

**Joint Statement for the Cooperation for Sustainable Development Board on
22 September 2015**

On 22 September 2015, the Co-operation for Sustainable Development Board (*the Board*) noted the updated Strategic Housing Market Assessment for the West Essex/East Herts area (covering East Herts, Epping Forest, Harlow and Uttlesford Districts) and an associated joint report on economic growth. The revised SHMA identifies the objectively assessed housing need for the SHMA area using the latest published population projections as the starting point. The new SHMA identifies a total objectively assessed housing need for the Housing Market Area as a whole of 46,100 net additional dwellings over the Local Plan period 2011-2033. The figures are broken down by District – East Herts DC 16,400; Epping Forest DC 11,300, Harlow DC 5,900 and Uttlesford DC 12,500. It also gives a breakdown of the OAHN for each district by tenure and dwelling size.

The identification of the objectively assessed housing need **is not** the housing target but provides the basis for each authority to develop its housing target taking account of policy, and supply factors and all 4 authorities will be considering the SHMA and economic reports at a local level. East Herts will be reporting to the District Planning Executive Panel on 22 October 2015; Epping Forest District Council will be reporting the SHMA and economic reports to its Cabinet on 8 October 2015; Harlow will be reporting to its Local Development Plans Panel on 21 October 2015; and Uttlesford will be reporting to the Planning Policy Working Group on 29 September 2015.

In accordance with the legal obligations of the Duty to Cooperate the Board will continue to discuss the distribution of proposed housing and jobs growth across the Strategic Housing Market Area/Functional Economic Market Area. This includes ensuring that Strategic Housing Market Area housing needs are met, taking account of availability, viability and deliverability, with the outcomes of any discussions being taken back to the individual authorities for decision making. The Board will work towards the production of a memorandum of understanding to support the joint working and meeting the duty to cooperate.