

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

DISTRICT PLANNING EXECUTIVE PANEL – 25 AUGUST 2016

REPORT BY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

EAST HERTS DRAFT DISTRICT PLAN – CHAPTER 4 – GREEN BELT AND RURAL AREA BEYOND THE GREEN BELT: RESPONSE TO ISSUES RAISED DURING PREFERRED OPTIONS CONSULTATION

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 4 (Green Belt and Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt) of the Draft District Plan Preferred Options version, together with Officer responses to those issues.

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

(A)	the issues raised in respect of Chapter 4 (Green Belt and Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt) of the Draft District Plan Preferred Options, as detailed at Essential Reference Paper ‘B’ to this report, be received and considered; and
(B)	the Officer response to the issues referred to in (A) above, as detailed in Essential Reference Paper ‘B’ to this report, be agreed.

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 the Issue Report for the Green Belt and Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt chapter at **Essential Reference Paper 'B'**.

2.0 Report

2.1 The Issue Report summarises the issues raised through the Preferred Options Consultation relating to the Green Belt and Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt chapter. The table presents an officer response to each issue and then sets out whether or not it is proposed that any subsequent proposed amendments to the text or policies of the draft Plan be made as a result. Where issues are site specific or settlement specific, more detail is provided within the respective settlement chapter.

2.2 Given that there are considerable changes required to the Green Belt and Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt chapter, it is considered appropriate that the Green Belt and Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt chapter be rewritten to take these factors into account rather than presenting a 'track change' iteration of the previous version. Therefore, unlike the approach taken for the Development Management Chapters, the Issue Report for this chapter does not specify a form of wording that any proposed amendment should take.

2.3 In consequence, it is likewise not proposed that amendments are shown in the form of 'track changes'. Instead, a revised chapter, which incorporates any proposed necessary amendments to the Plan identified in the Issue Report, will be brought before Members for consideration at the District Planning Executive Panel meeting on 8th September.

2.4 Members are therefore invited to agree the Issue Report, as detailed in Essential Reference Paper 'B' to this report, as a basis for informing a redrafted chapter on the Green Belt and Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt in the final draft District Plan.

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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