

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

DISTRICT PLANNING EXECUTIVE PANEL – 25 AUGUST 2016

REPORT BY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

FINAL VILLAGE HIERARCHY STUDY AUGUST 2016

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report

The purpose of this report is:

- To present to Members the Final Village Hierarchy Study August 2016.

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

(A)	the Final Village Hierarchy Study August 2016, be supported as part of the evidence base to inform and support the East Herts District Plan; and
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1.0 Background

1.1 Members will recall that Stage 1 of the Village Hierarchy Study was presented to the District Planning Executive Panel on the 10th September 2015. The Stage 1 study ranked the villages of East Herts in terms of their sustainability by assessing access to service and facilities and public transport provision.

1.2 A further Interim Village Hierarchy Study was then presented to the District Planning Executive Panel on the 17th December 2015, with a decision on its final content deferred until further consultation with relevant Parish Councils had taken place between 5th and 29th January 2016.

1.3 A copy of the Final Village Hierarchy Study August 2016 is contained in **Essential Reference Paper 'B'**.

2.0 Report

- 2.1 The Final Village Hierarchy Study August 2016 uses the same methodology as set out in Stage 1 of the Study and takes into account further information received during the Interim Village Hierarchy consultation. The Final Village Hierarchy Study also considers information received from Parishes throughout 2016 and reflects the most up-to-date position.
- 2.2 Villages identified as Group 1 and Group 2 villages in the Draft District Plan and Category 1 and Category 2 villages from the East Herts Local Plan Second Review (where these differed) were assessed alongside a number of other larger villages that were identified as Group 3/Category 3 in the respective plans. A total of 44 villages were assessed.
- 2.3 The study concludes that eight villages should be categorised as Group 1 Villages in the District Plan These are the largest and most sustainable villages in East Herts.
- Braughing
 - Hertford Heath
 - Hunsdon
 - Much Hadham
 - Standon and Puckeridge
 - Stanstead Abbots and St. Margarets
 - Walkern
 - Watton-at-Stone
- 2.4 A further 29 villages should be categorised as Group 2 villages in the District Plan. Whilst these villages share some similarities with Group 1 villages they do not have the same quantity or range of services and facilities and therefore score fewer points overall.
- Anstey
 - Aston
 - Bayford
 - Benington
 - Birch Green
 - Bramfield
 - Brickendon
 - Colliers End
 - Cottered

- Dane End
- Datchworth
- Furneux Pelham
- Great Amwell
- Great Hormead
- Hadham Ford
- Hare Street
- Hertingfordbury
- High Cross
- High Wych
- Little Berkhamsted
- Little Hadham
- Spellbrook
- Stapleford
- Tewin
- Thundridge and Wadesmill
- Tonwell
- Wareside
- Westmill
- Widford

2.5 Finally, the following five villages were deemed to have not scored sufficient points to be classified as Group 1 or 2 villages and should therefore be categorised as Group 3 villages in the emerging District Plan.

- Albury
- Ardeley
- Brent Pelham
- Cole Green
- Letty Green

2.6 These village groupings will now be taken forward to inform the village development strategy within the emerging 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

- Village Hierarchy Study, Stage 1: August 2015.
(<http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/index.jsp?articleid=31938>)
- Interim Village Hierarchy Study: December 2015.
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