 Implications/Consultations

- 10.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found in **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

## Background Papers

Full schedule of responses received to the second stage consultation on the Community Governance Review can be viewed at:

<http://democracy.eastherts.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=119&MId=3380&J=2>

Contact Member: Councillor G Williamson, Executive Member for Finance and Support Services  
[geoffrey.williamson@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:geoffrey.williamson@eastherts.gov.uk)

Contact Officer: Alison Stuart – Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer  
Contact Tel No – Extn: 2170  
[alison.stuart@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:alison.stuart@eastherts.gov.uk)

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## **ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'**

### **IMPLICATIONS/CONSULTATIONS**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/Objectives | Priority 1 – Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities  |
| Consultation:   | Chief Executive/Returning Officer/Electoral Registration Officer<br>Head of Legal and Democratic Services   |
| Legal:  | The processes associated with undertaking a Community Governance Review are prescribed by statute and associated statutory guidance. The relevant legal provisions and implications are set out in the body of the report.  |
| Financial:  | Any costs arising from undertaking and/or implementing the recommendations of the Community Governance Review will be met from existing staff/budgetary resources within Legal and Democratic Services or other relevant service area.  |
| Human Resource:   | There are no ongoing staffing implications of the report. Any staff requirements of undertaking and/or implementing the recommendations of the Community Governance Review will be met from existing resources within Legal and Democratic Services or other relevant service area. |
| Risk Management:  | No significant implications.  |
| Health and wellbeing – issues and impacts:                    | Effective and convenient community governance arrangements can contribute to the promotion of improved health and wellbeing for communities.  |
| Equality Impact Assessment required:                          | No.   |

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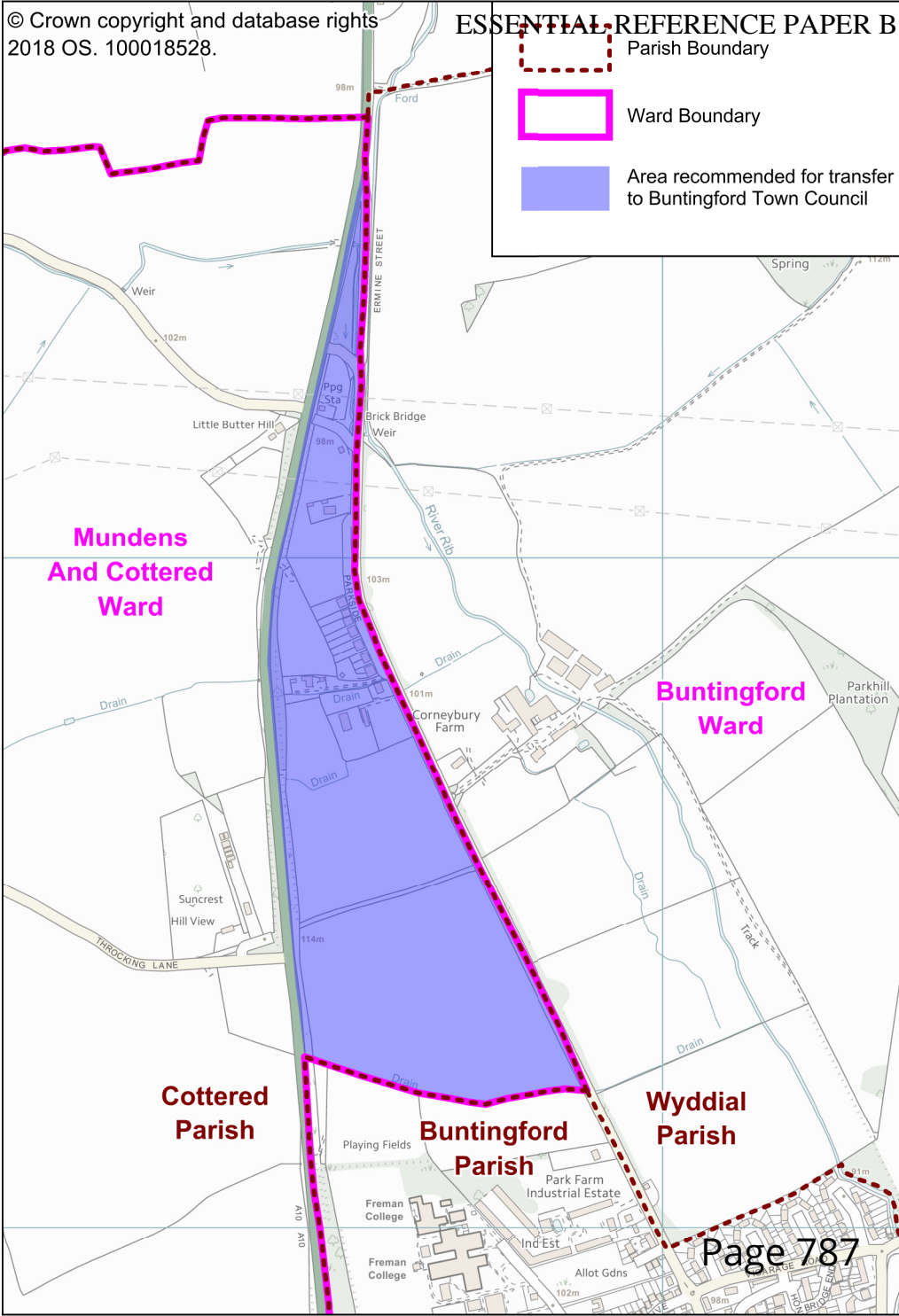
Parish Boundary



Ward Boundary



Area recommended for transfer  
to Buntingford Town Council



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## EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 11 SEPTEMBER 2018

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH COUNCIL – REPORT ON SECOND STAGE CONSULTATION

WARD(S) AFFECTED: HUNSDON

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### **Purpose/Summary of Report**

- To report the responses received during the second stage consultation period for the Community Governance Review of Eastwick and Gilston Parish Council and to invite the Executive to forward their recommendations to the Council for consideration when agreeing the final outcome of the review.

| <b><u>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE: That:</u></b> |   |
|--|---|
| <b>(A)</b>   | <b>The Executive note the responses received to the consultation on the Community Governance Review of Eastwick and Gilston Parish Council, and</b>     |
| <b>(B)</b>   | <b>The Executive forward their recommendations to the Council for consideration when agreeing the final outcome of the Community Governance Review.</b> |

## **1.0 Background – Community Governance Reviews**

- 1.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 ('the 2007 Act') empowers a principal authority such as East Herts Council to review and make changes to the governance arrangements for parishes and parish/town councils in its area.
- 1.2 The procedure for making decisions on these matters is a Community Governance Review. This is a review of the whole or part of the district with a view to making recommendations on one or more of the following:
  - Creating, merging or abolishing parishes;
  - Boundary alterations between existing parishes;
  - The naming of parishes and the style of new parishes;
  - The establishment of parish councils;
  - Electoral arrangements for parish councils (the year of election; number of councillors; warding), and/or
  - Grouping parishes under a common parish council or degrouping parishes.
- 1.3 A Community Governance Review may be triggered by a statutory petition or a formal 'application' in the terms of the 2007 Act, or the Council may decide to undertake a review at any time, e.g. in response to population changes or new housing development, as part of a periodic programme of reviews or in response to a request from a town/parish council.
- 1.4 In undertaking a review the Council must consult local electors and other interested parties and must follow guidance issued by the Secretary of State and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE).
- 1.5 A Community Governance Review begins when the Council publishes terms of reference for the review and ends when it



agrees the final recommendations (which must be within 12 months of the review starting) and adopts a Community Governance Reorganisation Order detailing any changes in accordance with those recommendations. Any revised electoral arrangements take effect at the next ordinary parish elections, which in East Herts are scheduled for May 2019.

- 1.6 In accordance with regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2000, functions relating to Community Governance Reviews are not to be the responsibility of an authority's executive. The draft and final recommendations of the review must therefore be agreed by the Council or under delegated arrangements agreed by the Council.

## **2.0 Community Governance Review of Eastwick and Gilston Parish Council**

- 2.1 The Council on 1 March 2018 agreed to undertake a Community Governance Review of Eastwick & Gilston Parish Council. The review was agreed following a request from the Parish Council which sought an increase of one in the number of parish councillors, from six to seven. The request was made on the basis that the completion of the Terlings Park development has resulted in the number of dwellings in Gilston being more than doubled and the Parish Council believes that an increase in the number of parish councillors is required to support this growth.

## **3.0 Issues for consideration and decision-making criteria for the review**

- 3.1 Section 93 of the 2007 Act requires principal councils to ensure that community governance within the area under review will be:-
- reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and

- effective and convenient

3.2 The LGBCE guidance states that when considering these criteria, councils should take into account factors including the impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and the size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish. The guidance further states that 'the general rule should be that the parish is based on an area which reflects community identity and interest and which is of a size which is viable as an administrative unit of local government'

3.3 In accordance with the above principles, the Council has set out policies in the terms of reference for the review including the following:-

*(a) The Council considers that parishes should reflect distinctive and recognisable communities of interest, with their own sense of identity and that electors should be able to identify clearly with the parish in which they are resident. The feeling of local community and the wishes of local inhabitants are therefore important considerations in the review.*

*(b) The Council wishes to ensure that parishes should be viable as an administrative unit and should possess a precept that enables them effectively to promote the well-being of their residents and contribute to the provision of services in their areas.*

### **Parish council size**

3.4 The Local Government Act 1972, as amended, specifies that each parish council must have at least five councillors. There is no maximum number, no requirement in legislation that the number of councillors should be proportional to electorate size

and no legislative guidance on the ideal number of parish councillors.

- 3.5 The LGBCE's guidance is that "each area should be considered on its own merits, having regard to its population, geography and the pattern of communities. Nevertheless, having regard to the current powers of parish councils, [the principal council] should consider the broad pattern of existing council sizes. This pattern appears to have stood the test of time and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, to have provided for effective and convenient local government. Principal councils should also bear in mind that the conduct of parish council business does not usually require a large body of councillors. [...]"
- 3.6 The statutory guidance goes on to state: "In addition, historically many parish councils, particularly smaller ones, have found difficulty in attracting sufficient candidates to stand for election. This has led to uncontested elections and/or a need to co-opt members in order to fill vacancies. However, a parish council's budget and planned or actual level of service provision may also be important factors in reaching conclusions on council size."
- 3.7 Although there is no statutory guidance on the number of parish councillors to be allocated, the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) has published recommendations on the matter. NALC Circular 1126 (1988) recommends that a council of no more than the legal minimum of five members is inconveniently small and that the practical minimum should be seven, to apply to any parish council with up to 900 electors. Further recommendations were made for parishes with larger electorates, up to a maximum of 25 councillors where the electorate exceeds 23,000.

3.8 The Aston Business School also published research in 1992 which showed actual levels of representation at that time as follows:-

| <b>Electors</b> | <b>Councillors</b> | <b>Electors</b> | <b>Councillors</b> |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Up to 500       | 5-8                | 10,001 – 20,000 | 13-27              |
| 501 – 2,500     | 6-12               | Over 20,000     | 13-31              |
| 2,501 – 10,000  | 9-16               |                 |                    |

#### **4.0 Initial consultation and draft recommendations**

- 4.1 The review began on 20 March 2018 with the publication of terms of reference setting out the aims, process and timetable, the matters on which it would focus and policies that the District Council considers relevant. This commenced the first period of public consultation until 27 April 2018, during which local residents and all interested parties were invited to make initial submissions on the Parish Council's proposal and any other matters that they feel should be considered.
- 4.2 In total four responses were received to the initial consultation. Three of these were in favour of the Parish Council's proposal and one offered no comment.
- 4.3 Following the close of the initial consultation, the submissions received were reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 17 April 2018 and the Executive on 24 April 2018, which made recommendations to the Council for consideration when agreeing its draft recommendations for the review.
- 4.4 The Council meeting on 16 May 2018 discussed the Community Governance Review. In considering whether or not the proposals from the Parish Council should be recommended,

the council took into account the responses received to the consultation, the LGBCE's guidance on community governance reviews, geographical data, electorate projections and the recommendations of the Executive which in turn were informed by the comments of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

- 4.5 The Council recommended that the number of parish councillors to be elected to Eastwick and Gilston Parish Council by electors in Gilston Parish should be increased from three to four, thereby increasing the total size of the grouped Parish Council with effect from the May 2019 parish elections to seven councillors.

## **5.0 Second stage consultation**

- 5.1 The Council's draft recommendations were then published for a further round of public consultation from 31 May 2018 until 27 July 2018.
- 5.2 As for the first round of public consultation, a range of methods and channels were used to publicise the draft recommendations and invite electors and others to respond including:
- Notification to the relevant parish/town councils and to the County Council
  - Notification to elected representatives for the areas under review and local political parties
  - Letters/e-mails to community groups and business organisations based in the areas under review
  - Consultation leaflets distributed via the Council offices at Wallfields and Charringtons and local community venues
  - A dedicated page for the review on the 'consultations' section of the EHDC website consultation with an online form for responses and periodic links from the home page

- Press releases, social media and 'network' posts.

5.3 Responses were accepted by post, e-mail or via the online form.

## **6.0 Results of the second stage consultation**

6.1 No further submissions were received in response to the second stage consultation.

## **7.0 Issues for consideration**

### **(a) The number of parish councillors to be elected**

7.1 Eastwick and Gilston Parish Council is a grouped parish council and currently has six councillors, three from each parish. The total current electorate for Eastwick and Gilston parishes is 659 (March 2018). This figure has grown from 331 in 2015.

7.2 At the ordinary parish elections in May 2015, three parish councillors were returned to Eastwick and Gilston Parish Council, leaving three places unfilled which were subsequently filled by co-option.

7.3 In considering the number of councillors to be elected for each parish and the number of electors they represent, the Council will, as required by the 2007 Act, have regard to the current number of electors; and any change in that number which is likely to occur in the next five years. Estimated March 2023 forecasts for Eastwick and Gilston show that the total electorate of the grouped parish council is forecast to grow further, to 750 by March 2023.

7.4 Eighteen parish councils within East Herts currently have five or six parish councillors. Only four of these have an electorate in excess of 500. The thirteen parish councils that currently have

seven councillors range in electorate from 210 to 1,273. There is no duty to ensure electoral equality between parishes, but the LGBCE believes it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government, either for voters or councillors, to have significant differences in representation.

## **(b) Warding**

7.5 The Council must consider whether a parish should be divided into wards for the purposes of elections to the parish council and the number and boundaries of parish wards, taking account of population distribution and community identity and interests in the area.

7.6 Regarding whether a parish should be divided into wards, the 2007 Act requires the Council to consider whether:

a) the number, or distribution of the local government electors for the parish would make a single election of councillors impracticable or inconvenient; and

b) it is desirable that any area or areas of the parish should be separately represented.

7.7 Eastwick and Gilston Parishes are currently unwarded and it is not suggested that the forecast change in the electorate or the proposed increase of one in the size of the parish council would give rise to any need for this to change.

## **8.0 Conclusions**

8.1 The second stage consultation period for the Community Governance Review of Eastwick and Gilston Parish Council closed on Friday 27 July 2018. This report sets out the issues for consideration in the review and the results of that consultation. No further submissions were received in

response to the consultation. The Executive is invited to make recommendations to the Council meeting on 17 October 2018 which is scheduled to agree the final outcome of the Community Governance Review.

## **9.0 Implications/Consultations**

- 9.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found in **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

### Background Papers

None

Contact Member: Councillor G Willimason, Executive Member for Finance and Support Services  
[geoffrey.williamson@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:geoffrey.williamson@eastherts.gov.uk)

Contact Officer: Alison Stuart – Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer  
Contact Tel No – Extn: 2170  
[alison.stuart@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:alison.stuart@eastherts.gov.uk)



## **ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'**

### **IMPLICATIONS/CONSULTATIONS**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/Objectives | Priority 1 – Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities  |
| Consultation:   | Chief Executive/Returning Officer/Electoral Registration Officer<br>Head of Legal and Democratic Services   |
| Legal:  | The processes associated with undertaking a Community Governance Review are prescribed by statute and associated statutory guidance. The relevant legal provisions and implications are set out in the body of the report.  |
| Financial:  | Any costs arising from undertaking and/or implementing the recommendations of the Community Governance Review will be met from existing staff/budgetary resources within Legal and Democratic Services or other relevant service area.  |
| Human Resource:   | There are no ongoing staffing implications of the report. Any staff requirements of undertaking and/or implementing the recommendations of the Community Governance Review will be met from existing resources within Legal and Democratic Services or other relevant service area. |
| Risk Management:  | No significant implications.  |
| Health and wellbeing – issues and impacts:                    | Effective and convenient community governance arrangements can contribute to the promotion of improved health and wellbeing for communities.  |
| Equality Impact Assessment required:                          | No.   |

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## EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE - 11 SEPTEMBER 2018

### REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

#### COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2019/20

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

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#### **Purpose/Summary of Report**

- To consider the latest available information around the current local Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme at East Herts and whether any changes to the scheme should be considered for 2019/20.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b><u>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE:</u> that:</b> |   |
| <b>(A)</b>   | <b>Executive recommend to Council that there be no changes to the scheme design for East Herts local Council Tax Support scheme for April 2019.</b> |

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Government made provision within the Local Government Finance Bill to replace the former national Council Tax Benefit (CTB) scheme from 1st April 2013 with localised schemes for Council Tax Reduction Schemes (CTS) devised by individual local authorities (LA's). The schemes are valid for one year and must

be approved by Council before the 11<sup>th</sup> March immediately preceding the financial year in which it is to take effect.

- 1.2 If the Council were to choose to consider any material revisions to the scheme, this would be the subject of public consultation, which would need to be considered by both those entitled to receive support as well as the general Tax payers of East Herts.
- 1.3 On 17 April 2018 Overview and Scrutiny committee received a presentation on a potential new scheme for 2019/20 based on income bands. The new style of scheme would aim to simplify the criteria for customers as well as mitigating the impact of changes in circumstances on workload and council tax collection, resulting from universal credit reassessments.
- 1.4 Members were advised that substantial modelling would need to be carried out to avoid any unintended consequences, as well as enabling full consultation with tax payers and major preceptors. Unfortunately the software modelling tool has proved to be insufficiently sophisticated to enable the modelling to be progressed with sufficient confidence in the results. A new module is due for release in the autumn and it is proposed to recommence modelling again at that time, for consideration for a scheme from 2020.
- 1.5 Members were advised that in the event that the modelling was not completed in time, it would be necessary to request to continue the existing scheme for 2019/20. The chair of Overview and Scrutiny has been advised of the situation and confirmed that this report can be submitted to Executive without further review by that committee.
- 1.6 This report therefore details the current position on Council Tax, and seeks support to continue the current scheme for 2019/20 whilst testing on a revised structure of scheme can be continued.

## **2. REPORT**

### **2.1. The origins of Council Tax Support (CTS)**

- 2.1.1. Before April 2013, we administered Council Tax Benefit on behalf of the Government. This national scheme was specified in legislation and we were reimbursed by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) through a subsidy claim submitted annually and subject to audit.
- 2.1.2. The level of subsidy reimbursement varied dependant on whether benefit had been awarded, backdated or overpaid, but the point to note is that entitlement and subsidy were based on assessing entitlement on 100% of somebodies council tax liability, net of discounts (like a single person discount.)
- 2.1.3. The scheme was means tested and whilst the scheme differentiated between different client groups (providing extra support for disabled groups for example) there was little differential between Elderly and Working Age clients.
- 2.1.4. Clients fell into one of two groups, "Passported" and "standard claimants." A passported claim was one in which the DWP had already carried out a means test and then notified us that the customers income was at or below the minimum income level for their household composition. They would be automatically entitled to 100% of their Council Tax to be paid by Council Tax Benefit. A deduction would however be made from this entitlement where there were non dependants living in the home.
- 2.1.5. The second group were called 'standard claims'. These customers had their means testing done by the council and awarded Council Tax benefit in accordance with the national scheme criteria. These customers had income above the

minimum requirements and would be required to pay something towards their council tax liability. A deduction would also be made from this entitlement where there were non dependants living in the home.

2.1.6. In very general terms the full expenditure on the scheme was reimbursed by the DWP.

## **2.2. The impact of changes from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013**

2.2.1. The national scheme for Council Tax Benefit ceased, and Councils had to devise their own Council Tax Reduction Schemes for working age claimants. The Government continues to specify the scheme for Elderly customers through prescribed regulations.

2.2.2. Instead of the scheme being funded through a subsidy claim based on actual expenditure, the Government moved the funding into the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) settlement, fixing it at only 90% of the subsidy paid in a previous year. RSG is the amount of grant that Government give to Councils to support their wider service delivery, and makes up one part of the income of the Council in addition to Council Tax receipts, fees and charges and an element of Business rate collection. However the move away from RSG makes this funding link less obvious.

2.2.3. Each Council had to consider how to fund 100% of the cost of the Elderly 'national' scheme and provide a Working age scheme, whilst receiving 10% less funding.

2.2.4. Pensioner claimants are protected from changes through the provision of a statutory scheme.

2.2.5. Schemes must support work incentives.

2.2.6. The DCLG Policy Statement of Intent does not give a recommended an approach to be taken, but indicates the scheme should not contain features which creates disincentives to find employment. The current East Herts scheme complies with this statement.

2.2.7. LAs must ensure that appropriate consideration has been given to support for other vulnerable groups, including those which may require protection under other statutory provisions including the Child Poverty Act 2010, the Disabled Persons Act 1986 and the Equality Act 2010, amongst others.

2.2.8. The DCLG has issued Policy Statements that address a range of issues including the following:

- Vulnerable People and Key Local Authority Duties;
- Taking work incentives into account;
- Information Sharing and Powers to Tackle Fraud.

2.2.9. The Local Government Finance Bill stated that a Billing Authority must have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State. Our current recommended scheme has sought to address these requirements.

### **Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTS)**

2.2.10. The Council initially devised a scheme which replicated the previous national scheme but limited the Council tax liability that was used to assess entitlement to 90% for working age customers. The Government offered a one off transitional grant to Councils who would restrict the reduction to 91.5%, and accordingly the Council amended the proposal and took the one off transitional grant. The Council has maintained this position for the first 6 years of the scheme.

- 2.2.11. The cost of the scheme is reflected in the tax base, in the same way as other discounts which reduce the collectable debit.
- 2.2.12. The Government require that major preceptors (County and Police) are consulted each year, and if there is any change to the scheme a full consultation open to all tax payers in the district is required. There is no specific timescale prescribed but the period must allow for meaningful consultation.
- 2.2.13. Currently (2018/19) 76.98% of the Tax base income is precepted by Herts County and Council and 9.56% by the Police, and accordingly they have a vested interest in the value of the CTS scheme as it directly impacts on their ability to raise funds. The lower the cost of the scheme, the higher the tax base on which they can precept.
- 2.2.14. Before the introduction of CTS there had been a number of years of constant case load increases, the caseload has since stabilised and begun to reduce, alongside a growing taxbase due to new developments in the area. The impact on the cost of the scheme is demonstrated below.

| <b>Year</b>    | <b>Cost of the CTS scheme</b> |        |
|----------------|-------------------------------|--------|
| <b>2013/14</b> | £ 6,448,794                   | Actual |
| <b>2014/15</b> | £ 6,066,188                   | Actual |
| <b>2015/16</b> | £ 5,734,780                   | Actual |
| <b>2016/17</b> | £ 5,670,937                   | Actual |
| <b>2017/18</b> | £ 5,813,163                   | Actual |

\*The Tax base is calculated in October of the preceding year. The Band D value of the 2018/19 taxbase increased by 5.7%

- 2.2.15. From 14/15 the 90% grant that was included in the RSG was no longer individually identifiable. Therefore calculating the total cost of the scheme i.e. the cost of the CTS scheme versus the



CTS grant given by Government is now impossible, as the grant has been subsumed within the total RSG and NDR (Business Rates) figures.

2.2.16. What is certain however is that the level of spend on CTS has continued to reduce in real terms, mitigating in part the impact of overall reductions in income to the Council.

2.2.17. A large proportion of customers affected by the introduction of the CTS scheme had not previously had to pay anything towards their Council Tax bill. If they had been 'passported' under the Council Tax Benefit scheme their liability would have been discharged in full by a credit transfer onto their Council Tax account. Under the new arrangements all working age customer had to pay at least 8.5% towards their bill.

2.2.18. It continues to be a challenge to support and educate these customers into a regular payment arrangement. We have;

- Offered flexible repayment options,
- Given more time to pay,
- Worked on a project with the Citizens advice Bureau to support customers with repeated arrears,
- Promoted other debt and advice agencies.

2.2.21 The in-year collection rate for working age claimants who had only the minimum 8.5% liability to pay was 67.49% in 2014/15 and 70.49% for 2017/18

2.2.22 The overall in-year collection rate for all working age CTS customers was 77.43% in 2014/15, and 78.66% in 2017/18. In contrast to the *all tax payers* in-year collection rate, which for 2014/15 was 98.2%, and 98.3% in 2017/18.

2.2.23 Many of these same customers have been affected by other welfare reforms introduced ;

- the spare room subsidy scheme

- the new Benefit CAP,
- Reviews of disability benefits etc.

Many families find that they have increasing debts with their councils and landlords for bills that were previously paid for them.

2.2.24 We make assumptions in respect of the level of non-payment of Council Tax when determining the tax base, alongside assumption over each of the variable elements of its composition. The in-year collection for all Council Tax payers was 98.3% in 2017/18, but this was dampened by only 78.66% collected from those working age customers in receipt of CTS. Those customers who under the old scheme would have not paid anything towards their council tax (passported customers) paid only 70.49%

2.2.25 The liability not paid in-year becomes arrears on which a bad debt provision has to be established, which is a further cost to the council. Where the outturn taxbase exceeds the estimated performance it generates a surplus on the collection fund, and conversely when the taxbase does not achieve its expected performance because of negative variations in the component elements, the collection fund would be in deficit. The Council is required to make precept payments during the year regardless of any in year variations.

2.2.26 Consideration of any variations to the existing scheme needs to consider;

- Variations in grant funding
- The reducing cost of CTS
- The impact of other welfare benefits reforms on the ability to pay
- The cost of increasing arrears and recovery costs
- The buoyancy of the taxbase generally

- The unknown budget and finance settlements

2.2.27 Any revision to a scheme must be made by the Council by the 11<sup>th</sup> March, immediately preceding the financial year in which it is to take effect and will require consultation with those affected. Additionally, consideration must be given to providing transitional protection where the support is to be reduced or removed. The financial impact of any decision on Council Tax Support also needs to be included when setting our budget and Council tax levels at the same time.

2.2.28 Corporate Business Scrutiny considered in detail potential changes to the scheme in March 2016, but given the reducing cost of the scheme and the uncertainty around the upcoming welfare reforms were happy to recommend that the scheme remain unchanged for 2017/18 and 2018/19

2.2.29 The CTS scheme for 2018/19 can be summarised as follows:

- That the CTS scheme for all working age claimants will be based on 91.5% of their council tax liability.;
- All local discretions currently in place will continue e.g. war pension disregards;
- All other aspects of the new Council Tax Support scheme to mirror the previous Council Tax Benefit scheme.

2.2.30 In recognition of the fact that the additional Council Tax liability is more difficult to collect, a collection rate of 98.9% has been assumed.

## **2.3 Options that could be considered in redesigning a scheme**

2.3.1 There are a number of options that could be considered when redesigning the scheme, although all revisions would affect

working age customers only, given that pensioners have to be fully protected by our scheme.

- 2.3.2 The Government continues to make changes to the Housing Benefit regulations which are not currently mirrored in the CTS regulations. This means the schemes are no longer aligned. The frequency of changes to Housing Benefit and Universal credit schemes, make it almost impossible to mirror these in the CTS scheme, not least of which because of the difference in timing. The Housing Benefit and Universal Credit schemes are changed when needed during the year, and the CTS scheme can only be revised annually.
- 2.3.3 Consideration was given last year to align some of the more significant differences but the financial implications across the caseload would have been small, and the changes would have required a full consultation exercise, to achieve only a temporary alignment, and therefore this was rejected.
- 2.3.4 The caseload for CTS indicates that the proportion of working age customers compared to pensioners is changing over time very slightly. It demonstrates a reduction in the proportion of the caseload for Elderly customers and this is attributed to the rising of the national age threshold for becoming a pensioner. (At 1.6.18, 55% WA :45% Elderly)
- 2.3.5 The presentation to Overview and Scrutiny in April outlined an indicative income band scheme along with the potential to simplify entitlement criteria and the treatment of income and capital.
- 2.3.6 The presentation explained that due to the national roll out of 'full service' universal credit (impacting in East Herts from October 2018) there was a need to look to reduce the impact of monthly changes in universal credit on entitlement to CTS and Council tax collection.

2.3.7 Members were supportive of the approach subject to extensive testing to minimise any unintended consequences on our most vulnerable residents.

2.3.8 The type of changes that could be made to the *existing style* of scheme can be summarised as follows,

2.3.9 Changing the level of “minimum payment” for all working age customers

- a) The current scheme assumes that all working age customers are asked to pay at least something towards their Council Tax, and as described earlier the minimum payment is 8.5% of liability. The Council could consider making a change to that amount but in doing so, the full impact of that decision needs to be considered.
- b) If the Council chose to increase this minimum payment to say 10%, this does not mean a straight line reduction in the amount that the Council will spend out. For individuals already finding it difficult to pay at the current level, it can be seen that increasing this amount could increase their hardship levels further, especially as these customers are likely to be receiving other benefits, which have been affected by the on-going Welfare reforms.
- c) Given our latest information shows that the collection rate for those working age customers in receipt of CTS is already significantly lower than the overall rate, we would need to consider adding further amounts to our bad debt provision in respect of potential non-collection of our debts. Having done some indicative modelling, we estimate that increasing the minimum payment to 10% could result in a decrease in Council Tax spend of approximately £80k. This would be virtually wiped out by

the need to increase bad debt provision.

- d) Conversely, if we were to consider reducing the minimum amount to be paid we would need to consider where we would find the additional amount that we would need to fund Council Tax Support and these impact upon the totality of the funding for the Council and importantly, other precepting bodies too. These impacts on their overall funding levels, and given we represent under 15% of the total cost of the scheme, we need to consider the significant financial impact this could have on others. There would still be costs associated with administering the scheme whatever the level of award, as not everyone gets the full benefit so this would not mitigate the additional cost to the Council. On current estimates, we believe the additional burden could be around £300k.

#### 2.3.10 Introducing a band cap (so limiting the amount that we would pay to a value of a lower property band, for example Band D)

In some Local Authorities, they have introduced a band cap where the scheme will only pay up to the equivalent of say a Band D property, even if you are in a higher banded property.

This could disproportionately affect those with a requirement for a larger property as they have children, other dependents due to caring responsibilities or a disability. These groups could already have been hit by other areas of Welfare reform including the Benefit Cap and the Spare Room subsidy limitation.

#### 2.3.11 Introducing a minimum amount we would pay out

Some Councils have introduced a minimum level at which we will support residents. An example is that you have to be entitled to at least £5 a week to be supported. This means

someone who is currently entitled to a lower amount, would not receive it, despite the fact that we have assessed them as currently requiring support. There are no real savings in terms of administrative costs because we would still have to undertake an assessment to find out that we wouldn't award. In addition, the fact that they are currently entitled to support indicates that they are financially vulnerable and the likelihood of being able to collect that additional amount from those residents is low. Therefore the potential reduction in costs overall is minimal and outweighed by an increase in bad debt provision and recovery costs.

#### 2.3.12 Changes around discretions for Disability, Children and other Dependents

- a) This would change the nature of the scheme overall. East Herts, when setting its original scheme were clear that all would contribute equally as the core scheme already differentiates preferentially to those with disabilities, children etc.
- b) Any complexity that is added to the way in which we calculate entitlement, will make the administration of the scheme both more complex for our officers to manage both in terms of calculation but more importantly, to explain to our residents.
- c) This would also mean that the general working age population may need to pick up an even greater share of the cost if the scheme is to remain affordable and equitable.

#### 2.3.13 Other adjustments

- a) There are a number of other component elements of the scheme that could be adjusted including income tapers,

non-dependent deductions, income disregards etc. but all would carry the same risk to bad debt provisions, potential recovery costs and costs of administration. The more complex the scheme, the more difficult it is to comply with and customers' levels of understanding could be compromised.

- b) Finally, the intention is, (subject to modelling) to move away from a fully means tested benefit towards a discount scheme based on income bands in 2020. This would make administration more efficient and far less complex and time consuming for the customer. Consequently any amendments to the scheme for 2019/20 would be temporary.

### 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

None

Contact Member: Councillor Geoff Williamson – Executive Member for Finance and Support Services  
[Geoffrey.williamson@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:Geoffrey.williamson@eastherts.gov.uk)

Contact Officer: Su Tarran – Head of Revenues & Benefits shared service, ext 2075  
[Su.tarran@hertspartnership-ala.gov.uk](mailto:Su.tarran@hertspartnership-ala.gov.uk)

Report Author: Su Tarran – Head of Shared Revenues and Benefits Service  
[Su.tarran@hertspartnership-ala.gov.uk](mailto:Su.tarran@hertspartnership-ala.gov.uk)



**IMPLICATIONS/CONSULTATIONS**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives: | - <b><i>Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities</i></b> Support for our vulnerable families and individuals |
| Consultation:   | May be required if Executive determine that changes should be considered  |
| Legal:  | N/A   |
| Financial:  | Only as referenced in the report  |
| Human Resource:   | N/A   |
| Risk Management:  | Only as referenced in the report.   |
| Health and wellbeing – issues and impacts:                      | N/A   |
| Equality Impact Assessment needed:                              | No  |

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EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 11 SEPTEMBER 2018

REPORT BY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

EAST OF STEVENAGE MASTERPLAN

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

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## **Purpose/Summary of Report**

- To enable Members to consider the Masterplan for the East of Stevenage site.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b><u>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE:</u> To recommend to Council that:</b> |   |
| <b>(A)</b>   | <b>the Masterplan for the strategic allocation known as 'Land to the East of Stevenage, as detailed at Essential Reference Paper 'B' to this report, be agreed as a material consideration for Development Management purposes.</b> |

## 1.0 Background

- 1.1 The East Herts Approach to masterplanning was first presented to the District Planning Executive Panel in September 2017 (and agreed by Council on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017). The report set out a series of steps that describe the various stages involved and processes expected for each of the District Plan strategic allocations. Whilst not a one-size-fits-all approach, the process is based upon a collaborative approach to identifying and resolving issues, creating a vision

for what the site aspires to achieve, testing design options and consulting upon preferred solutions. The output of this process is a masterplan framework or masterplan which is presented to members for consideration.

- 1.2 In order to embed the masterplanning process in the District Plan, a new policy has been proposed through the Main Modifications Consultation. Policy DES1: Masterplanning requires all 'significant' development proposals to prepare a masterplan setting out the quantum and distribution of land uses; access; sustainable high quality design and layout principles; necessary infrastructure; the relationship between the site and other adjacent and nearby land uses; landscape and heritage assets and other relevant matters. Furthermore, the masterplan should be collaboratively prepared and informed by public participation. Finally, Policy DES1 states that in order to ensure sites are planned and delivered comprehensively, any application for development on part of the site will be assessed against its contribution to the masterplan as a whole.
- 1.3 The masterplan should therefore provide sufficient information to inform the preparation of detailed aspects of the site at the planning application stage. The level of detail required for the masterplan will depend upon the likely form of delivery of the site. For example, where delivery is expected by one party who has been involved throughout the Plan-making stages, a masterplan framework may be prepared, which provides key parameters and aspirations which form the basis of detailed design determined through a planning application process at a later stage. If it is likely that the site will be delivered by a number of developers who have not been involved in the Plan-making process, more detail will be needed in the masterplan in order to provide certainty on key matters so that future parties are very clear on what the site is expected to achieve.
- 1.4 For each of the strategic sites allocated in the emerging District

Plan, a Steering Group has been, or will be established. This will comprise East Herts councillors, town and parish councillors, representatives of the local community and other interested groups where appropriate. The Steering Group is a sounding board for key issues and depending upon specific circumstances, for discussing detailed design elements whilst preparing the planning application through to when construction is underway.

## 2.0 Report

- 2.1 The land to the East of Stevenage is a strategic allocation within the emerging District Plan, which is expected to be adopted in September 2018. As such, until the Plan is adopted, the site remains within the Green Belt. The site promoters (Pigeon Land Ltd) worked closely with officers and the Steering Group on the masterplanning of this site to demonstrate that the policy requirements can be achieved in order to support the Plan-making process. Subsequent to the District Plan Examination in Public, work has advanced on preparing a Masterplan which will support the planning application process in anticipation of the adoption of the Plan. This is to ensure that the preparation of the Masterplan does not delay the submission of a planning application.
- 2.2 Policy EOS1 of the emerging District Plan sets out the proposed land uses and other policy requirements as well as a requirement that a masterplan is produced in a collaborative manner with stakeholders. The site will deliver around 600 new homes of varying mix and tenure, including 40% affordable housing, a care home, housing with care and a number of self-build properties. The Council will require these homes to be accessible and adaptable to meet the changing needs of occupants in accordance with emerging District Plan policy. The site will also deliver a much needed site to accommodate the needs of Travelling Showpeople.

- 2.3 In addition to the above, the site will also deliver a number of key community benefits including a Neighbourhood Hub, which will provide a central park with a play area, local retail and community facilities, the care home and a new two-form entry primary school to provide for the needs arising from the development. The school will also provide a pre-school on-site and will provide additional capacity for existing residents of the surrounding communities.
- 2.4 In order to manage the stewardship of key public amenity space and site infrastructure, there will be a management and maintenance approach agreed during the course of the planning application.
- 2.5 The Masterplan provided in **Essential Reference Paper 'B'** sets out a clear vision for the site supported by 12 key objectives. These objectives have been established as a result of an analysis of constraints and opportunities, through discussions with the local community and other stakeholders and have been agreed with Officers. This engagement is further detailed in paragraph 2.15 onwards. These objectives seek to respond to the policy requirements as set out in Policy EOS1.
- 2.6 The Masterplan begins with a series of maps illustrating the geography of the site and how these features are turned into opportunities within the Landscape Framework diagram. The main vision for the site is to create a landscape-led design, which enhances existing features using them to define and frame distinct areas within the site. The retention of mature trees and the enhancement of existing landscape enable the creation of multi-functional green infrastructure features that perform the role of flood attenuation, parkland, fit trails, informal and formal off-road paths, urban shading and wildlife habitats among others.

- 2.7 The Block Structure diagram takes its lead from the Landscape Framework diagram and starts to populate the developable areas with potential building shapes.
- 2.8 The Movement and Connections diagram illustrates key routes through the site, including a spine road which will facilitate the creation of a bus route that will connect to the existing communities within Stevenage. The Masterplan responds to the ambitions within the Stevenage Mobility Strategy which seeks to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport and to enhance the local cycleway network. This site therefore proposes not only internal cycle routes and connections but also to create an important addition to the cycle network that was previously omitted – a route along Gresley Way between Six Hills Way and Fairlands Way.
- 2.9 There have been a number of discussions with the County Council on the proposed junctions on to Gresley Way – the Highways Officer preference is for these junctions to be signal controlled. Discussion is ongoing with officers as to the priority and timings of these junctions and with regard to the nature of other crossing points, but these will be resolved through the detailed planning application in due course. There has been ongoing discussion about the implications of the site on the local road network. The County Council as the Highway Authority is satisfied that appropriate modelling has been undertaken, and that the site will deliver a good variety of sustainable transport enhancements.
- 2.10 The Character Areas/Density Breakdown diagram seeks to define locations within the site itself that could accommodate different densities and built form. Responding to the topography and key routes the site can create higher density areas around entrances into the site, and lower density forms towards the outer edge of the site. The Land Use diagram sets clear parameters for the different land uses, while the Character Areas illustrations provide some visual examples of what the built form could look like. Details on the palette of

materials will come through the planning applications in due course.

- 2.11 The Illustrative Masterplan fills in the remaining developable areas with indicative layouts indicating where key uses could be located within the landscape framework.
- 2.12 The Neighbourhood Hub diagram shows in more detail what this key central space could deliver. This provides a good point of reference for the future applications. It shows how the community uses are to be located around a central parkland providing a focal point for the new community based around the school and retail/community facilities. The streetscape is proposed to be designed for slower vehicle speeds with well-connected cycle paths and pedestrian routes linking the various uses and surrounding residential areas.
- 2.13 Two diagrams are then presented which show how the scheme could look when taking the illustrative masterplan and the vision for the site into account. The first diagram details an inclusive development that is sustainable and landscape-led. The second diagram details key features within the site and the vision for how these will be used to create a vibrant network of spaces.
- 2.14 The final diagram in the document shows the indicative development parcels and the potential timescale for how these will come forward.

### Engagement

- 2.15 Throughout the Plan-making stage a number of meetings have been held with Officers to discuss a wide variety of matters. These discussions have informed the Masterplan and the emerging application. Officers continue to meet regularly with Pigeon land Ltd and other parties as programmed in the Planning Performance Agreement.



- 2.16 Pigeon Land Ltd has undertaken a recent round of public engagement on the Masterplan and has sought the views of local residents in neighbouring parishes Aston and Walkern and within the adjacent Stevenage wards. This has included two drop-in style events where local residents could view and comment on early iterations of the proposals, could contact Pigeon by phone, email or through an online and paper questionnaire. Flyers advertising two drop-in exhibition events were posted to nearby homes in the vicinity of the site, with special attention given to contacting the properties immediately adjacent to the site.
- 2.17 A Steering Group has been set up to enable the open debate of issues. This Group comprises a number of Executive Members, local ward councillors, including Stevenage ward councillors and representatives of Aston and Walkern Parish Councils. A key concern of the group is the impact of the development on the local road network, in particular within the surrounding rural roads. Responding to this, both the Illustrative Masterplan and the Movement and Connections diagram identify a bus link, network of cycle ways and pedestrian routes throughout the site encouraging new residents to use sustainable methods of travel. It is the intention that like other Steering Groups, there will be continued engagement as detailed applications come forward.

### Conclusions

- 2.18 Pigeon Land Ltd, in association with Hyth Ltd, intends to submit an outline planning application for the whole site at the end of the summer and discussions are ongoing with Officers as to what elements of the proposal will be detailed at this stage, such as the central spine road and access points.
- 2.19 As the site will be sub-divided into three development parcels in order to expedite the delivery of new homes, it is important that the Masterplan provides a good breadth of information for not only decision-makers but for development partners. It

is the view of Officers that this Masterplan provides a strong vision supported by clear objectives and sufficient detail against which future applications can be measured. It provides a framework for the main issues of significance in relation to the proposal, whilst providing enough flexibility that further detail can be agreed at appropriate stages at a later date. Officers will continue to work with Pigeon Land Ltd and other stakeholders to ensure that the best design possible is achieved on this site.

- 2.20 The Masterplan contains a vision and series of objectives that reflect the requirements of Policy EOS1, and with appropriate design tools, these ambitions will be achieved on the site. It is therefore recommended that the Masterplan as detailed at **Essential Reference Paper 'B'**, be agreed as a material consideration<sup>1</sup> for Development Management purposes.

### 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

Emerging East Herts District Plan (Inspector's Main Modifications) - Chapter 12 – East of Stevenage:

[www.eastherts.gov.uk/inspectorsreport](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/inspectorsreport)

Contact Member: Cllr Linda Haysey – Leader of the Council  
[linda.haysey@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:linda.haysey@eastherts.gov.uk)

Contact Officer: Kevin Steptoe – Head of Planning and Building Control  
Contact Tel No 01992 531407

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<sup>1</sup> A material consideration is a matter that should be taken into account in deciding a planning application or on an appeal against a planning decision.

[kevin.stepto@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.stepto@eastherts.gov.uk)

Report Author: Jenny Pierce – Senior Project Officer (Policy & Implementation)  
[jenny.pierce@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:jenny.pierce@eastherts.gov.uk)

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**IMPLICATIONS/CONSULTATIONS**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives: | Priority 1 – Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities<br><br>Priority 2 – Enhance the quality of people's lives<br><br>Priority 3 – Enable a flourishing local economy   |
| Consultation:   | The report relates to a masterplan which has been prepared in collaboration with the community, officers and a member steering group.   |
| Legal:  | N/A   |
| Financial:  | N/A   |
| Human Resource:   | None  |
| Risk Management:  | None  |
| Health and wellbeing – issues and impacts:                      | The link between planning and health has long been established. The built and natural environments are major determinants of health and wellbeing. The District Plan is seeking to ensure the most sustainable outcomes for its residents, thus improving health and wellbeing opportunities. This is a strategic site within the Plan and will be designed to meet these objectives. |
| Equality Impact Assessment required:                            | No. The District Plan itself was subject to an EqlA. As this is a site brought forward under that Plan, no additional assessment is required.   |

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# EAST OF STEVENAGE

## Master plan vision

Pigeon Land Ltd and Hythe Ltd  
August 2018

FINAL



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# Introduction

## Background

This Master plan vision document (‘the Master plan’) has been prepared by Terence O’Rourke, on behalf of Pigeon Land Ltd (‘Pigeon’) and Hythe Ltd (the Landowner), in support of a high quality landscape-led sustainable neighbourhood on Land East of Stevenage (the ‘Site’).

The Master plan has been produced in response to the requirements of District Plan policy DES1 (Master planning), policy EOS1 (Land East of Stevenage) and other relevant provisions set out within the District Plan. It builds upon previous work that has informed the allocation of the Site within the East Herts District Plan. It has been the subject of engagement with local and parish councils, the wider community and other local stakeholders, and represents the next stage in the evolution of the scheme.

The Master plan is based upon a thorough and comprehensive assessment of the Site’s opportunities, including its topography, existing landscape features and site context. It is landscape-led and establishes a landscape framework for the Site that incorporates existing landscape features whilst providing extensive planting and biodiversity enhancement throughout.

The Master plan provides the framework for the creation of a vibrant sustainable community to the east of Stevenage, incorporating the requirements of policy EOS1 and the East Herts District Plan. The scheme, as detailed within the Master plan, includes provision for the following:

- Around 600 homes (including around 240 affordable homes), which will provide a range and mix of dwelling types (including self-build plots in accordance with District Plan policy)
- A Neighbourhood Hub at the heart of the new community, providing:
  - 2 form entry primary school and pre-school*
  - Care home*
  - Housing with care*
  - Local shops*
  - Community uses*
- A variety of public open spaces across the site, including provision for children’s play
- Strategic landscaping, amenity space and biodiversity enhancements
- A site for Travelling Showpeople (as per District Plan policy)
- On-site cycleway and footpath provision
- Off-site cycleway and footway connections and the provision of a high quality cycle route along Gresley Way
- Bus stops and provision of a bus route through the site
- Access arrangements and strategic highways mitigation measures, including improvements to the A602/Gresley Way junction
- Sustainable drainage and the provision of all requisite on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure

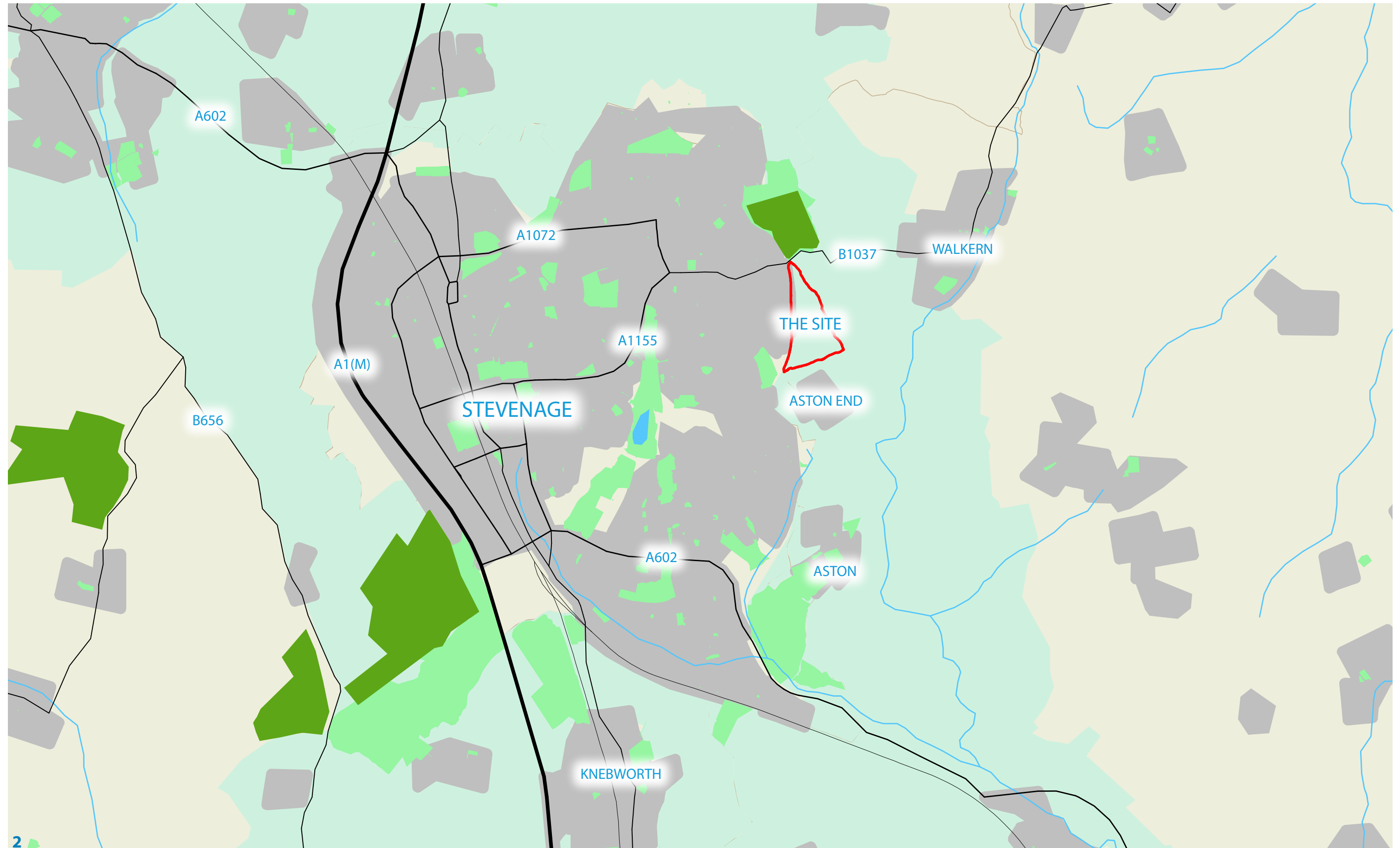
The Master plan is intended to provide a framework for subsequent planning applications, thereby ensuring that the high quality design and layout principles that have been established through the Master planning process are delivered. In this regard, and further to the identification of the site within the District Plan, it represents the next stage in the evolution of the Site, which in combination with ongoing stakeholder engagement will provide the basis for future planning applications and decisions on detailed design matters.

## The Vision

The Vision for East of Stevenage is to create a high quality landscape-led sustainable neighbourhood based upon the following key objectives:

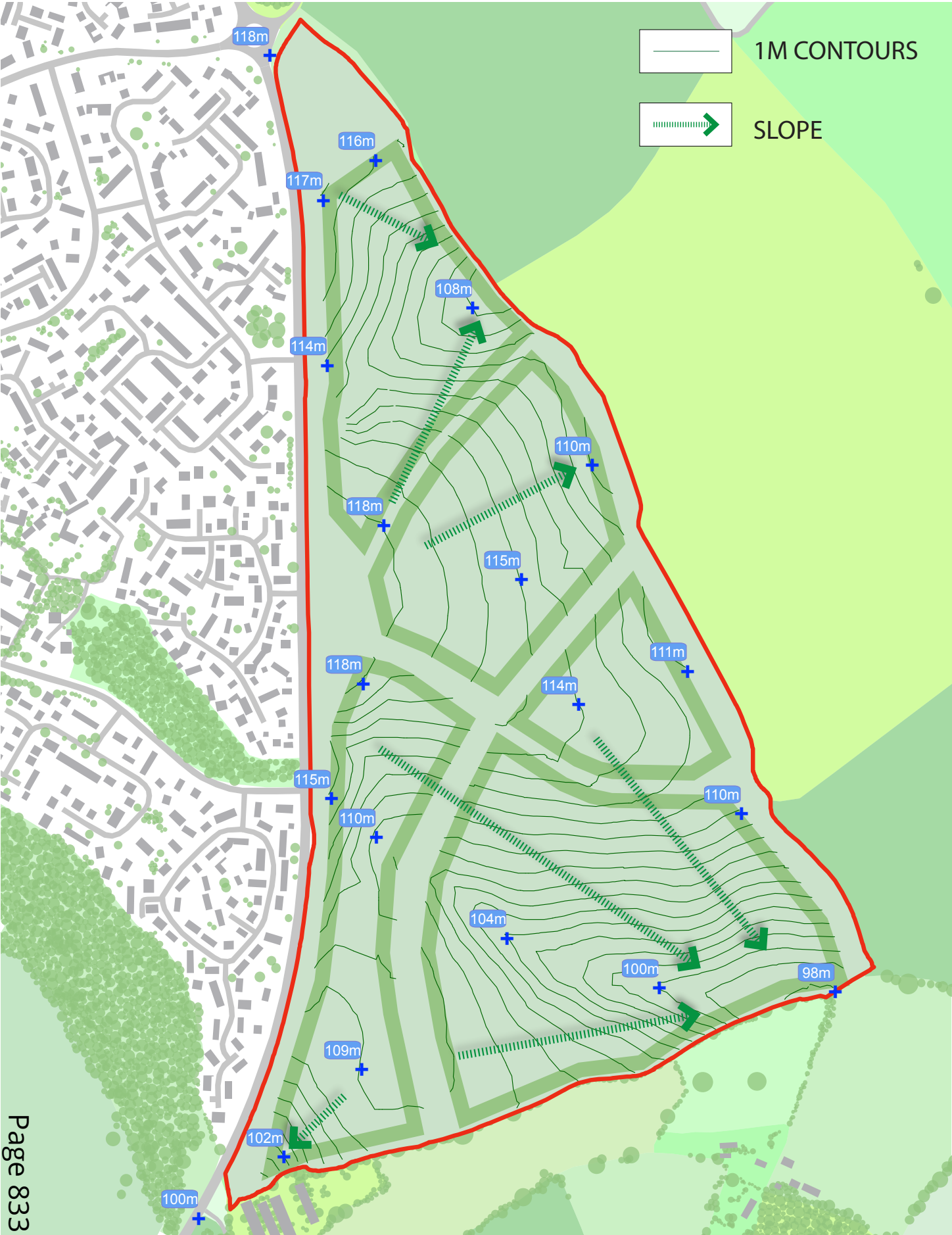
- Retention and enhancement of existing green infrastructure, including new planting and enhancement of the site boundary, to create a high quality landscape framework, which defines individual character areas (landscape-led)
- Biodiversity enhancement through retention of existing habitat and provision of new green infrastructure to provide a net biodiversity gain
- Creation of a vibrant multi-generational Neighbourhood Hub at the heart of the new community focussed around a central park, providing a 2 form entry primary and pre-school, local shops, community uses, a care home and housing with care
- Network of interconnected green spaces including provision of play areas to promote opportunities for outdoor health and fitness, including retention and enhancement of an existing bridleway (Aston 004)
- Creation of a spine road with a formal avenue of tree planting and generous grass verges to create a high quality environment
- On-site cycleways and footpaths throughout to encourage sustainable travel behaviour and provide connectivity in accordance with the Stevenage Mobility Strategy
- Provision of a sustainable transport route with provision of new bus stops to encourage the use of public transport over car based travel
- Provision of cycleway and footpath connections, including provision of a high quality cycle route along Gresley Way between Six Hills Way and Fairlands Way, to provide off-site connectivity and encourage active modes of transport in accordance with the Stevenage Mobility Strategy
- Around 600 homes (including around 240 affordable homes), which will provide a range and mix of dwelling types (including self-build plots in accordance with District Plan policy)
- Three development parcels together with all associated infrastructure, including sustainable drainage, all requisite on-site and appropriate off-site infrastructure, to facilitate delivery of the scheme
- High quality new homes that will embrace the principles set out within Building for Life 12, including full consideration of relevant design standards and sustainability requirements, as well as provision of fibre broadband and future requirements for electric vehicle charging
- A commitment to the appropriate management and maintenance of site infrastructure

## Site context





Topography



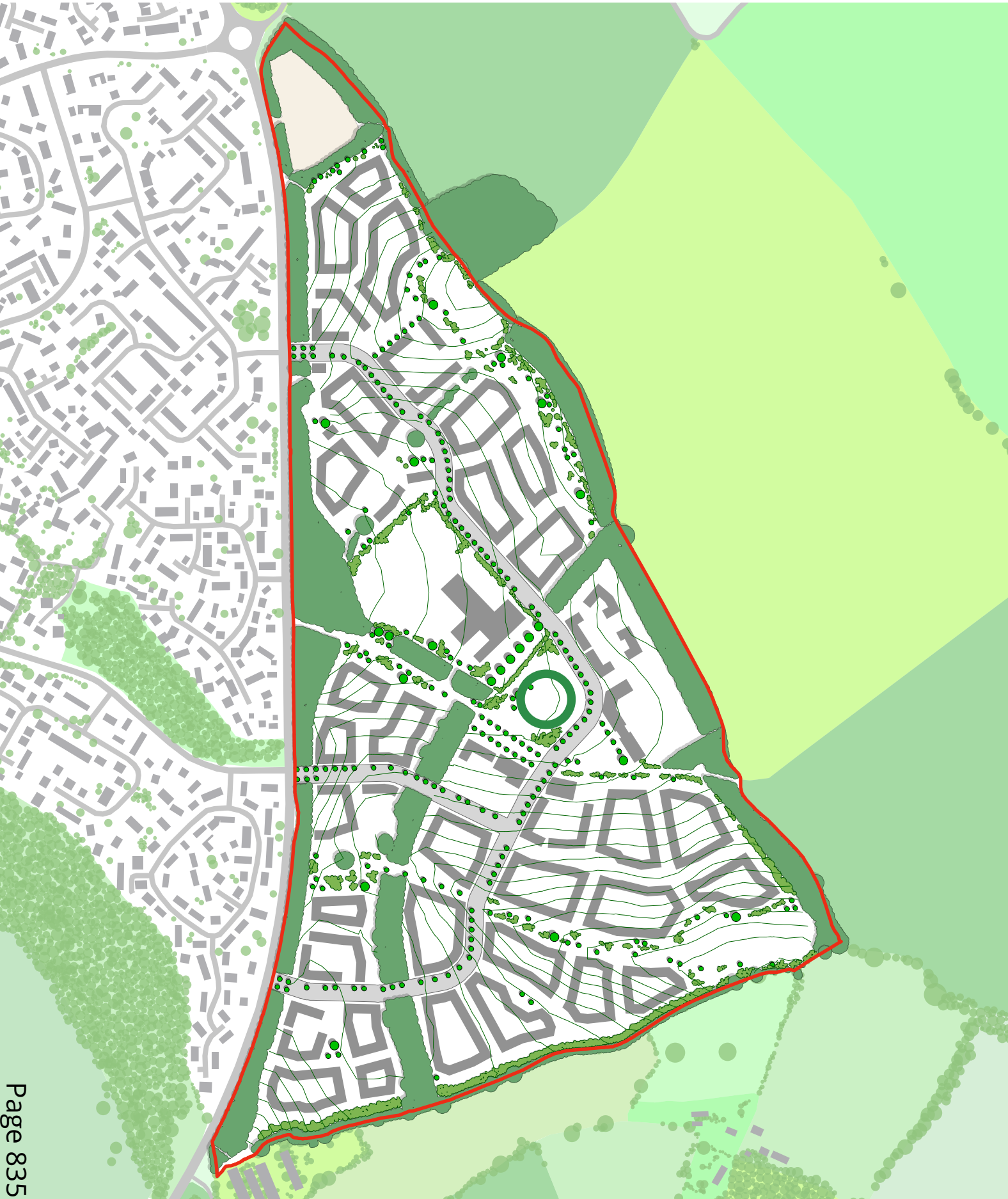


# Landscape framework



-  RETAINED EXISTING VEGETATION AND ECOLOGY
-  PROPOSED PLANTING AND BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT
-  HISTORIC TRACK
-  SuDS/ATTENUATION FEATURES
-  LINEAR PARK
-  SIGNIFICANT NEW BUFFER PLANTING ALONG SOUTHERN EDGE OF SITE
-  BRIDLEWAY (4)/GREENWAY
-  NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB OPEN SPACE
-  PONDS / INFILTRATION BASINS

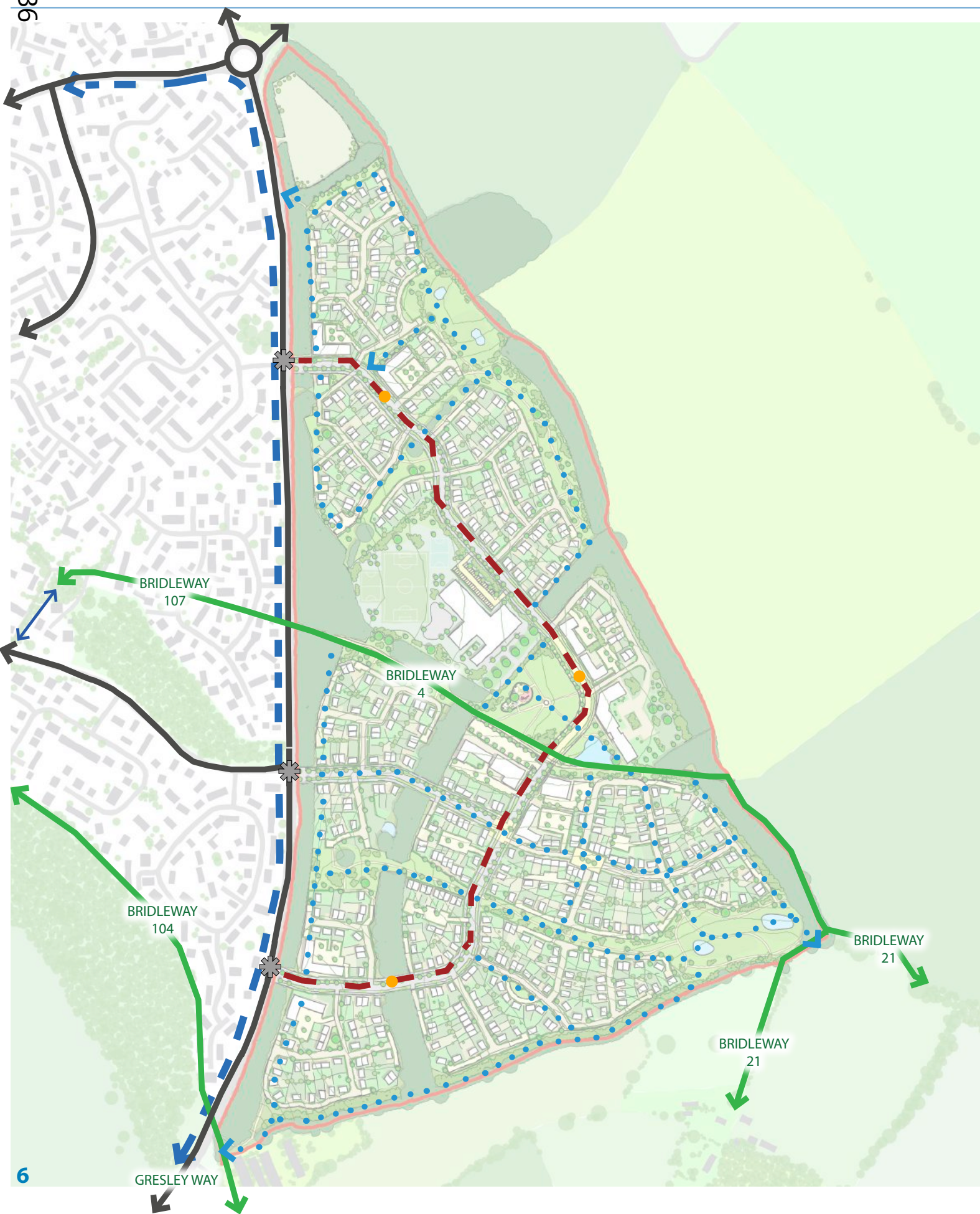
Block structure











- DEVELOPMENT PARCELS
- NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB

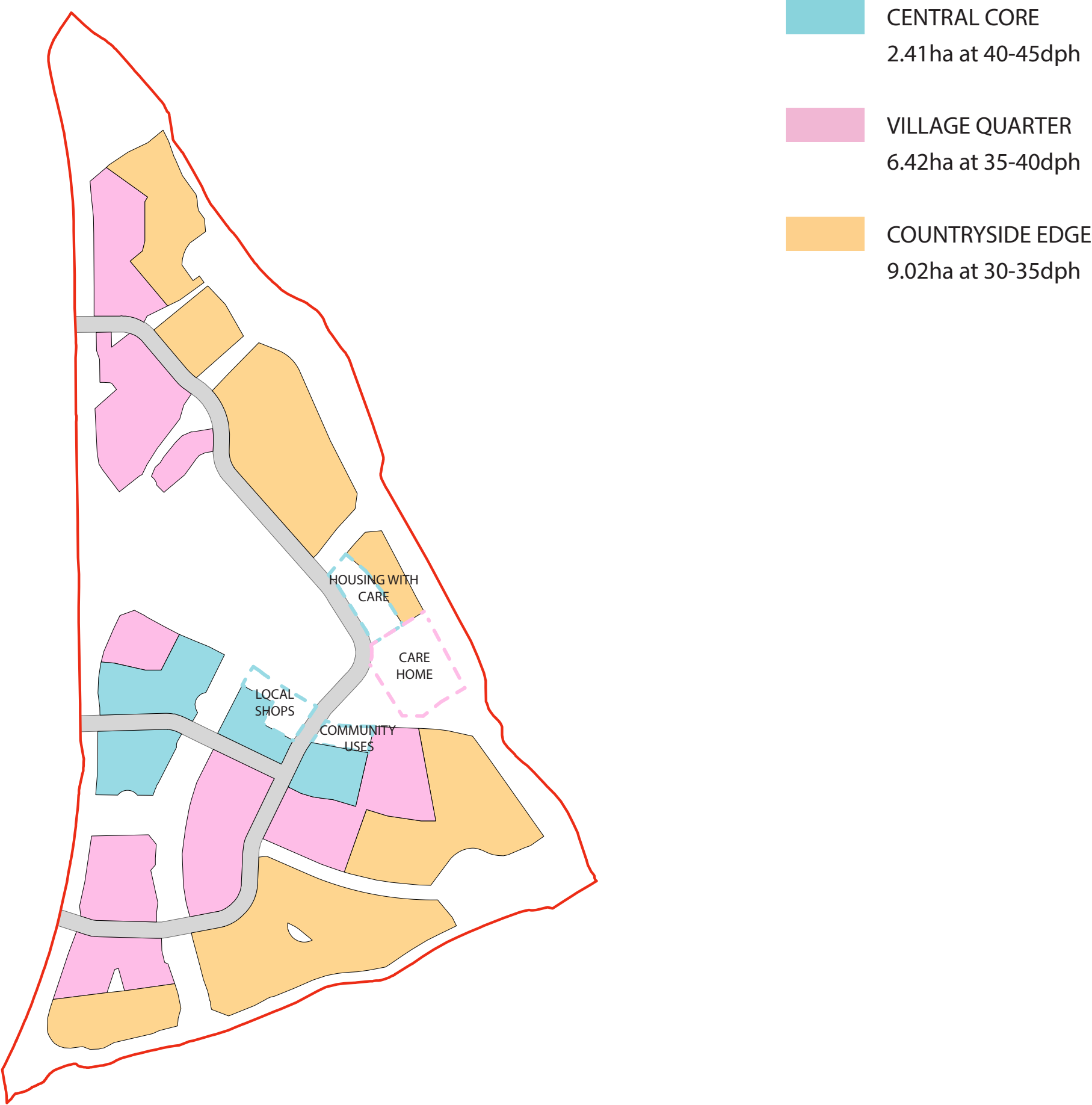


## Movement and connections

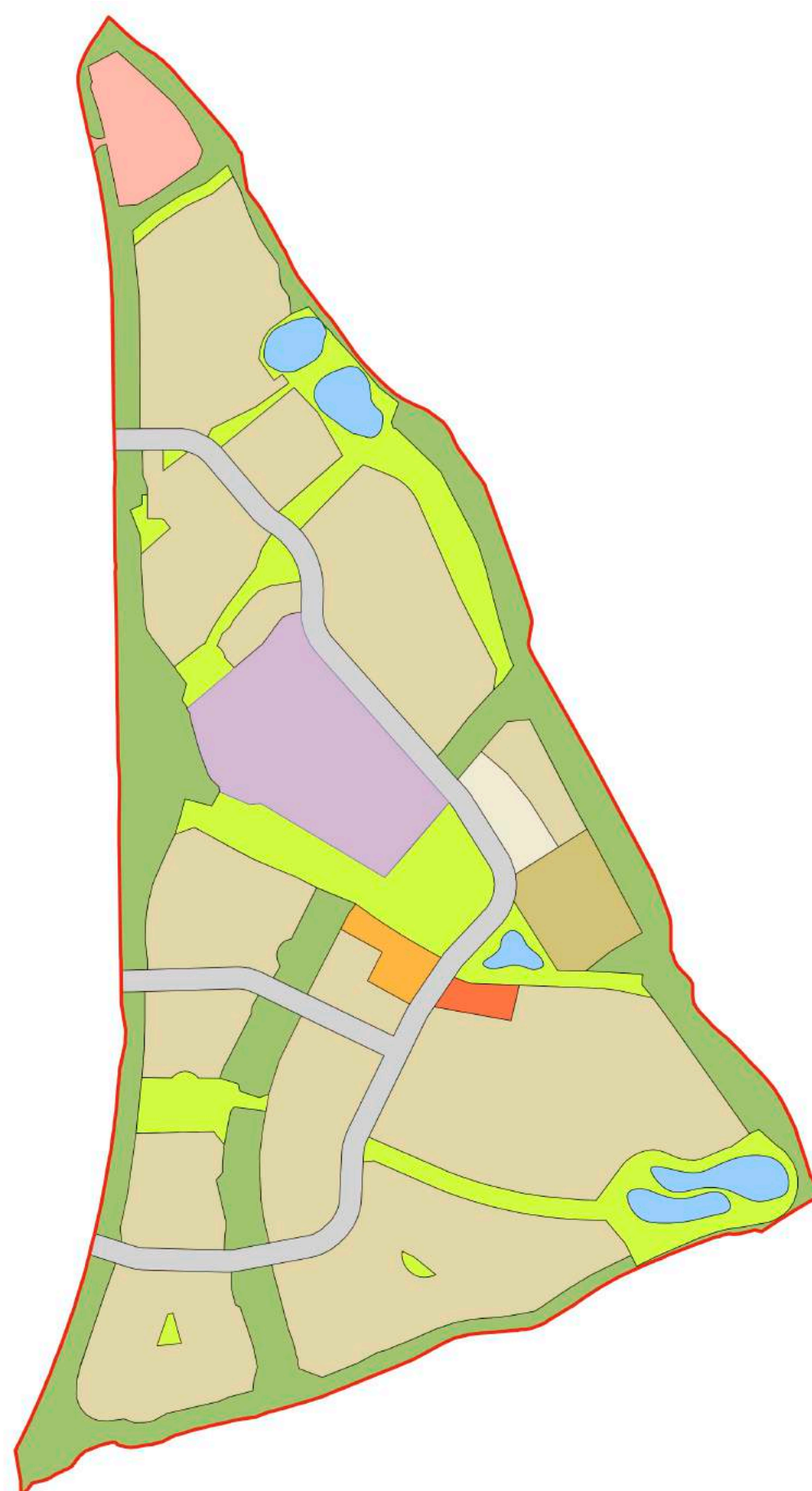


-  EXISTING PRIMARY ROAD NETWORK
-  EXISTING BRIDLEWAY / PEDESTRIAN/CYCLEWAY LINKS
-  EXISTING PEDESTRIAN/CYCLE LINKS
-  PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN/CYCLE LINKS TO ENCOURAGE ACTIVE TRANSPORT (AS PER STEVENAGE MOBILITY STRATEGY)
-  PROPOSED VEHICULAR ACCESS/GATEWAYS INTO SITE (SIGNALISED JUNCTION WITH TOUCAN CROSSING)
-  PROPOSED PRIMARY STREET / SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT CORRIDOR
-  PROPOSED BUS STOP
-  PROPOSED CYCLEWAY BETWEEN FAIRLANDS WAY AND SIX HILLS WAY

# Character areas/density breakdown



# Land use



- SITE BOUNDARY
- NEW HOMES
- CARE HOME
- HOUSING WITH CARE
- LOCAL SHOPS
- COMMUNITY USES
- TRAVELLING SHOWPEOPLE SITE
- FORMAL OPEN SPACE INCLUDING PLAY
- AMENITY SPACE/PLANTATION WOODLAND /HABITAT
- PRIMARY STREET
- INFILTRATION BASINS / PONDS
- PRIMARY SCHOOL & PRE-SCHOOL



# Character areas

THE PROPOSALS AT EAST OF STEVENAGE FEATURE THREE CHARACTER AREAS, WHICH WILL ESTABLISH THREE DISTINCT AREAS UNIFIED BY COMMON CHARACTERISTICS RELATING TO ARCHITECTURE, STREET DESIGN AND LANDSCAPE



## CENTRAL CORE

- Primary gateway to site, with tree lined interior loop road leading to neighbourhood hub
- Urban character, with formal/regimented building line and groupings of buildings
- Neighbourhood hub is the heart of the proposals containing primary and preschool, local centre, community uses, shops, open space, play area, care home and housing with care
- Highest density
- Generally 2-2.5 storey with some 3 storey apartment blocks



## VILLAGE QUARTER

- Traditional form
- An intermediate suburban character, between central core and countryside edge
- More organic informal layout with mix of house types
- Medium density
- Generally 2-2.5 storey with some 3 storey apartment blocks



## COUNTRYSIDE EDGE

- Traditional form
- Semi-rural character, with informal/loose building line and groupings of units
- Larger properties, higher % of detached units
- Linear park landscape settings
- More fractured urban form, with broken/soft edge on southern and eastern edge of site
- Lowest density
- Generally 2 storey with some 1-1.5 storey

NOTE: THESE PHOTOGRAPHS ARE ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY





# Illustrative master plan



- EXISTING PRIMARY ROAD NETWORK
- RETAINED EXISTING VEGETATION
- PROPOSED PLANTING
- HISTORIC TRACK WITH SuDS/ATTENUATION FEATURES
- SuDS/ATTENUATION FEATURES
- LINEAR PARK
- GREEN EDGE
- BRIDLEWAY (4)/GREENWAY
- NEW PEDESTRIAN/CYCLE LINK
- NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB
- PROPOSED JUNCTION ON GRESLEY WAY (SIGNALISED JUNCTION WITH TOUCAN CROSSING)
- PONDS/INFILTRATION BASINS



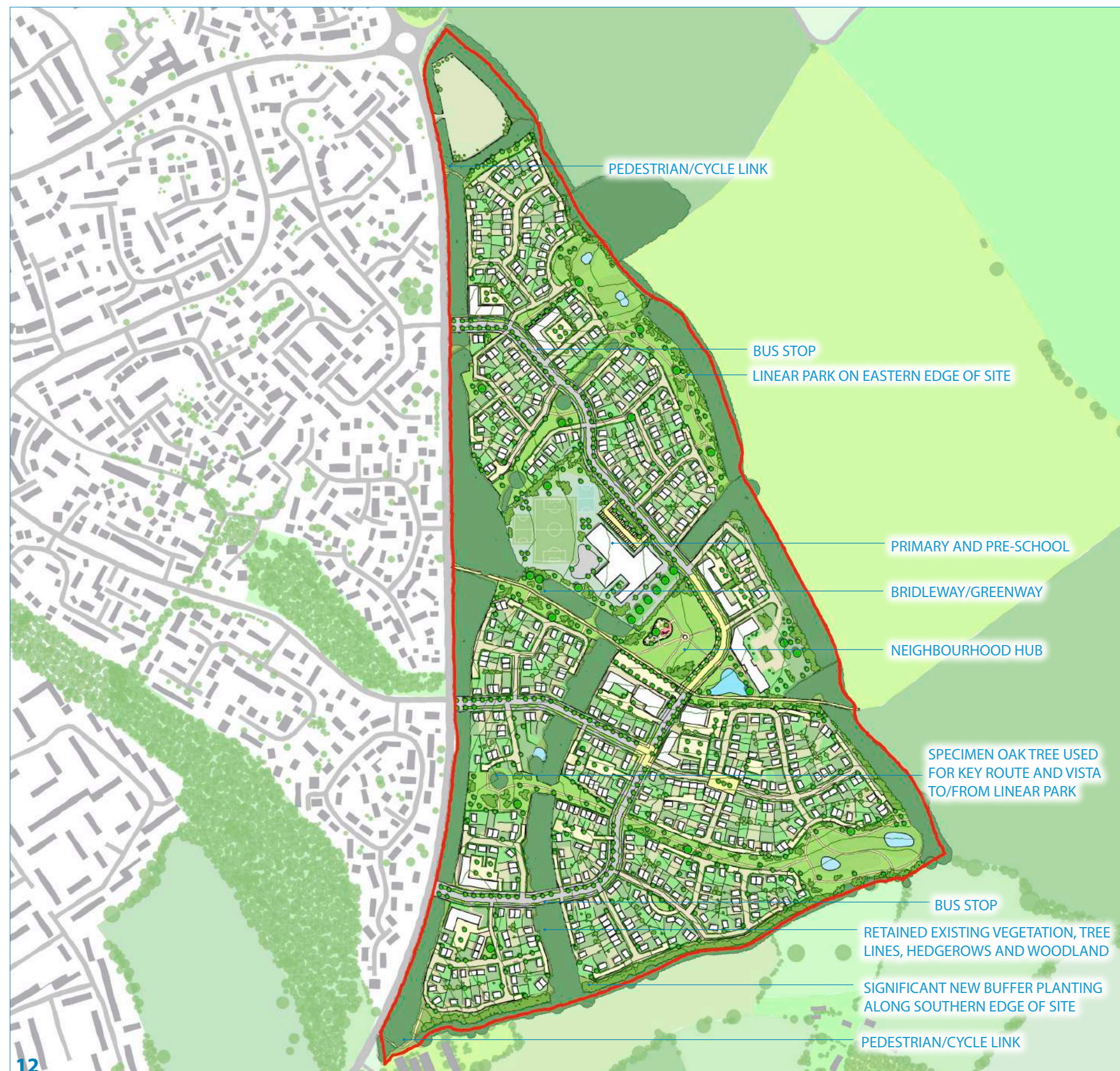
## Detailed area: Neighbourhood hub

NOTE: PLAN IS ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY





## How the scheme could look



IN CONJUNCTION WITH LOCAL AND PARISH COUNCILS, THE WIDER COMMUNITY AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, THE VISION FOR THE SCHEME IS AN INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT THAT IS VIBRANT, SUSTAINABLE AND WELL-DESIGNED.

IT WILL BE A HUB OF ACTIVITY WITH A BUSY NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE PROVIDING A CARE HOME, LOCAL SHOPS, A PRIMARY AND PRE-SCHOOL AMONG OTHER LOCAL AMENITIES.

RESIDENTS WILL MAKE REGULAR USE OF A NETWORK OF FOOTPATHS AND CYCLEWAYS AND WILL HAVE ACCESS TO SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT. HEALTH AND WELL-BEING WILL BE A KEY PART OF THIS SCHEME.



# How the scheme could look: Key features

NOTE: THESE PHOTOGRAPHS ARE ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY. THEY ILLUSTRATE THE VISION FOR THE SCHEME: TO CREATE AN INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT THAT IS VIBRANT, SUSTAINABLE AND WELL-DESIGNED



1 GATEWAY



2 NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB



3 LINEAR PARK



4 PRIMARY STREET



5 GREENWAY

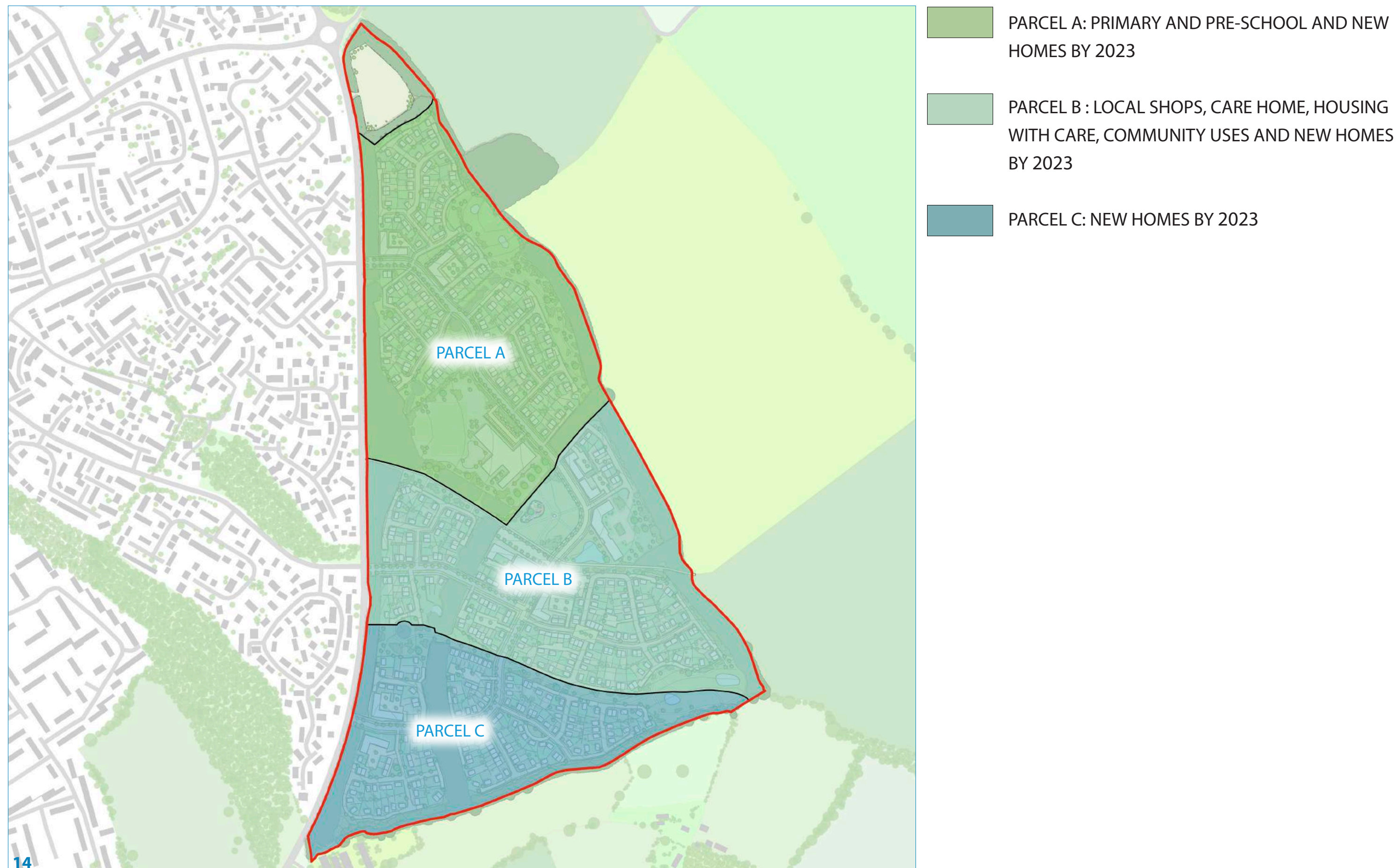


6 POCKET PARK / SQUARE





## Indicative development parcels





TERENCE  
O'ROURKE

London  
7 Heddon Street London W1B 4BD  
Bournemouth  
Everdene House Deansleigh Road Bournemouth BH7 7DU  
Telephone 0203 664 6755  
Email enquiries@torltd.co.uk  
www.torltd.co.uk



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## EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 11 SEPTEMBER 2018

### REPORT BY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

#### REQUEST FOR AREA DESIGNATION FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING: WARE, WARE TOWN COUNCIL

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All in Ware

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#### **Purpose/Summary of Report**

- To enable the consideration of an application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area

| <b><u>RECOMMENDATION(S) FOR EXECUTIVE: That:</u></b> |  |
|--|--|
| <b>(A)</b>   | <b>the application for the designation of a Ware Neighbourhood Area, submitted by Ware Town Council, be supported.</b> |

#### 1.0 Background

1.1 Ware Town Council submitted an application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area to the Council on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2018. Agreement to the designation of a Neighbourhood Area is required by the District Council as Local Planning Authority (LPA) before a Neighbourhood Plan can be formulated.

1.2 The application was made in writing from Ware Town Council with an attached plan setting the area to which the application relates. The letter and plan form **Essential Reference Paper 'B'** and **Essential Reference Paper 'C'** to this report.

## 2.0 Report

### **Consultation**

- 2.1 East Herts District Council has undertaken the appropriate consultation with regard to the application submission.
- 2.2 One comment has been received in response to the area designation application. The objection was made by a member of the public and has been summarised below:
- The Ware Area Designation should include the proposed development area to the north and east of Ware.

The objections and concerns will be dealt with in the following section.

### **Considerations**

- 2.3 Two main areas of consideration to be taken into account when determining an application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area are set out in Schedule 9 of the Localism Act 2011. One of these is that the authority determining the application must have regard to the desirability of maintaining the existing boundaries of neighbourhood plan areas already designated.
- 2.4 No weight needs to be given to this consideration in this case as no other Neighbourhood Areas overlap with the proposed Ware Neighbourhood Area.
- 2.5 The other area of consideration is the desirability of designating the whole of the parish as the Neighbourhood Area.
- 2.6 In this case, the area proposed covers the Ware Parish excluding the part of the Parish which the District Council has identified to fulfil the land requirements for the proposed

development to the North and East of Ware (District Plan Policy WARE2).

2.7 There was an objection to the exclusion of this area of land on the basis that it should be included within the Parish or town boundary in the future anyway. Schedule 9 of the Localism Act 2011 states; a specified area must be one that consists of, or includes the whole or any part of the area of the (*Parish*) council. In this case Ware Town Council has submitted an application that consists of part of the area of a Parish and is therefore acceptable under the regulations.

2.8 The District Council encourages Neighbourhood Plans to be developed in a positive and proactive manner in order to support the strategic objectives of the District Plan. It is the District Council's role to advise and support Neighbourhood Plans as they progress.

### 3.0 Conclusion

3.1 Neighbourhood Planning is now an integral part of the planning system with legislative backing through the Localism Act. The LPA is charged with determining applications for the designation of Neighbourhood Areas. In this case, designation of a Ware Neighbourhood Area, for neighbourhood planning purposes is supported.

### 4.0 Implications/Consultations

4.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

### Background Papers

None

Contact Member: Cllr Linda Haysey – Leader of the Council  
[linda.haysey@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:linda.haysey@eastherts.gov.uk)

Contact Officer: Kevin Steptoe – Head of Planning and Building  
Control  
01992 531407  
[kevin.steptoe@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.steptoe@eastherts.gov.uk)

Report Author: George Pavey – Principal Planning Officer  
[george.pavey@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:george.pavey@eastherts.gov.uk)

**IMPLICATIONS/CONSULTATIONS**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives: | Priority 1 – Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities<br><br>Priority 2 – Enhance the quality of people's lives<br><br>Priority 3 – Enable a flourishing local economy   |
| Consultation:   | The application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area was the subject of consultation.  |
| Legal:  | The formulation of a Neighbourhood Plan is established in the Localism Act 2011.  |
| Financial:  | The formulation of a Neighbourhood Plan, if it progresses to the stages of referenda and adoption will lead to costs for the Council. Local Planning Authorities are able to claim some financial support from the Department for Communities and Local Government. |
| Human Resource:   | There will be a requirement for Planning Officers to provide advice and guidance in relation to the formulation of any Neighbourhood Plan.  |
| Risk Management:  | The issues which are favourable or otherwise to the formulation of a Neighbourhood Plan are considered in the report.   |
| Health and wellbeing – issues and impacts:                      | The link between planning and health has long been established. The built and natural environments are major determinants of health and wellbeing.  |
| Equality Impact Assessment required:                            | No  |

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# WARE TOWN COUNCIL



Mrs Jill Rowlinson  
Town Clerk

**Ware Priory**  
Banqueting &  
Conference Venue

**Telephone:**

Offices: 01920 460316  
Fax: 01920 484056  
Lido: 01920 460703

**Email Address:**

info@waretown  
council.gov.uk

Council Offices  
Ware Priory  
High Street  
Ware  
Herts  
SG12 9AL

10 May 2018

**By Email**

Mr K Steptoe  
Head of Planning & Building Control  
East Herts Council  
Wallfields  
Peggs Lane  
Hertford. SG13 8EQ

Dear Kevin

**Application for Designation of a Neighbourhood Area.**

Ware Town Council, as a relevant body for the purposes of section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011), hereby requests that the entirety of the Town Council's boundary, excluding those areas included in the North and East of Ware Site Allocation, be designated as a Neighbourhood Area as specified in Schedule 9 61G of the Localism Act 2011. The proposed area is shown on the enclosed map, shaded in purple.

The Town Council considers this an appropriate area for designating as a Neighbourhood Area for the following reasons:-

- The Town Council boundaries represent existing and well established boundaries.
- This complies with the guidance given in the Neighbourhood Planning Guidance Note (East Herts Council, Dec 2014) that "the expectation in East Herts is that neighbourhood areas will follow parish boundaries".
- The areas included in the North and East of Ware Site Allocation should be excluded as other adjacent Neighbourhood Plans are taking a similar approach and because these areas are to be part of a Masterplanning Process led by East Herts Council.

Ware Town Council and Ware Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group reiterates their strong desire to take full part in the preparation of the Development Plan Document for these areas.

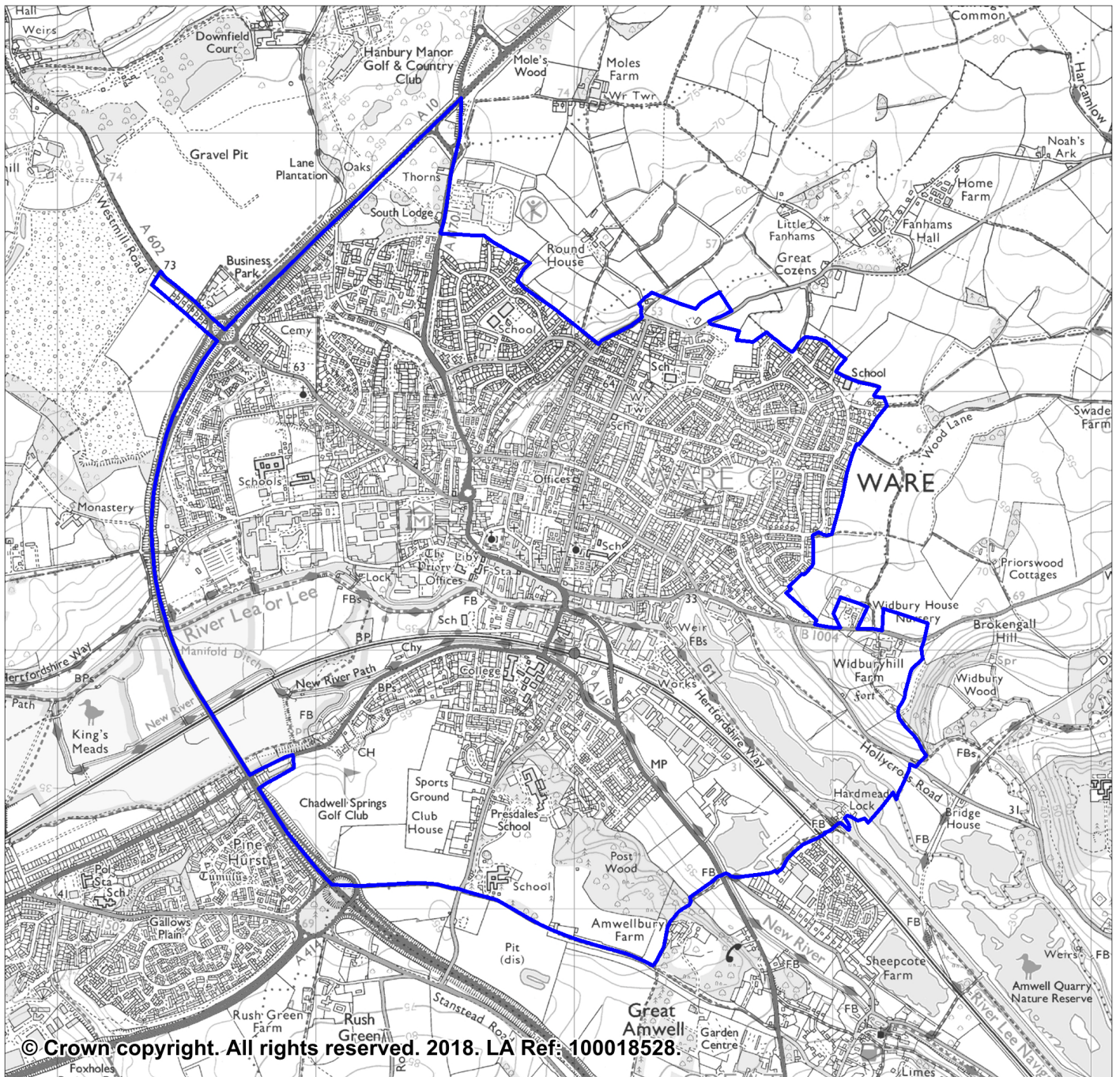
Yours sincerely,

Jill Rowlinson, Town Clerk

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# Ware Neighbourhood Plan Area



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## EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 11 SEPTEMBER 2018

### REPORT BY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

REQUEST FOR AREA DESIGNATION FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD  
PLANNING: STANSTEAD ABBOTTS AND ST. MARGARETS, STANSTEAD  
ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL

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WARD(S) AFFECTED: Stanstead Abbots and Great Amwell

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### **Purpose/Summary of Report**

- **To enable the consideration of an application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area**

| <b><u>RECOMMENDATION(S) FOR EXECUTIVE: That:</u></b> |   |
|--|---|
| <b>(A)</b>   | <b>the application for the designation of a Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets Neighbourhood Area, submitted by Stanstead Abbots Parish Council, be supported.</b> |

#### 1.0 Background

1.1 Stanstead Abbots Parish Council submitted an application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area to the Council on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2018. Agreement to the designation of a Neighbourhood Area is required by the District Council as Local Planning Authority (LPA) before a Neighbourhood Plan can be formulated.

1.2 The application was made in writing from Stanstead Abbots Parish Council with an attached plan setting the area to which

the application relates. The letter and plan form **Essential Reference Paper 'B'** to this report.

## 2.0 Report

### **Consultation**

- 2.1 East Herts District Council has undertaken the appropriate consultation with regard to the application submission.
- 2.2 No comments have been received in response to the area designation application.

### **Considerations**

- 2.3 Two main areas of consideration to be taken into account when determining an application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area are set out in Schedule 9 of the Localism Act 2011. One of these is that the authority determining the application must have regard to the desirability of maintaining the existing boundaries of neighbourhood plan areas already designated.
- 2.4 No weight needs to be given to this consideration in this case as no other Neighbourhood Areas overlap with the proposed Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets Neighbourhood Area.
- 2.5 The other area of consideration is the desirability of designating the whole of the parish as the Neighbourhood Area.
- 2.6 In this case, the area proposed covers the entirety of the Stanstead Abbots Parish and the St Margarets Parish, as well as part of the Great Amwell Parish known as The Folly. The reasoning behind the inclusion of The Folly is that it forms part of the settlement of Stanstead Abbots despite being in the Parish of Great Amwell.

- 2.7 Planning Practice Guidance states that where multi-parished areas are proposed, consent from the parish councils is required to undertake any neighbourhood planning activities. **Essential Reference Paper 'B'** contains signed minutes from a St Margarets Parish Council meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018, and a Great Amwell Parish Council meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018, whereby the council's agreed that the area be included within the Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets Neighbourhood Plan.
- 2.8 The application also explains that Stanstead Abbots Parish Council are taking on the role of the lead body.
- 2.9 The District Council encourages Neighbourhood Plans to be developed in a positive and proactive manner in order to support the strategic objectives of the District Plan. It is the District Council's role to advise and support Neighbourhood Plans as they progress.
- 3.0 Conclusion
- 3.1 Neighbourhood Planning is now an integral part of the planning system with legislative backing through the Localism Act. The LPA is charged with determining applications for the designation of Neighbourhood Areas. In this case, designation of a Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets Neighbourhood Area, for neighbourhood planning purposes is supported.
- 4.0 Implications/Consultations
- 4.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

Background Papers  
None

Contact Member: Cllr Linda Haysey – Leader of the Council  
[linda.haysey@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:linda.haysey@eastherts.gov.uk)

Contact Officer: Kevin Steptoe – Head of Planning and Building  
Control  
01992 531407  
[kevin.steptoe@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.steptoe@eastherts.gov.uk)

Report Author: George Pavey – Principal Planning Officer  
[george.pavey@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:george.pavey@eastherts.gov.uk)

**IMPLICATIONS/CONSULTATIONS**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives: | Priority 1 – Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities<br><br>Priority 2 – Enhance the quality of people's lives<br><br>Priority 3 – Enable a flourishing local economy   |
| Consultation:   | The application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area was the subject of consultation.  |
| Legal:  | The formulation of a Neighbourhood Plan is established in the Localism Act 2011.  |
| Financial:  | The formulation of a Neighbourhood Plan, if it progresses to the stages of referenda and adoption will lead to costs for the Council. Local Planning Authorities are able to claim some financial support from the Department for Communities and Local Government. |
| Human Resource:   | There will be a requirement for Planning Officers to provide advice and guidance in relation to the formulation of any Neighbourhood Plan.  |
| Risk Management:  | The issues which are favourable or otherwise to the formulation of a Neighbourhood Plan are considered in the report.   |
| Health and wellbeing – issues and impacts:                      | The link between planning and health has long been established. The built and natural environments are major determinants of health and wellbeing.  |
| Equality Impact Assessment required:                            | No  |

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## **Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets Neighbourhood Plan Application for Designation of Neighbourhood Area**

This application is made by Stanstead Abbots Parish Council as the lead relevant body for the preparation of the Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets Neighbourhood Plan.

Please find attached a map, which confirms the Neighbourhood Area subject of this application, depicted with a red line boundary (Appendix A).

Stanstead Abbots Parish Council has confirmed its role as lead body and the appropriate Parish Council meeting minute is appended to this application (Appendix B).

We have carefully considered the options for a Neighbourhood Plan in our area and discussed this at length with Stanstead St Margarets and Great Amwell Parish Councils. We have decided to designate the Neighbourhood Plan Area to include the whole of Stanstead Abbots and Stanstead St Margarets parishes together with the area of Great Amwell, known as The Folly. This allows us to include the whole of the settlement of Stanstead Abbots as shown in the East Herts District Plan 2011 – 2033, Inset Map 29.

The joint approach chosen, after many months of deliberation, combines the wishes of Stanstead St Margarets and Stanstead Abbots to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan and Great Amwell not to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan but to recognise that residents who live in the area known as The Folly consider themselves to live in Stanstead Abbots.

The area known as The Folly is the only area of Great Amwell, which does not lie in the Green Belt. The Neighbourhood Plan will provide for the right level of development within the Neighbourhood Area whilst protecting the rural nature of Stanstead Abbots and Stanstead St Margarets.

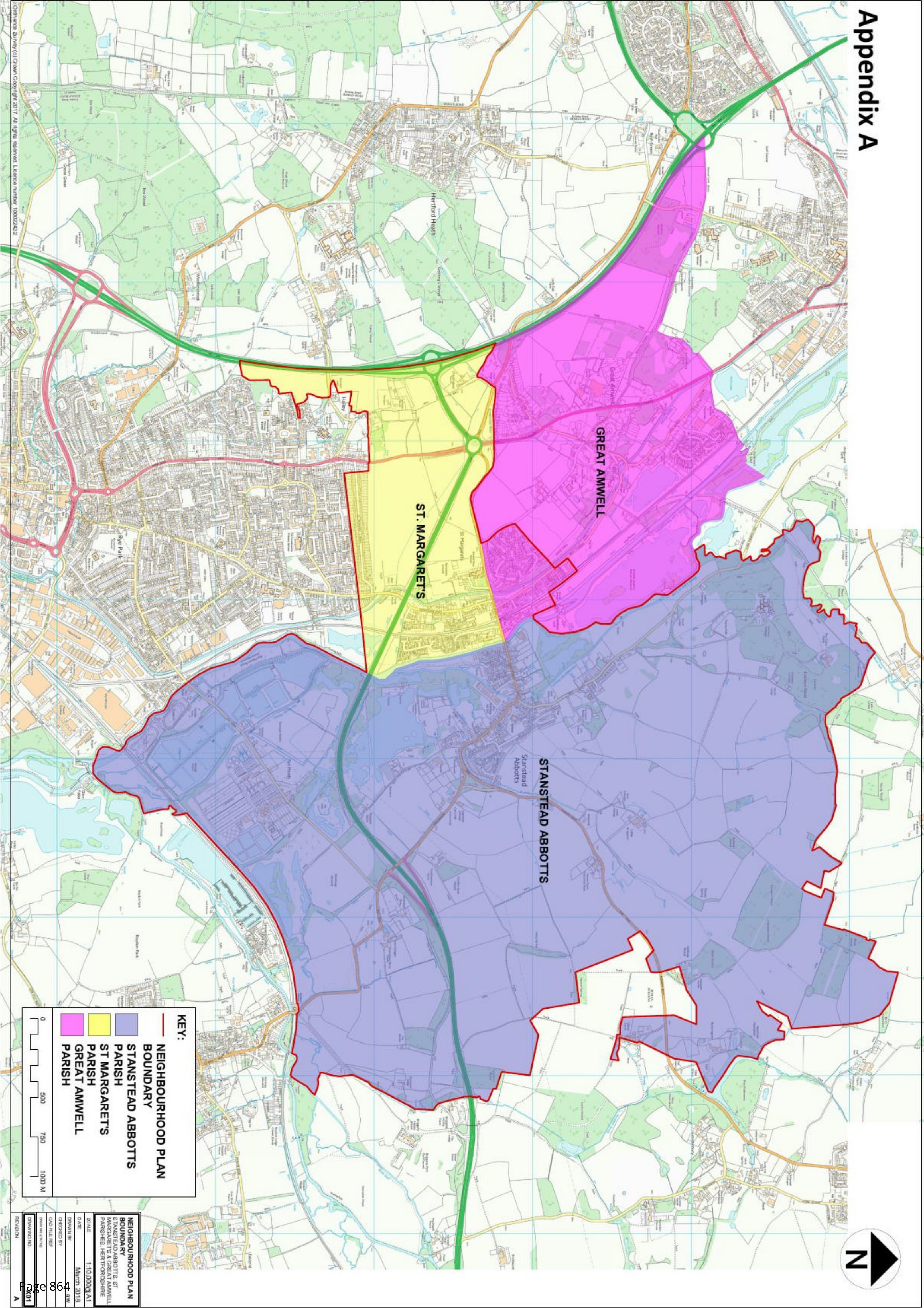
Section 61F (2) of the Localism Act allows for Neighbourhood Plan area to be designated which contain areas of other parishes, in addition to the parish of the relevant body, with those parishes' consent. Stanstead St Margarets and Great Amwell have given consent and signed copies of the minutes from their Parish Council meetings are appended to this application (Appendix C).

Yours sincerely

***Jacky Flemming***

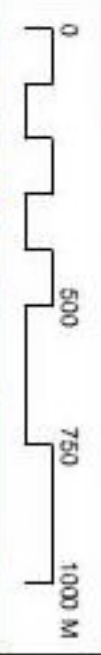
Jacky Flemming  
Clerk to Stanstead Abbots Parish Council





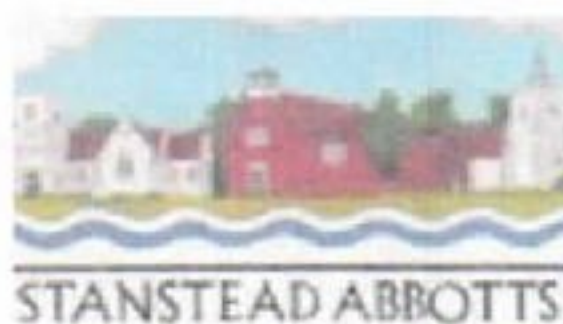
**KEY:**

- NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN BOUNDARY
- STANSTEAD ABBOTTS PARISH
- ST MARGARETS PARISH
- GREAT AMWELL PARISH



| NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN BOUNDARY   |            |
|---|------------|
| STANSTEAD ABBOTTS, ST MARGARETS & GREAT AMWELL PARISHES, HERFORDSHIRE |            |
| DATE  | 1:10,000   |
| DATE  | March 2018 |
| DRAWN BY  | SW         |
| CHECKED BY  |            |
| DATE  |            |
| DRAWING NO.   | 0001       |
| REVISION  | A          |



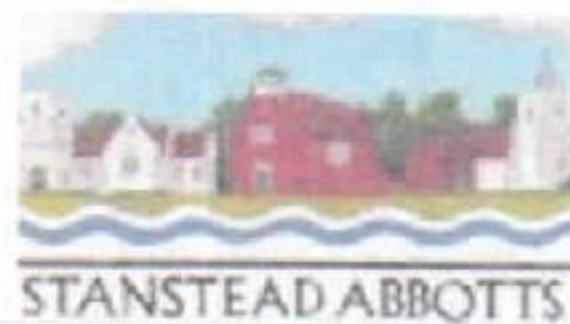


**Stanstead Abbots Parish Council**  
[www.stansteadabbottsparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.stansteadabbottsparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**Minutes of the meeting held at 7.45pm  
 In the Ashlea Room on  
 15th March 2018**

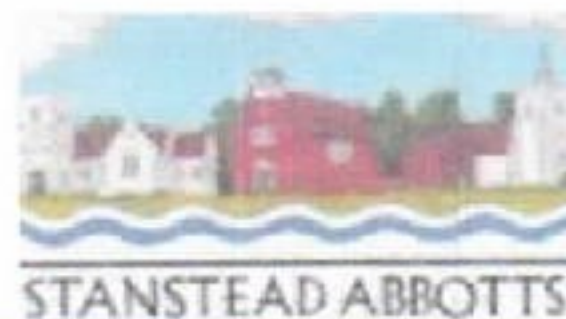
|  | Action |
|--|--------|
| <b>Councillors present</b><br>Julia Davies - Chair<br>George Cassidy<br>Mike Dormon<br>John Hickford<br>Julia Witting<br>Mariesa Clarke<br><br>Eric Buckmaster   |        |
| <b>144/17/18 Public Forum, no members of the public were present</b>   |        |
| <b>145/17/18 Police Report</b><br><b>Highlighted the increased risk of Cyber Crime and increase in fly tipping</b>   |        |
| <b>146/17/18 Apologies accepted- This meeting had to be moved from the original date of 8<sup>th</sup> March because the Ashlea room was being re-wired.</b><br>Paul Breach<br>Marc Lyall<br><br>Mike Allen – East Herts Council – attending another meeting in Bishops Stortford<br>Eric Buckmaster – Hertfordshire County Council (arrived late having been delayed by attending another meeting)  |        |
| <b>147/17/18 Declarations of Pecuniary interests – none</b>  |        |
| <b>148/17/18 To grant dispensations on matters to be discussed – none needed</b>   |        |
| <b>149/17/18 Minutes of the meetings of Stanstead Abbots Parish Council</b><br>Minutes 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2018. These were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.   |        |
| <b>150/17/18 Financial</b><br>1. Bank reconciliation agreed<br>2. Payments and donations were approved<br>1. Confirmed the ongoing approval of electronic banking and payments as authorised by 2 councillors with The Unity Trust Bank  |        |
| <b>151/17/18 Internal Auditor – it was agreed to change to Council audits</b>  | JF     |
| <b>152/17/18 reports from District and County Councillors</b><br>No reports were available   |        |
| <b>153/17/18 Minutes of Finance and Policy committee have been previously circulated. To confirm documents Reviewed by Finance and Policy committee on</b><br>1. SAPC Asset register – confirmed<br>2. SAPC Standing Orders - confirmed<br>3. SAPC Financial Regulations - confirmed<br>4. SAPC Risk assessment - confirmed  |        |
| <b>154/17/18 Format of Parish meeting 10<sup>th</sup> May</b><br><b>Agreed is to be on the theme of Health, suggested topics</b><br>The report of the Chairs of the Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan<br>Pilates- the Pilates teacher has agreed to give a short talk<br>Table Tennis – to encourage the use of table tennis table in the Meadow<br>Police – annual crime figures and advice – Police to be invited to have a stall<br>Cyber-crime – Cllr Paul Breach will give a talk about this<br>To encourage the development and use of the Parish Hall and upstairs room - Mo<br>Local issues such as the Quarry<br>East Herts and GP Social prescribing – to invite new officer |        |





|  |    |
|--|----|
| <p><b>155/17/18 Update on CCTV</b><br/>This is currently being installed, to qualify for the East Herts Grant the work needs to be completed and the grant claimed by the 31<sup>st</sup> March.</p>   |    |
| <p><b>156/17/18 Planning Applications</b><br/> <b>3/18/0365/FUL:</b> Conversion of garage/store to create ancillary residential annexe<br/> <b>AT:</b> 1 Home Farm Cottages Hunsdon Road Stanstead Abbots Ware Hertfordshire, by 23<sup>rd</sup> March<br/> <b>3/18/0308/LBC:</b> Alterations and strengthening works to roof. Repair and strengthening works to 1st floor timber beam and first floor structure. Part raising of ceiling at high level first floor.<br/> <b>AT:</b> Underwood Cottage Easneye Ware Hertfordshire SG12 8LS by 15<sup>th</sup> March</p> <p><b>Decisions</b><br/> <b>3/18/0006/VAR:</b> Variation of Condition 12 (Hours of use) of 3/15/0042/FP :-Reinstatement of 2 bays of 5 bay glasshouse for B1 office use and workshop.<br/> The use of the premises shall be restricted to the hours of 7.30 hrs to 17.30hrs Monday to Friday and 8.00-13.00 hrs on Saturdays only, but not on Sundays and Bank Holidays.<br/> <b>AT:</b> Ambler View Marsh Lane Stanstead Abbots Hertfordshire SG12 8HH, <b>Granted with restrictions</b> Deliveries to the site shall be restricted to 09:00hrs to 16:30hrs Monday to Friday, and none on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays.<br/> <b>3/17/2946/HH:</b> Demolition of rear extensions. Erection of a single storey side and rear Extension <b>AT:</b> 23A Roydon Road Stanstead Abbots Ware Hertfordshire SG12 8HQ <b>Granted</b><br/> <b>3/17/2395/FUL:</b> Double storey front extension with attached garages to front. Change of use of ground floor from office to dwelling.<br/> <b>AT:</b> The Old Windmill Glenmire Terrace Stanstead Abbots Ware Hertfordshire SG12 8AD – <b>Application withdrawn</b></p> |    |
| <p><b>157/17/18 The Quarry - Mineral extraction consultation</b><br/>The received 1400 objections thru the website plus 400 by post – this will take time to sort through.</p>   |    |
| <p><b>158/17/18 Rattys Lane – a public enquiry is to be held – details awaited</b></p>   |    |
| <p><b>159/17/18 To confirm the designated area of the Neighbourhood plan.</b><br/> It was Resolved that SAPC wish to complete a multi-council Neighbourhood plan with the designated area to include Stanstead Abbots Parish, St Margaret's Parish and an agreed part of the Great Amwell Parish area known as the Folly.<br/> The NP Plan group have set up a subgroup and a communications group and taken on the services of a consultant at a rate of £500 per day. It was agreed that it was necessary to set out objectives and goals for the consultant. There is to be a meeting with her on 28th March to discuss this. The next NP management group meeting will take place on the 20<sup>th</sup> April at 9.30 am in the Ashlea room.</p>  |    |
| <p><b>160/17/18 East Herts District Plan – consultation ends 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018</b><br/> Consultation documents are available online at <a href="https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/mainmodifications">https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/mainmodifications</a><br/> It was agreed that all comments should be sent to Cllr Davies who will send the PC response by the 29<sup>th</sup> March.</p>   | JD |
| <p><b>161/17/18 Update on the defibrillator</b> – this has been ordered and will be installed as soon as possible, the Training is to be advertised and is open to all – The Councillors wish to thank Cllr Marc Lyall for all his hard work and the generosity of all those individuals and businesses who have made donations.</p>   |    |
| <p><b>162/17/18 Parish hall</b><br/> Cllr Clerk has attended Parish Hall meetings and will ask if minutes of these meetings can be circulated.<br/> The Re-wiring is currently being done but has over run, so meetings (including this one) have been held in the entrance area of the Parish hall. It was noted that there is no light being fitted outside the Ashlea room.<br/> Room upstairs above the Ashlea room – use as a Commercial space was suggested.</p>   | MC |
| <p><b>163/17/18 Crime and poor performance in the waste sector consultation</b></p>  | MC |





|   |     |
|---|-----|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Question 22:</b> Have you experienced an increase or a decrease in criminality and poor performance in the waste sector over the last few years? <b>Q22 yes, there has been an increase in Fly tipping</b></li> <li><b>Question 83:</b> What more could be done to improve householder awareness of their duty of care and prevent fly-tipping of household waste. <b>Tips should be open longer and be less restrictive in what they will accept – return to previous open hours</b></li> <li><b>Q86</b> communicate measures needed to identify that they are registered, <b>guidance is needed for what to do with different types of waste and to raise awareness.</b></li> <li><b>Question 86:</b> Do you think that the introduction of a Fixed Penalty Notice for the offence of a householder passing their waste to an unauthorised person would help tackle fly-tipping? <b>No, there needs to be more information about where to find legal registered operators.</b></li> <li><b>Question 89.</b> Following the implementation of the Fixed Penalty Notice, do you think that local authorities should communicate how frequently they use these penalties, and the impact on fly-tipping? <b>No, resources should be put into providing information and facilities to recycle and dispose of different types of waste and to reduce packaging and the use of plastic.</b></li> </ul> |     |
| <b>164/17/18 GDPR</b><br>The NALC toolkit is noted but further information and advice is needed about the role of Data Protection officer for the Parish Council.   |     |
| <b>165/17/18 New Cllr mentorship – 2 Cllrs will look at this and report back</b>  |     |
| <b>166/17/18 Councillor roles to be considered on the 17<sup>th</sup> May.</b><br>Expressions of interest are needed for the Parish Council committees, especially the Traffic and maintenance committee.   |     |
| <b>167/17/18</b> Items for the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting on the 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2018 (with reports) to the Clerk by e-mail by 1 <sup>st</sup> May.<br><b>Dates of next meetings and events - some to be agreed(TBA)</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Parish Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> May</li> <li>2. Maintenance and Traffic Committee meeting 28<sup>th</sup> March at 4pm at the Meadow</li> <li>3. Planning committee meeting TBA</li> <li>4. Finance and Policy 26<sup>th</sup> April 7.30 in the Ashlea room.</li> </ol> Neighbourhood Planning Meeting 20 <sup>th</sup> March 9.30am in the Ashlea room.  | all |

Further information on any items above can be obtained from the Chair of the Parish Council Cllr Julia Davies on tel 01279 793171 or from the Clerk on 07585029375

Signed



Chair. Dated 26-4-18



**Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm  
In the Nigel Copping Community Hall on**

**6<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

|   | Action |
|---|--------|
| <b>Councillors present</b><br>Nigel Copping – Chair<br>Roger Chapman<br>Clare Maynard<br>Cathal Brennan<br>Nick Cox   |        |
| <b>99/17/18 Public Forum</b> – There were no members of the public present  |        |
| <b>100/17/18 Apologies</b> –<br>June Robinson – in hospital<br>Martin Robinson<br><br>Mike Allen - East Herts   |        |
| <b>101/17/18 Declaration of Interest</b><br>Nigel Copping is a Trustee of St Margaretsbury Trust.   |        |
| <b>102/17/18 The Minutes of the meeting of Stanstead St Margaret's Parish Council on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018</b> were confirmed as a record of the meeting.   |        |
| <b>103/17/18 Financial and budget</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The bank reconciliations – the bank statement for January has not been received</li> <li>2. Payments were agreed<br/> Printing costs for the incinerator leaflets    ACP printing            £123.55</li> <li>3. Appointment of internal Auditor – A local auditor to be asked if she will undertake the Audit.</li> </ol>  |        |
| <b>104/17/18 New Data Protection Legislation</b><br>Cllrs are aware that there are changes to Data Protection legislation in May 2018, and the PC needs to appoint a Data Protection Officer and ensure that it is compliant but note there is currently no consensus about who should perform this role and what needs to be done. They await further guidance from HAPTC.   |        |
| <b>105/17/18 Reviews</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Asset Register</b> – Reviewed and accepted</li> <li>2. <b>Standing Orders</b> – Reviewed and accepted</li> <li>3. <b>Financial Regs</b> – updated to take account of on line banking</li> <li>4. <b>Risk Assessment</b> – Reviewed and accepted</li> </ol>  |        |
| <b>106/17/18 Planning Applications:</b><br><br><b>Decisions:</b> 3/17/2743/HH: Single storey side/rear extension AT: 66 Hoddesdon Road Stanstead Abbots Ware Hertfordshire SG12 8EQ – <b>Granted</b><br>3/17/2686/HH: Single storey rear conservatory AT: 53 Lawrence Avenue Stanstead Abbots Ware Hertfordshire SG12 8TY – <b>Permission not needed.</b>   |        |
| <b>107/17/18 Neighbourhood Plan</b> – the minutes of the last meeting of the neighbourhood plan group on the 6 <sup>th</sup> December have been circulated.<br><b>It was Resolved that Stanstead St Margarets Parish Council would be part of a joint Neighbourhood Plan with Stanstead Abbots Parish Council and an area of Great Amwell Parish.</b><br><b>It was resolved to contribute to the cost of the Neighbourhood Plan and consultant Jacqueline Veeter, on the understanding that grant applications will be made to cover the majority of the costs incurred.</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Neighbourhood Plan group have formed a Management committee, and a communication subgroup</li> </ol> |        |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>2. Financial matters – the NP plan consultant fee needs to be paid.</b><br/> <b>It was noted that her costs of £2500.00 to date cannot be funded by grants.</b></p>  |  |
| <p><b>108/17/18 Update on the Rattys Lane Incinerator application.</b><br/>         Thanks have been received from Residents. St Margarets PC paid for 6500 copies printed and hand delivered to households in the district.<br/>         The application has now been called in by Sajid Jarvid the Secretary of State for communities and Local Government and a Public Enquiry is to be held.</p> |  |
| <p><b>109/17/18 The Quarry</b><br/>         Cllrs are aware of the growing Facebook campaign to stop the proposed Briggens estate quarry and expressed their support. A letter objecting to the plan to be sent.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>110/17/18 St Margaretsbury Trust update</b><br/>         Planning application and Car Park – no further information available<br/>         There is a Trustee meeting on the 7.2.18, Cllr Copping will attend.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>111/17/18 Parish Meeting</b><br/>         There was a short discussion about the format of the Parish meeting, which will be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> May prior to the Annual meeting of the Council. Councillors will attend the SAPC Parish Meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> May.</p>  |  |
| <p><b>112/17/18 End of First World War Beacon Event</b><br/>         There is to be a church service at one of the churches, Venue to be confirmed, and bells will be rung. It has been suggested that the beacon be located at the church. Cllr Maynard will report back to the next meeting.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>113/17/18 To suggest items for the agenda for the next meeting of the Parish Council to be held on 13th March at 7.30 In The Nigel Copping Hall.</b><br/>         All agenda items to be forwarded to the Clerk no later than 3rd March.</p>   |  |

Signed.....  
 Nigel Copping, Chairman

Date 13 March 2018

**EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GREAT AMWELL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 8 MARCH 2018**

**5301 STANSTEAD ABBOTTS AND STANSTEAD ST MARGARETS  
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

---

Councillor Mrs A Hardy reported on her attendance at a meeting of the Stanstead Abbots and Stanstead St Margarets Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

The Parish Council noted the matters discussed at the meeting, particularly the requirement for it to give consent to an area of Great Amwell Parish Council being included within the Stanstead Abbots and Stanstead St Margarets Neighbourhood Plan.

Members noted the detail of the area concern as identified on the plan tabled by Councillor Mrs Hardy.

The Parish Council agreed that the area identified on the plan (the area of the parish not highlighted in green) appended to these Minutes be included within the Stanstead Abbots and Stanstead St Margarets Neighbourhood Plan.

**This is a true and accurate extract from the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8 March 2018.**

**Signed:**

**Clerk**

**Signed:**

**Clerk**

**Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April 2018**



## EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 11 SEPTEMBER 2018

### REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

### GENERAL FUND REVENUE & CAPITAL OUTTURN 2017/18 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2019/20 UPDATE

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

#### **Purpose/Summary of Report**

- To advise Members on the General Fund Revenue Outturn for 2017/18 and provide explanations for significant variances against the approved Budget.
- To advise Members of the financing arrangements for the 2017/18 Capital Outturn and the updated 2018/19 capital budget allowing for the approved slippage from 2017/18.

| <b><u>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE:</u> that</b> |   |
|---|---|
| <b>(A)</b>  | <b>the transfer of the General Fund revenue outturn of £8k under-spend to the General Reserve, be approved; and</b>                       |
| <b>(B)</b>  | <b>Capital budgets of £1.496m be re-profiled from the 2017/18 capital programme to 2018/19 programme to fund ongoing capital schemes.</b> |

#### **1 Background**

1.1 The 2017/18 Budget was approved by Council on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

- 1.2 In year budget monitoring and management actions have sought to deliver the spending plans approved by Council. Members have been kept updated throughout the year through the Healthcheck reports where significant variances have been reported.
- 1.3 This report contains the following sections and Essential Reference Papers:

| REPORT SECTIONS |                              |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 2               | General Fund Revenue Outturn |
| 3               | Reserves                     |
| 4               | Funding                      |
| 5               | Capital Outturn              |
| 6               | MTFP update                  |
| 7               | Implications                 |

| ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPERS |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| A                          | Implications    |
| B                          | Capital Outturn |
| C                          | MTFP update     |

## **2 General Fund Revenue Outturn**

- 2.1 The final outturn for the year, detailed in this report, is still subject to external audit. The final audited accounts will be presented to the Performance, Audit and Governance Committee in at the same Committee meeting as this report.
- 2.2 An under spend of £8k is reported against the 2017/18 revenue budget. This is summarised in table 1. It is recommended that this under spend is transferred to the council's General Reserve

**Table 1: Summarised 2017/18 Outturn Position**

|                            | <b>Original Budget<br/>2017/18</b> | <b>2017/18<br/>outturn</b> | <b>Variance</b> |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
|                            | <b>£'000</b>                       | <b>£'000</b>               | <b>£'000</b>    |
| Total Net Cost of Services | 13,945                             | 13,950                     | 5               |
| Corporate Budgets Total:   | 2,230                              | 2,893                      | 663             |
| Net Use of Reserves:       | (647)                              | (998)                      | (351)           |
| Funding                    | (6,193)                            | (6,518)                    | (325)           |
| Council Tax                | (9,335)                            | (9,335)                    | -               |
| <b>Overspend</b>           | <b>-</b>                           | <b>(8)</b>                 | <b>(8)</b>      |

## NET COST OF SERVICES

2.3 An overspend against the 2017/18 net cost of services budget of £5k is reported, as shown by service in Table 2 overleaf with explanations for significant variances in the following paragraphs.

**Table 2: Net Cost of Services Outturn**

|                                   | <b>2017/18<br/>Budget</b> | <b>2017/18<br/>Outturn</b> | <b>Variance</b> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
|                                   | <b>£'000</b>              | <b>£'000</b>               | <b>£'000</b>    |
| Chief Executive & Directors       | 490                       | 492                        | 2               |
| Communications, Strategy & Policy | 1,000                     | 984                        | (16)            |

|                                       |               |               |          |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------|
| HR & Organisational Development       | 505           | 480           | (25)     |
| Strategic Finance & Property          | 1,402         | 1,615         | 213      |
| Housing & Health                      | 2,444         | 2,221         | (223)    |
| Democratic and Legal                  | 1,206         | 1,286         | 80       |
| Planning & Building Control           | 855           | 946           | 91       |
| Operations                            | 4,312         | 4,014         | (298)    |
| Shared Revenues & Benefits Service    | 1,694         | 1,683         | (11)     |
| Revenues and Benefits retained costs  | (371)         | (491)         | (120)    |
| Housing Benefit Subsidy               | (866)         | (851)         | 15       |
| Shared Business & Technology Services | 1,274         | 1,571         | 297      |
| <b>Total Net Cost of Services</b>     | <b>13,945</b> | <b>13,950</b> | <b>5</b> |

2.4 The budget and outturn figures in table 2 include funding from reserves. Further information about the use of reserves during 2017/18 can be found in section 3 of this report.

### **Strategic Finance and Property**

2.5.1 The majority of this over-spend relates to the depressed rental income of Charringtons House and the fixed costs from units that were vacant.

2.5.2 Whilst the 2017/18 Outturn resulted in a £213k overspend against

the budget, units in the building have subsequently been let and will reduce any future income shortfalls.

### **Democratic and Legal Services**

- 2.5.3 The over spend in Democratic and Legal Services relates to one off additional staffing costs to cover maternity absence and recruitment issues. Plans have been put in place to mitigate this additional cost so that it will not continue into 2018/19.

### **Planning and Building Control**

- 2.5.4 The Planning department has undertaken additional responsibilities in 2017/18 that have led to an increased resource requirement. This has resulted in an over spend of £33k. The other contributing area of concern for Planning and Building Control is a £25k under-achievement of income targets for discharge of conditions.

### **Operations**

- 2.5.5 PCN income (street enforcement) is 15% above the 2017/18 budget, resulting in an additional £110k of income. This is due to greater collection achievements than were assumed when the budget was set. This increase in income has been fully considered in the setting of the 2018/19 Medium Term Financial Plan.
- 2.5.6 Higher than budgeted income levels of £45k have been generated by Hertford Theatre, from ticket sales and sales through the café.
- 2.5.7 The balance of the surplus achieved in the Operations department was made up of various over achievement of Income streams from external partners including Stevenage, Welwyn Hatfield and Legal & General.

### **Revenues and Benefits Service**

- 2.5.8 The retained costs for revenues and benefits resulted in a surplus of £120k at the end of 2017/18. This was due to additional grant funding and additional fee income from Council Tax Penalties recovered.

## Shared Business and Technology Services

2.5.9 There was an overspend of £297k against the Business and Technology Service budget in 2017/18. This variance has arisen due to increased cyber security costs and increased licence costs.

## Housing and Health

2.5.10 Housing and Health have delivered a £223k under-spend in 2017/18, this is a result of proactive vacancy management.

## Corporate Budgets

2.6 Corporate budgets were overspent by £663k in 2017/18; table 3 below shows the items that are included in this area of the net expenditure budget.

**Table 3: Corporate budgets outturn**

|                                      | <b>Budget<br/>2017/18</b> | <b>2017/18<br/>Outturn</b> | <b>Variance</b> |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
|                                      | <b>£'000</b>              | <b>£'000</b>               | <b>£'000</b>    |
| NHB Grants to Town & Parish Councils | 890                       | 904                        | 14              |
| New Homes Bonus Priority Spend       | 890                       | 891                        | 1               |
| Contingency Budget                   | 150                       | -                          | (150)           |
| Interest Payments                    | 662                       | 669                        | 7               |
| Interest & Investment income         | (1,084)                   | (1,033)                    | 51              |
| RCCO                                 | 26                        | 766                        | 740             |

|                                   |              |              |            |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Pension Fund Deficit contribution | 696          | 696          | -          |
| <b>Corporate Budgets Total:</b>   | <b>2,230</b> | <b>2,893</b> | <b>663</b> |

- 2.7 The 2017/18 investment outturn was £51k below budget; this was due to reduced interest lending rates on investment income. This deficit was managed through the overall outturn.
- 2.8 There was a greater Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay (RCCO) than budgeted; the outturn figure includes £90k of capital salary costs and £676k of reserves used to fund capital expenditure, such as £633k towards demolition of the Causeway Building in Bishop's Stortford.

### **3 Reserves**

- 3.1 The council is generally well placed with regard to establishing appropriate Earmarked Reserves and Balances.
- 3.2 The Council meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 7 February 2017 reviewed the council's earmarked reserves in support of the MTFP.
- 3.3 The following table show the appropriations during the year:

**Table 4: Reserve movements**

|                                       | <b>2017/18<br/>Budget</b> | <b>2017/18<br/>Outturn</b> | <b>Variance</b> |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
|                                       | <b>£'000</b>              | <b>£'000</b>               | <b>£'000</b>    |
| Contributions to Earmarked reserves   | 177                       | 162                        | (15)            |
| Contributions from Earmarked reserves | (824)                     | (1,160)                    | (336)           |

|                             |              |              |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Net Use of Reserves:</b> | <b>(647)</b> | <b>(998)</b> | <b>(351)</b> |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|

- 3.4 Given that the final outturn position is an under-spend of £8k it is recommended that a contribution will be made to the council's General Fund reserves.

## 4 **Funding**

- 4.1 In 2017/18 the council received £325k funding above the budgeted amount, details are shown in the following table.

**Table 5: 2017/18 funding**

|   | <b>2017/18<br/>Budget</b> | <b>2017/18<br/>Outturn</b> | <b>Variance</b> |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
|   | <b>£'000</b>              | <b>£'000</b>               | <b>£'000</b>    |
| RSG                                     | (351)                     | (351)                      | 0               |
| NDR                                     | (2,049)                   | (1,318)                    | 731             |
| Section 31                              | (522)                     | (1,554)                    | (1,032)         |
| (Surplus)/Deficit<br>on Collection fund | 408                       | 398                        | (10)            |
| Other General<br>Grants                 | (120)                     | (129)                      | (9)             |
| New Homes<br>Bonus                      | (3,559)                   | (3,564)                    | (5)             |
| <b>Funding:</b>                         | <b>(6,193)</b>            | <b>(6,518)</b>             | <b>(325)</b>    |

- 4.2 There is increasing pressure on Local Government to find alternative sources of funding for the services delivered. With the loss of Revenue Support Grant (RSG), proposed move to 75% business rate retention and consultations around New Homes Bonus, officers are working in consultation with members to look at alternative funding streams.



- 4.3 The major contributor to funding above budget in 2017/18 is Non Domestic Rating (NDR) S31 income this is due to timing differences between when the council sets its budget and statutory returns submitted to Central Government which determine the funding for the year. Section 31 grant is grant received from central government to compensate local government for mandatory business rate reliefs granted.

## 5 **Capital Outturn**

- 5.1 The progress of the capital programme for 2017/18 has been reported to the Executive throughout the year as part of the budget monitoring process.
- 5.2 Capital expenditure in 2017/18 is £2.4m as detailed in the table below:

**Table 6: Capital Outturn Summary**

|                                      | <b>2017/18<br/>Revised<br/>budget</b> | <b>2017/18<br/>Outturn</b> | <b>(Under)/<br/>Over<br/>Spend</b> | <b>Carry<br/>forward<br/>to future<br/>years</b> |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
|                                      | <b>£'000</b>                          | <b>£'000</b>               | <b>£'000</b>                       | <b>£'000</b>                                     |
| Business & Technology Shared Service | 1,185                                 | 674                        | (511)                              | 436  |
| Communications, Strategy & Policy    | 22                                    | 11                         | (11)                               | -  |
| Housing & Health                     | 1,151                                 | 528                        | (623)                              | -  |
| Operations                           | 743                                   | 369                        | (374)                              | 392  |
| Planning                             | 528                                   | 94                         | (434)                              | 433  |
| Strategic Finance & Property         | 426                                   | 713                        | 287                                | 235  |
| <b>Total:</b>                        | <b>4,055</b>                          | <b>2,389</b>               | <b>(1,666)</b>                     | <b>1,496</b>                                     |

- 5.3 It is recommended that £1.496m of budgets re-profiled from 2017/18 to the 2018/19 capital programme be approved. This relates to schemes that have either been re-timetabled to take place during 2018/19 or schemes which were started during 2017/18 but not complete as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018. Further details can be found in **Essential Reference Paper B**
- 5.4 The 2017/18 capital programme expenditure has been financed from the following sources:

**Table 7: Capital Financing**

|                           | <b>£'000</b> |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Capital Receipts          | 1,120        |
| Government Grants         | 343          |
| Third Party Contributions | 160          |
| Revenue Contribution      | 766          |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>             | <b>2,389</b> |

- 5.5 The future capital programme as agreed at Council on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018 is detailed in the table below:

**Table 8: Capital Programme 2018/19 to 2021/22**

|                                      | <b>2018/19<br/>Revised<br/>budget</b> | <b>2019/20<br/>Budget</b> | <b>2020/21<br/>Budget</b> | <b>2021/22<br/>Budget</b> |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
|                                      | <b>£'000</b>                          | <b>£'000</b>              | <b>£'000</b>              | <b>£'000</b>              |
| Business & Technology Shared Service | 885                                   | 450                       | 450                       | 450                       |
| Housing & Health                     | 841                                   | 390                       | 358                       | 358                       |
| Operations                           | 462                                   | 465                       | 15,070                    | 16,330                    |

|                              |              |              |               |               |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Planning                     | 488          | 55           | 55            | 55            |
| Strategic Finance & Property | 755          | 250          | 250           | 250           |
| <b>Total:</b>                | <b>3,431</b> | <b>1,610</b> | <b>16,183</b> | <b>17,443</b> |

## 6 **2019/20 Medium Term Financial Plan update**

- 6.1 Following the approval of the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2018/19 by Council at its meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018, a number of projects were approved for review and inclusion in the 2019/20 budget setting process. The progress of these projects has been captured in **ERP C**
- 6.2 Further work on the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2019/20 has commenced and officers and members will be invited to participate in budget workshops throughout August and September.

## 7 **Implications/Conclusion**

- 7.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper A.**

### Background Papers

None

Contact Member: Cllr Geoffrey Williamson – Executive Member for Finance & Support Services

[Geoffrey.Williamson@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:Geoffrey.Williamson@eastherts.gov.uk)

Contact Officers: Isabel Brittain – Head of Strategic Finance & Property  
Ext 2050

[Isabel.Brittain@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:Isabel.Brittain@eastherts.gov.uk)

Report Author: Alison Street – Finance Business Partner  
Ext 2056

[Alison.Street@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:Alison.Street@eastherts.gov.uk)

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**IMPLICATIONS/CONSULTATIONS**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives: | Priority 1 – Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities<br><br>Priority 2 – Enhance the quality of people's lives<br><br>Priority 3 – Enable a flourishing local economy |
| Consultation:   | None required   |
| Legal:  | None  |
| Financial:  | All Financial implications are included in the body of the  |
| Human Resource:   | None  |
| Risk Management:  | All risks are included in the body of the report  |
| Health and wellbeing – issues and impacts:                      | None  |
| Equality Impact Assessment required:                            | no  |

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|   | 2017/18<br>Revised Budget | 2017/18 Outturn | 2017/18<br>Variance | 2017/18<br>Proposed<br>Slippage | COMMENTS  |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Strategic Finance & Property  | £                         | £               | £                   | £                               |   |
| Hartham Swimming Pool - Refurbishment of Pool Filters                 | 25,000                    | 20,018          | (4,982)             | 0                               | Completed   |
| Fanshawe Swimming Pool - Replace Pool Circulating Pumps               | 20,000                    | 0               | (20,000)            | 0                               | No longer required  |
| Fabric improvements to Swimming Pools                                 | 12,000                    | 0               | (12,000)            | 0                               | No longer required  |
| Hartham Pavilion - renew water heaters to shower area                 | 8,000                     | 8,000           | 0                   | 0                               | Works completed.  |
| Grange Paddocks Pool - to treat laminated timber beams                | 25,000                    | 0               | (25,000)            | 0                               | No longer required  |
| Investment of operational assets                                      | 46,350                    | 0               | (46,350)            | 0                               | No longer required  |
| Riverbank Retaining Wall - St Andrews Street Car Park, Hertford.      | 55,000                    | 0               | (55,000)            | 55,000                          | Contractors have been engaged to work on designing a structurally safe retaining wall. This project is going to be completed in 2018/19 following an options paper. |
| Bell Street Car Park (Zone C) Sawbridgeworth - resurfacing & drainage | 30,000                    | 0               | (30,000)            | 30,000                          | Tender & design stage - works to be programmed for Summer 2018. Scheme slipped due to inclement weather.  |
| Replacement of Chairs & Desks   | 10,000                    | 8,609           | (1,391)             | 0                               | Completed   |
| Charringtons House 2nd Floor Suite Refurbishment                      | 156,030                   | 17,905.26       | (138,125)           | 138,000                         | Continuing to redesign space to continue maximise letting potential and therefore, rent & rate income   |
| Demolition 1 The Causeway, B/S  | 0                         | 632,715.87      | 632,716             | 0                               | Funded from Commercial Property Fund. Works completed. Retention of £5,113 for car park works due to be paid December 2018  |
| CCTV at Wallfields  | 14,000                    | 11,970          | (2,030)             | 0                               | Additional cameras needed for security measures, drawn down from operational asset budget   |
| Accommodation update Wallfields                                       | 25,000                    | 13,357.41       | (11,643)            | 11,643                          | Ongoing project for 2018/19 completion  |
| Total Strategic Finance & Property                                    | 426,380                   | 712,575.39      | 286,195             | 234,643                         |   |
|   |                           |                 |                     |                                 |   |
|   |                           |                 |                     |                                 |   |
| Shared Business & Technology Services                                 |                           |                 |                     |                                 |   |
| Information Technology Hardware Replacement                           | 413,000                   | 74,308          | (338,692)           | 338,692                         | SHARED SERVICE Budget relates to delivery of improved resilience as part of the agreed IT Improvement plan.   |
| New HR & Payroll System   | 62,930                    | 27,623          | (35,307)            | 35,307                          | SHARED SERVICE<br>Core HR and Payroll went live in Apr-17. Additional modules and reporting services are now being implemented with 3rd party support.              |

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE OUTTURN 2017/18

|   | 2017/18<br>Revised Budget | 2017/18 Outturn | 2017/18<br>Variance | 2017/18<br>Proposed<br>Slippage | COMMENTS   |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| New Finance System                                  | 247,940                   | 214,400         | (33,540)            | 33,540                          | Advanced System went live 1st April 2018   |
| New Finance System Capital Salaries                 | 78,000                    | 78,202          | 202                 | 0                               | Completed  |
| New Asset Management System                         | 13,880                    | 11,600          | (2,280)             | 0                               | Completed  |
| Client Equipment                                    | 20,000                    | 2,000           | (18,000)            | 0                               | Budget used to service new and replacement equipment needs identified within year.   |
| Audio & Visual Equipment Council Chamber Wallfields | 10,000                    | 9,169           | (831)               | 0                               | Alternative solution identified  |
| Audio & Visual Equipment Hertford Theatre           | 300                       | 297             | (3)                 | 0                               | Completed  |
| Exchange 2013                                       | 75,000                    | 91,291          | 16,291              | 0                               | Migration to an updated email platform that is shared with SBC. Additional consultancy and staff time has been required and resulted in a budgetary pressure.                |
| ICON: Migration to be Hosted                        | 10,730                    | 25,392          | 14,662              | 0                               | Drawn down from rolling programme  |
| Telephony Enhancements                              | 75,000                    | 46,707          | (28,293)            | 28,293                          | <b>SHARED SERVICE</b><br>Project to relocate and upgrade the telephone system. Some spend is likely in 2018/19.  |
| Cyber Security                                      | 83,000                    | 44,703          | (38,297)            | 0                               | A number of our existing security solutions need to be revisited to ensure our Cyber Risks are being effectively mitigated and forms part of the agreed IT improvement plan. |
| Revenues and Benefits Mobile Working                | 15,400                    | 7,700           | (7,700)             | 0                               | Implementation of mobile working solution included in the Capita contract.   |
| Land Charges Textual Data                           | 20,000                    | 11,565          | (8,435)             | 0                               | Improved data quality to enable efficiencies through search automation.  |
| Land Charges Textual Data - Capital Salaries        | 3,300                     | 1,406           | (1,894)             | 0                               | Capitalised salary costs for Land Charges  |
| Integration from Mayrise to Whitespace              | 20,000                    | 0               | (20,000)            | 0                               | Mayrise integration with whitespace and possible web functions such as paying online for services such as bulky waste collections  |
| Purchase of new Intranet                            | 12,000                    | 18,885          | 6,885               | 0                               | Completed  |



CAPITAL EXPENDITURE OUTTURN 2017/18

|   | 2017/18<br>Revised Budget | 2017/18 Outturn | 2017/18<br>Variance | 2017/18<br>Proposed<br>Slippage | COMMENTS  |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Mobile working Planning & Env Health  | 25,000                    | 8,750           | (16,250)            | 0                               |   |
|   |                           |                 |                     |                                 |   |
| Total Shared Business & Technology Services   | 1,185,480                 | 673,998         | (511,482)           | 435,832                         |   |
|   |                           |                 |                     |                                 |   |
| Operations  |                           |                 |                     |                                 |   |
| Car Park Management System - To implement a cost effective car park management system for the Council to manage its car parks for the next 10 years                         | 34,080                    | 64,539          | 30,459              | 0                               | Scheme complete. Variance cost to be recharged to landlord.   |
| Refurbishment of Hertford Theatre Café/Bar to meet the needs of our customers and maximise the potential for revenue generation   | 18,370                    | 22,531          | 4,161               | 0                               | Completed, however, due to essential developmental works involving IT, a £4k overspend has occurred.  |
| Hertford Theatre replacement of 6 lighting hoists   | 0                         | 77              | 77                  | 0                               | Completed   |
| Hartham Pavilion Refurbishment - Replace public toilets, redevelop existing café area, create functional changing area for footballers & incorporate meeting/training room. | 0                         | (2,873)         | (2,873)             | 0                               | Completed   |
| Waytemore Castle, Bishops Stortford - Open space improvements and historical conservation work  | 168,760                   | 192,337         | 23,577              | 0                               | Completed   |
| Hertford & Beyond   | 30,000                    | 19,000          | (11,000)            | 11,000                          | £19k has been spent this year delivering a new footpath link to support the wider network and complete an all weather short circular walk within the park. The remaining funding will be used to support the wider delivery of the project. |
| Play Equipment - Rowleys Road, Hertford   | 20,000                    | 7,661           | (12,339)            | 0                               | Completed   |
| Woodland restoration at Presdales Recreation Ground, Ware - Installation of a circular walk, car park improvements & woodland restoration.                                  | 85,000                    | 53,467          | (31,533)            | 31,530                          | All the major footpath, steps and entrance groundworks are complete. Remaining works to the value of £31,500 are planned and include interpretation boards, artwork design/printing, waymarking posts/discs, accessible gates and benches.  |
| Hartham Common, Hertford - Potential projects include development of water play area, improvements to car parking & pedestrian access.                                      | 25,000                    | 0               | (25,000)            | 0                               | This project is to be reviewed in 2019/20 pending on plans for the leisure centre.  |

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE OUTTURN 2017/18

|   | 2017/18<br>Revised Budget | 2017/18 Outturn | 2017/18<br>Variance | 2017/18<br>Proposed<br>Slippage | COMMENTS   |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Pishiobury Park, Sawbridgeworth - Wetland Habitat Project - improvements to boardwalk/paths permitting safe access to the wetland area of the park  | 12,180                    | 12,180          | 0                   | 0                               | All works completed on site.   |
| Fire Suppression Unit at Buntingford Depot  | 350,000                   | 0               | (350,000)           | 350,000                         | Agreed at 6.2.18 Exec, NHDC to contribute 50%. Balance to slip as contract to begin on 16th April.   |
|   |                           |                 |                     |                                 |  |
| Total Operations  | 743,390                   | 368,920         | (374,471)           | 392,530                         |  |
|   |                           |                 |                     |                                 |  |
| Housing & Health  |                           |                 |                     |                                 |  |
| Community Capital grants - to provide the right tools for people to get involved with projects that improve facilities such as green spaces or community buildings – inspiring ownership and pride. | 124,600                   | 49,254          | (75,346)            | 0                               | No additional grant claims have been received in the final quarter.  |
| Gladstone Road, Ware (Network Homes)  | 39,000                    | 38,500          | (500)               | 0                               | <del>Expenditure relates to Network Homes, a new partnership established October 2017 between HCC/Public Health and all the Herts Districts.</del><br>funded from S106 commuted sum. To build 10 affordable housing units. Scheme should be completed by early 2018. 50% paid when work commenced on site & 50% on completion. |
| Energy Grants   | 77,600                    | 12,200          | (65,400)            | 0                               | Expenditure relates to EHC contribution to Hertfordshire Warmer Homes, a new partnership established October 2017 between HCC/Public Health and all the Herts Districts.   |
| Decent Home Grants  | 120,000                   | 5,666           | (114,334)           | 0                               | The money was spent on improving the conditions in three residential properties with category one hazards. Works included a replacement boiler, new heating system and repairs to an unsafe parapet.   |
| Land Management Programme - Land Management Asset Register & Associated Works   | 50,000                    | 14,017          | (35,983)            | 0                               | The money was spent carrying out surveys / assessments on our assets and necessary works. Our assets include bridges and land drainage structures.   |
| Private Sector Improvement Grants   |                           |                 |                     |                                 |  |
| Disabled Facilities   | 566,870                   | 343,622         | (223,248)           | 0                               | All funding (except some limited grants which EHDC retained) has been transfered to the new HIA and East Herts will monitor spend hence the revised down target.   |
| Disabled Facilities - Discretionary   | 60,000                    | 0               | (60,000)            | 0                               | <del>DDFGs are retained by EHDC, but there has not been a call for spend against this budget.</del>  |

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE OUTTURN 2017/18

|   | 2017/18<br>Revised Budget | 2017/18 Outturn | 2017/18<br>Variance | 2017/18<br>Proposed<br>Slippage | COMMENTS   |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Capital Salaries  | 26,000                    | 10,304          | (15,696)            | 0                               | HIA went live in October 2017 so 6 month<br>spend on DFGs. |
| River & Watercourse Structures - Improve, maintain &<br>renew structures along rivers and watercourses to<br>alleviate possible flooding throughout the district. | 86,500                    | 54,523          | (31,977)            | 0                               | Expenditure complete for 2017/18                           |
| Total Housing & Health  | 1,150,570                 | 528,086         | (622,484)           | 0                               |  |
|   |                           |                 |                     |                                 |  |
| Planning  |                           |                 |                     |                                 |  |
| Historic Building Grants - Enable grants to be offered<br>to the owners of historic buildings to encourage their<br>maintenance and upkeep.                       | 52,400                    | 51,625          | (775)               | 0                               | Programme complete   |
| Improvements to The Wash, Maidenhead Street & Bull<br>Plain, Hertford   | 475,900                   | 42,862          | (433,038)           | 433,000                         | Delay in final design work undertaken by<br>consultants    |
| Total Planning  | 528,300                   | 94,486          | (433,814)           | 433,000                         |  |
|   |                           |                 |                     |                                 |  |
| Communications, Strategy & Policy   |                           |                 |                     |                                 |  |
| Device Responsive Template - Revised website<br>templates including new navigation, enhanced<br>accessibility and device responsiveness                           | 11,500                    | 0               | (11,500)            | 0                               | No longer required   |
| Scotts Grotto - replacement of fencing  | 10,500                    | 10,561          | 61                  | 0                               | Project complete   |
|   |                           |                 |                     |                                 |  |
| Total Communications, Strategy & Policy   | 22,000                    | 10,561          | (11,439)            | 0                               |  |
|   |                           |                 |                     |                                 |  |
| TOTAL   | 4,056,120                 | 2,388,626       | (1,667,494)         | 1,496,005                       |  |

|           |           |             |           |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| 4,056,120 | 2,388,626 | (1,667,494) | 1,496,005 |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----------|

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**Project Items for Review and Consideration for 2019/20 Medium Term Financial Plan**

Following the Councillor and staff workshops held during November a number of ideas were put forward on ways to improve service provision and generate income for East Herts Council.

Many of those ideas require further examination and possible investment in resources to provide a future direction of travel. The ideas below were agreed at Council on 1<sup>st</sup> March as items that required further investigation.

The table below provides an update on those projects.

|  |
|--|
| <b>Planning Income Review – Head of Planning</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase the opportunity for Pre-App Income</li><li>• Provide professional planning advice to small businesses for a small fee.</li><li>• Investigate other income opportunities</li></ul> |
| <b>Progress to date July 2018 :</b><br>Still in scoping stages   |



|   |
|---|
| <b>Human Resources Review – Head of HR</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• HR Shared Service</li><li>• Review of staff remuneration</li><li>• Reduced staff benefits</li><li>• Reduced Staff hours</li><li>• Promote Unpaid Leave</li><li>• Review of Leadership Team restructure</li></ul>  |
| <b>Progress to date July 2018 :</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meetings held with Stevenage re shared HR service.</li><li>• Review of Options Report due to be presented late July to Joint Leadership Board</li><li>• Staff benefits under review in conjunction with pay scales (but unlikely to result in savings)</li><li>• LT discussion on appropriate structure scheduled</li></ul> |

**Parking Income Review – Head of Operations**

- On-Street Parking
- Sunday charging
- Public access and charging to Wallfields at weekends and evenings
- Overnight parking

**Progress to date July 2018 :**

- Business Plan and appraisal submitted to HoS.
- Inclusion of Blue badge charging

**Street Lighting Review – Head of Strategic Finance and Property**

- Investigate the opportunity to upgrade to LED and possible HCC ownership

**Progress to date July 2018 :**

Option report presented to Leadership Team in June 2018.

Surveys currently being undertaken by HCC contractors

Outcome of surveys will determine the viability of this scheme

**Legal Services Review – Head of Legal and Democratic Services**

Consider:

- Selling East Herts legal team specialist knowledge to other authorities
- Buying in specialist knowledge from other authorities
- A shared service

**Progress to date July 2018 :**

- Discussion and planning delayed

**Street Name Plates – Head of Strategic Finance and Property**

- Review of costs and income
- Consider additional services to improve income levels
- Expand street name and Numbering service.
- Outsourcing service
- Increased fees to bring in line with other councils
- Ensure full cost recovery

**Progress to date July 2018 :**

- Initial review of costs undertaken
- Benchmarking exercise still in progress

**IT Shared Services Review –Head of Strategic Finance and Property**

- Review of current performance indicators
- Benchmark of similar organisations
- Consider software value for money
- Consider the hardware available and review of alternatives

**Progress to date July 2018 :**

- Report of 11<sup>th</sup> July Overview and Scrutiny review of service
- SBC & EHDC currently reviewing service costs for 2019/20 budget

**Public Conveniences Review – Head of Operations**

- Consider necessity of service
- Consider alternative provision of service

**Progress to date July 2018 :**

- Meeting with Sawbridgeworth Town Council set up
- Project Lead resourced

**Electoral Arrangement Review – Head of Legal and Democratic Services**

- Review Electoral Arrangements
- Review of member allowances
- Review of member expenses

**Progress to date July 2018 :**

- Discussion and planning delayed

**Playground Management and Inspection – Head of Operations**

- Review of inspection requirements
- Consider playground ownership

**Progress to date July 2018 :**

- Appraisal documents submitted to HoS

**Chargeable Events – Head of Communications, Strategy and Policy**

Consider the opportunities for income generation from the following items:

- Open Air Concerts
- Outdoor Cinema

|   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food Events/ site rental</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Progress to date July 2018 :</b></p> <p>Following consideration of these items it would appear that the cost to deliver them in most instances outweighs any financial benefits. However the team are still keeping an open mind for other similar income generating ideas and will appraise as necessary</p> |

|  |
|--|
| <p><b>Investment Income – Head of Strategic Finance and Property</b></p>   |
| <p>Consider the Financial Sustainability Investment opportunities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crowd-funding</li> <li>• Property Investment</li> <li>• Commercial activities</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Progress to date July 2018 :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crowd Funding report currently drafted and due to go to Leadership Team for sign off</li> <li>• Property Investment Strategy reviewed and agreed by Financial Sustainability Group</li> <li>• Other commercial options currently being reviewed by Financial Sustainability Group include housing investment and investment financing</li> </ul> |

|  |
|--|
| <p><b>PCSO provision – Head of Housing and Health</b></p>  |
| <p>Consider the PCSO value for money.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SLA review</li> <li>• Outcomes</li> <li>• Community engagement</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Progress to date July 2018 :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work due to commence in September, linked to CCTV review and wider consideration of police funding raised at the Community Safety Partnership. Work will be completed for consideration as part of the MTFP for 2019/20</li> </ul> |



## EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 11 SEPTEMBER 2018

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND SUPPORT  
SERVICES

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### INSURANCE CONTRACTS OPTIONS

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

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#### **Purpose/Summary of Report**

- A decision needs to be made regarding future insurance arrangements as the council's Long Term Agreement ends in 2019.

| <b><u>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE: That:</u></b> |  |
|--|--|
| (A)  | <b>the Council's insurance contracts should be extended for up to two years; and</b>   |
| (B)  | <b>ongoing participation as a Founding Member of the Local Government Association Mutual is maintained as recommended by Performance, Audit and Governance Scrutiny Committee.</b> |

#### 1.0 Background

- 1.1 Insurance contracts across all classes of business, with the exception of staff life insurance, were subject to competitive tender in 2016 with a three year long term agreement expiring on 30 May 2019. (The staff life insurance scheme will cease on 30 November 2018).

1.2 The council must select one of the following options:

- Exercise options to extend contracts for a further year and then make a decision next year.
- Undertake a procurement exercise commencing September 2018.
- Join the discretionary mutual offering from the Local Government Association. The company was incorporated in May 2018 and is known as LGAM Ltd. (Hereafter referred to as LGAM).

1.3 The Committee is therefore asked to consider the various options available to the council and make a recommendation for the Executive to consider.

## 2.0 Report

2.1 Insurance contracts were subject of an OJEU tender exercise in 2016. Long term agreements expire on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 so the council must decide imminently which of the various options potentially available it wishes to pursue.

2.2 Business has been placed with conventional insurance markets since the demise of Municipal Mutual in 1992. The council's policies are underwritten by 8 different insurers with premium spend, excluding life insurance, likely to total £206,470 in 2018/19.

2.3 **Essential Reference Paper 'B'** details the options available to the council, as summarised in 1.2, and benefits and risks for each. Based on these, officers recommend extension of the existing contract for a maximum of 24 months, potentially mirroring the timetables of developments of Old River lane, Hertford Theatre and the leisure centres. *(Note – Essential Reference Paper 'B' is enclosed for Members only as it contains commercially sensitive information – paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the LGA 1972)*

2.4 At Performance, Audit and Governance Scrutiny Committee on 24 July 2018 Members recommended that the council extend existing contracts for up to two years with a report submitted in 2019 providing updates on the options available. Members also recommended that the Council remain a Founding Member of the LGA Mutual and requested that next year's report includes an update on that offering.

### 3.0 Implications/Consultations

3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Papers 'A' and 'B'**.

### Background Papers

None

Contact Member: Councillor Geoffrey Williamson – Executive Member for Finance and Support Services  
[geoffrey.williamson@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:geoffrey.williamson@eastherts.gov.uk)

Contact Officer: Isabel Brittain – Head of Strategic Finance and Property  
Extension 2050  
[isabel.brittain@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:isabel.brittain@eastherts.gov.uk)

Report Author: Graham Mully – Insurance and Risk Business Advisor  
Extension 2166  
[graham.mully@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:graham.mully@eastherts.gov.uk)

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**IMPLICATIONS/CONSULTATIONS**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives <i>(delete as appropriate):</i> | <p>Priority 1 – Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities</p> <p>Priority 2 – Enhance the quality of people's lives</p> <p>Priority 3 – Enable a flourishing local economy</p>   |
| Consultation:  | <p>A draft of the report has been shared with Legal, Finance, Procurement, Scrutiny and Communications colleagues, and the council's insurance broker for contribution.</p> <p>The council has been a 'founding member' of the Local Government Association's Mutual (LGAM) and nominated a Councillor to support development of the proposition.</p>  |
| Legal:   | <p>Procurement risks are outlined in the report. The council has not sought legal advice regarding LGAM but the LGA has shared its legal advice. (Although that cannot be relied upon as the council did not commission).</p>  |
| Financial:   | <p>It is difficult to place a financial estimate against each option as the timing of developments such as Old River Lane, the leisure centres and the Theatre will have significant impacts on premiums payable, as will insurance market conditions.</p> <p>Essential Reference Paper B details benefits and risks for each option, some of which are financial.</p> <p>If the property portfolio and the insurance market remain stable, the premiums payable are unlikely to alter significantly under options one or two, unless option three remains a possibility. The likely contribution payable for option three is unknown.</p> |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Human Resource:                            | None, although if selecting the mutual proposition the future role of two members of staff (1.5 FTE) may be affected if claims handling is outsourced or if additional risk management work is necessary. |
| Risk Management:                           | Detailed within Essential Reference Paper B.  |
| Health and wellbeing – issues and impacts: | None.   |
| Equality Impact Assessment required:       | No.   |

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## EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 11 SEPTEMBER 2018

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND SUPPORT  
SERVICES

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RISK MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

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### **Purpose/Summary of Report**

- To advise Members of the proposed content of the Strategic Risk Register for 2018 / 19.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b><u>RECOMMENDATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE: That:</u></b> |  |
| <b>(A)</b>  | <b>the content of the Strategic Risk Register be agreed.</b> |

### 1.0 Background

- 1.1 During 2017/18 it was agreed that an annual risk report would be submitted with updates received on an exception basis only rather than reports being submitted four times per year, accompanied by the Strategic Risk register. This is the first annual report received by the Executive.

### 2.0 Report

- 2.1 In the past the Strategic Risk Register has been updated quarterly and reports submitted four times a year to Performance, Audit and Governance Scrutiny Committee and then to the Executive. However during 2017/18 it was agreed that only an annual risk report would be submitted with

updates provided on an exception basis, i.e. a material change such as a new risk being identified or a score changing. Committees no longer receive the full Strategic Risk Register with details of controls implemented or proposed, although risks, including controls, can still be viewed on the council's performance management system Pentana Performance. <https://eastherts.pentanarpm.uk/login> (Formerly called Covalent). This change was reflected in the Risk Management Strategy considered at the meeting on 22 April 2018. The first exception report features within the financial health check report at this evening's meeting.

- 2.2 The council's Leadership Team has reviewed and updated the content of the Strategic Risk Register for 2018/19. The proposed content can be found at **Essential Reference Paper 'B'**.
- 2.3 No new risks have been identified. Two risks have been deleted. No scores have changed although a few descriptions have been updated and these changes are summarised below:

| 2017/18 reference and summary of title |   | 2018/19 reference and comment |  |
|--|---|-------------------------------|--|
| 1a                                     | Significant funding reduction               | 1a                            | Description updated  |
| 1b                                     | Business rate income reduction              | 1b                            | No change  |
| 2                                      | Capacity and capability to deliver services | 2                             | Description updated  |
| 3                                      | Supplier or contractor fails to deliver     | 3                             | No change  |
| 4                                      | Alternate service delivery models           | 4                             | No change  |
| 5a                                     | Data breach                                 | 5a                            | No change  |
| 5b                                     | Cyber risk                                  | 5b                            | No change  |
| 6                                      | Impact of Housing and Planning Act          | N/a                           | Deleted as now considered to be an operational risk (that will |

|    |  |     |  |
|----|--|-----|--|
|    |  |     | be monitored by Leadership Team only)  |
| 7  | District Plan  | 6   | Description updated  |
| 8  | Significant development proposals at strategic sites | 7   | No change  |
| 9  | Digital East Herts                                   | 8   | Budget shortfall added to description  |
| 10 | Safeguarding children                                | 9   | No change  |
| 11 | Safeguarding adults                                  | 10  | No change  |
| 12 | Economic vitality                                    | 11  | Reference to economic vision added to description                              |
| 13 | Emergency planning                                   | 12  | No change  |
| 14 | Devolution   | N/a | This risk was deleted during 2017/18 due to limited interest across the County |
| 15 | Referendum vote to leave EU                          | 13  | No change  |
| 16 | Old River lane                                       | 14  | No change  |

- 2.4 This report was considered at Performance, Audit and Governance Scrutiny Committee on 24 July 2018 and no comments or suggestions were made. It is likely that the leisure design, build, operate and maintain contract will be added to the Strategic Risk Register in the near future.
- 2.5 Leadership Team will soon develop and monitor a high-level operational risk register. Members will also be able to view these risks, including controls that have been introduced or are planned, on the performance management system.
- 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

None

Contact Member: Councillor Geoffrey Williamson – Executive  
Member for Finance and Support Services  
[geoffrey.williamson@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:geoffrey.williamson@eastherts.gov.uk)

Contact Officer: Isabel Brittain – Head of Strategic Finance and  
Property  
Extension 2050  
[isabel.brittain@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:isabel.brittain@eastherts.gov.uk)

Report Author: Graham Mully – Insurance and Risk Business  
Advisor  
Extension 2166  
[graham.mully@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:graham.mully@eastherts.gov.uk)

**IMPLICATIONS/CONSULTATIONS**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives: | Priority 1 – Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities<br><br>Priority 2 – Enhance the quality of people's lives<br><br>Priority 3 – Enable a flourishing local economy  |
| Consultation:   | There are no specific consultation implications arising directly from this report.   |
| Legal:  | There are no specific legal implications arising directly from this report.  |
| Financial:  | There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.  |
| Human Resource:   | There are no specific human resource implications arising directly from this report.   |
| Risk Management:  | There are no additional risk management implications to those already contained in this report. However, it should be noted that if East Herts did not have a risk management monitoring process, the Authority would be seen to be not managing risks appropriately, which would have a significant negative impact on recommendations made by the External Auditors through the Annual Audit Letter. |
| Health and wellbeing – issues and impacts:                      | There are no specific health and wellbeing implications arising directly from this report.   |
| Equality Impact Assessment required:                            | No.  |

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| Code 18 SR | Title  | Description   | Inherent impact | Inherent likelihood | Residual impact | Residual likelihood | Managed by      |
|------------|--|---|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1a         | Risk of significant deviation from plan in terms of funding. This is predominately a risk of a significant reduction but a significant increase could also cause risks to materialise. | There is uncertainty around future funding, both from Government and other areas. The potential impact of leaving the EU and on trade relations will cause ambiguity with regard to the future financial position.  | 3               | 3                   | 3               | 3                   | Isabel Brittain |
| 1b         | Business rate income significantly reduced from planned anticipated level (and current levels).  | Appetite and ability as a Council to influence economic development. Neighbouring authorities reducing rates. Revaluation and appeals. (Maximum liability circa £10m if all appeals were granted). Inability to influence economic regeneration. Economic vitality. | 4               | 4                   | 4               | 3                   | Isabel Brittain |
| 2          | Risk of not having a workforce fit for purpose with the capability and experience to deliver appropriate services.   | The challenges are to ensure that the council has a workforce fit for the future and resilient in terms of skills, capacity and flexibility.  | 3               | 3                   | 3               | 2                   | Kate Leeke      |

|          |   |  |   |   |   |   |                               |
|----------|---|--|---|---|---|---|-------------------------------|
| Page 914 | Risk that supplier / contractor or key third sector partner fails or fails to deliver.  | A number of key services are delivered through major contracts, both directly and in consortia. This is both through private sector supply chains and in conjunction with the voluntary and third sector.  | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | All Heads of Service          |
| 4        | Risk that investment and effort in alternative service delivery models does not deliver benefits and returns.                           | Moving more towards other delivery models in future with public sector partners. This is part of the wider context of the changing role of Local Government moving forward. Potential for lack of consistent political buy-in by all partners resulting in considerable effort without benefit. There is also a challenging skill set for managers due to the complexity.  | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | All relevant Heads of Service |
| 5a       | Information management: Misuse or loss of key information leading to breach. The potential disclosure of personal data inappropriately. | The Council handles a large amount of information and data which if not managed properly could be compromised. This could be perhaps through carelessness or hacking and security of the information could be compromised. Failure to comply with information governance principles. Action may be taken by the ICO. Individuals may suffer if their personal data, particularly sensitive personal data is disclosed. | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | Alison Stuart                 |



|    |   |  |   |   |   |   |               |
|----|---|--|---|---|---|---|---------------|
| 5b | Information management: Cyber risk. Inconsistent application of information management standards and security controls could increase the likelihood of data or data systems being compromised. | Viral attack affecting hardware or software information systems. Theft, loss or improper disclosure / use of confidential information. Service disruption or loss. Reputational damage. Regulatory fines or compensation claims.   | 4 | 2 | 4 | 1 | Helen Standen |
| 6  | Production of a District Plan meeting community and regulatory needs.   | <p>Risk of the Plan being found unsound at Examination and not being adopted or subject to legal challenge resulting in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased costs</li> <li>• Lack of effective development management</li> <li>• Cannot bid for funding for infrastructure</li> <li>• Lost opportunity</li> <li>• Open to challenge in meantime</li> <li>• Legal / reputational / political issues</li> <li>• Impact on New Homes Bonus</li> </ul> | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | Kevin Steptoe |
| 7  | Significant development proposals at strategic sites (Welwyn Garden City, Bishop's Stortford) - need to ensure good quality developments securing all necessary infrastructure.                 | Ambitions not achieved. Ability of building industry to deliver, including contribution for infrastructure. Poor environment. Loss of development opportunity. Reputational risk.  | 4 | 3 | 4 | 1 | Kevin Steptoe |

|          |  |  |   |   |   |   |                      |
|----------|--|--|---|---|---|---|----------------------|
| Page 916 | Failure to deliver Digital East Herts and improved customer access and engagement. | Risk that services are not provided across multiple channels to improve the customer experience and realise efficiency gains.<br>Step change to digital basis for service delivery will not be made within the window of invest opportunity in the next two years.<br>£500,000 built in to budget but the majority of these savings will be realised in 2019/20.                 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | All Heads of Service |
| 9        | Compliance with the Childrens Act 2004.  | Whilst the Council's self-assessment obtained ratings of at least 'adequate' there is a commitment to improve and thereby ensure the safety of children.   | 4 | 2 | 4 | 1 | Jonathan Geall       |
| 10       | Safeguarding adults.   | Maintain and develop interagency relationships, council policy and training.   | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | Jonathan Geall       |
| 11       | Encouragement of economic vitality across the District.                            | Risks that opportunities to maximise inward investment, employment and economic growth are not maximised in the district.<br>Also ensure regular dialogue with business and organisations representative of business.<br>Interventions to be proposed where appropriate e.g. business improvement district opportunities.<br>Refresh of economic vision planned for summer 2018. | 4 | 2 | 4 | 1 | Ben Wood             |

|    |   |  |   |   |   |   |                |
|----|---|--|---|---|---|---|----------------|
| 12 | Unable to resource or prioritise emergency planning response and other mitigation measures. | Frequency of events likely to increase. Emergency planning response could be compromised. Impact on east/west travel in District and on infrastructure, especially transportation. Lack of resource for mitigation activity e.g. land drainage function. Impact on Council properties, particularly sites on flood plains. | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | Jonathan Geall |
| 13 | Referendum vote to leave EU.  | Further budget reductions likely. Potential impact on the economy, particularly employment and the housing market. Loss of EU funding for local schemes. Legislative changes.  | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | Ben Wood       |
| 14 | Development of Old River Lane, Bishop's Stortford.  | The acquisition of the Old River Lane site presents opportunities to revitalise and shape the town centre, but there are risks around undertaking large-scale development, including land use choices, viability, impact on other areas and functions of the town centre, etc.   | 4 | 3 | 2 | 3 | Liz Watts      |

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