

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

DISTRICT PLANNING EXECUTIVE PANEL – 24 MAY 2016

REPORT BY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

EAST HERTS DRAFT DISTRICT PLAN – CHAPTER 24 – ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY: RESPONSE TO ISSUES RAISED DURING PREFERRED OPTIONS CONSULTATION, FURTHER AMENDMENTS AND DRAFT REVISED CHAPTER (RENUMBERED CHAPTER 23)

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report

The purpose of this report is:

- To bring to Members' attention the issues raised through the Preferred Options consultation in connection with Chapter 24 (Environmental Quality) of the Draft District Plan Preferred Options version, together with Officer responses to those issues;
- To explain to Members why further amendments to Chapter 24 (Environmental Quality) are required to ensure that the final draft District Plan reflects the most up-to-date policy position and the latest available evidence;
- To place before Members for consideration a draft revised chapter (renumbered Chapter 23), for subsequent incorporation into the final draft District Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DISTRICT PLANNING EXECUTIVE PANEL: That Council, via the Executive, be advised that:

(A)	the issues raised in respect of Chapter 24 (Environmental Quality) of the Draft District Plan Preferred Options, as detailed at Essential Reference Paper 'B' to this report, be received and considered;
(B)	the Officer response to the issues referred to in (A) above, as detailed in Essential Reference Paper 'B' to this report, be agreed;

(C)	the further amendments in respect of Chapter 24 (Environmental Quality) of the Draft District Plan Preferred Options, as detailed at Essential Reference Paper ‘B’ to this report, be received and considered; and
(D)	the draft revised Chapter 23 (Environmental Quality), as detailed in Essential Reference Paper ‘C’ to this report, be agreed as a basis for inclusion in the final draft District Plan, with the content being finalised when the consolidated plan is presented in September 2016.

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.

1.2 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.

1.3 This report presents a draft revised chapter on Environmental Quality for subsequent incorporation into the final Draft District Plan. **Essential Reference Paper ‘B’** contains the Issues Report and **Essential Reference Paper ‘C’** the draft revised chapter.

2.0 Report

2.1 The Issue Report is split into two parts. The first part summarises the issues raised through the Preferred Options Consultation. The issues are grouped according to the section of the Draft Plan they relate to. The table presents an officer response to each issue and then sets out any subsequent 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 being proposed.

- 2.2 The second part of the Issue Report details any further amendments that are required to ensure that the final draft District Plan reflects the most up-to-date policy position and the latest available evidence.
- 2.3 Members will be aware that a report to the District Planning Executive Panel on 22 October 2014 previously considered issues raised in respect of the draft Environmental Quality chapter at the Preferred Options Consultation stage and also the proposed officer response to each issue, along with a proposed draft revised Chapter. However, since that time, various changes in local and wider circumstances have occurred, which have necessitated a review of some of previously proposed responses to ensure the most up to date and accurate picture going forward.
- 2.4 Members should note that due to the consolidation of the Design and Landscape Chapters, the Chapters from 20 onwards have been renumbered. As such the Environmental Quality Chapter is now Chapter 23 rather than Chapter 24.
- 2.5 Members are therefore invited to agree the draft revised Chapter 23 (Environmental Quality), as detailed in **Essential Reference Paper 'C'** to this report, as a basis for inclusion in the final draft District Plan, with the content being finalised when the consolidated plan is presented in September 2016.
- 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: Cllr Linda Haysey – Leader of the Council
linda.haysey@eastherts.gov.uk

Contact Officer: Kevin Steptoe – Head of Planning and Building Control
01992 531407
kevin.steptoe@eastherts.gov.uk

Report Author: Jenny Pierce – Principal Planning Policy Officer
jenny.pierce@eastherts.gov.uk