

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

DISTRICT PLANNING EXECUTIVE PANEL – 25 AUGUST 2016

REPORT BY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

EAST HERTS DRAFT DISTRICT PLAN – CHAPTER 3 –
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY: 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 3 (Development Strategy) 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 3 (Development Strategy) 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 Development Strategy chapter at **Essential Reference Paper 'B'**.

2.0 Report

2.1 The Issue Report summarises the issues raised through the Preferred Options Consultation and 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 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.

2.2 As there have been significant advances in the technical evidence available to support the development strategy, and changes in local and wider circumstance since the publication of the Preferred Options version of the Draft Plan, it is considered appropriate that the Development Strategy 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 Topic 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 Of particular note is the Officer response made to Issue number 3.02 and others concerning objectively assessed housing need. A Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) was presented to this Panel in October 2015. The SHMA, which was prepared by independent consultants on behalf of the four authorities that

comprise the West Essex/East Herts housing market area, identified a District wide need for 745 new homes per year, equating to 16,390 new homes by 2033. Over the last few months work on the District Plan has progressed on the basis of this objectively assessed housing need figure.

- 2.5 On 12th July 2016, the Government published updated 2014 based household figures. Officers are therefore currently working with our housing market area partners in order to understand how this new data impacts on the assessment of objectively assessed housing need.
- 2.6 Members should also be aware that a large number of responses made to the Development Strategy chapter related to specific sites. In order to avoid repetition, these comments have been addressed within the relevant settlement chapters.
- 2.7 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 Development Strategy 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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