

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

DISTRICT PLANNING EXECUTIVE PANEL – 19 MARCH 2015
EXECUTIVE – 2 JUNE 2015

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING
AND TRANSPORT

DRAFT DISTRICT PLAN CHAPTERS 15 and 16: RESPONSE TO
ISSUES RAISED DURING PREFERRED OPTIONS CONSULTATION
AND DRAFT REVISED CHAPTERS

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report

The purpose of this report is:

- To bring to Members attention the issues raised through the recent consultation in connection with Chapters 15 and 16 of the Draft District Plan Preferred Options, together with Officer responses to those issues; and
- To place before Members for consideration draft revised chapters showing proposed amendments, for subsequent incorporation into a revised Draft District Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DISTRICT PLANNING EXECUTIVE
PANEL AND EXECUTIVE: That:

(A)	The issues raised in respect of Chapters 15 and 16 of the Draft District Plan Preferred Options, as detailed at Essential Reference Papers B and C to this report, be received and considered;
(B)	The Officer response to the issues referred to in (A) above, as detailed in Essential Reference Papers B and C to this report, be noted; and
(C)	The draft revised chapters, as detailed in Essential Reference Papers B and C to this report, be noted, with decision on their final content being deferred to allow consideration of further technical work and other issues.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Council published its Draft District Plan Preferred Options for consultation for a period of twelve weeks between 27th February and 22nd May 2014. Several thousand comments were received through the consultation exercise from over a thousand stakeholders including statutory consultees and members of the public. In order to manage these comments, the Council's agreed approach, as set out in its Statement of Community Involvement (October 2013), is to summarise the issues raised through the consultation and record how these issues have been used to inform the next draft of the District Plan.
- 1.2 This report presents working drafts of two topic chapters: Chapter 15 Retail and Town Centres; and Chapter 16 Design. **Essential Reference Papers 'B' and 'C'** each contain an Issues Report and a Working Draft Revised Chapter for each topic, which should be read together.

2.0 Report

- 2.1 The Issue Reports record each issue raised through the consultation. These are grouped according to the section of the Draft Plan they relate to. The table presents the officer response to each issue and then sets out proposed amendments to the text or policies of the Draft Plan. These proposed amendments are shown in the form of a 'track change' so that readers can clearly see what amendments are proposed. These 'track changes' are then presented *in situ* in the Working Draft Revised Chapters.
- 2.2 The proposed amendments are presented as Working Draft Revised Chapters only at this stage. This is because they may change between now and final agreement of a revised Draft District Plan. The Council is undertaking further technical studies, which may in turn result in amendments to either the development strategy or proposed allocations. There are also changes expected in the form of new Building Standards. In addition, the Government are continually changing the Planning System and the General Permitted Development Order, which have implications on local policies and the wider approach to development.
- 2.3 It is therefore the intention that the attached and forthcoming Working Draft Revised Chapters will be presented only to the District Planning Executive Panel and the Executive until such

time that the complete suite of amendments are collated and presented as one comprehensive Revised Draft District Plan. This phased approach is considered appropriate given the high number of consultation comments and the completion of detailed technical evidence supporting proposed amendments.

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

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