

Appendix 1 - Summary of responses from the Duty to Co-operate Bodies

Statutory/Public Bodies:

Environment Agency (EA):

The discussion focussed on water resources. It was recognised that East Herts is in an area of water stress. The EA are working with the water companies on updated evidence to inform their position on the efficient use of water resources. They should be able to share further information in the next six-months. The EA welcomes the current District Plan requirement to meet a target of 110 litres or less per head per day.

An updated Water Cycle Study will be required. East Herts should liaise with Hertfordshire County Council on this.

The Council's existing policies on water quality and the water environment are generally fit for purpose. The EA require an undeveloped strip at least 8m wide alongside all main rivers.

The importance of Hertfordshire's chalk rivers were discussed. The Council has requested a further meeting with the EA's Chalk Catchment Co-Ordinator.

New development should be located in areas with the lowest probability of flooding – the sequential test should be used. An updated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) will be required.

Other areas to consider are Source Protection Zones, Waste and Contaminated Land.

Historic England:

Historic England welcomes the proactive approach that the Council is taking.

The discussion focused on ensuring that the historic environment plays a positive role in allocating sites for development. Heritage considerations need to be fully integrated in any site selection methodology. Historic England can offer advice on evidence gathering; site selection; and site allocation policies.

Historic England has been raising awareness of the impact of climate change on heritage and the historic environment. An advice note on climate change is currently being prepared.

Design codes were discussed, including the role of the historic environment and historic expertise within design coding.

Historic England will review the policies in the current District Plan and will provide comments.

Natural England:

Meeting due to take place on 26 September 2023.

Local Enterprise Partnership:

The focus of the LEP over the last two years has been on business growth and opportunities. Hertfordshire overall has seen a net loss of employment land over the last five years. There was a recognition that the nature of employment is changing with an increase in the number of people working from home, although post-covid work patterns are still evolving.

Bishop's Stortford continues to offer an excellent location for commercial activity due to its transport links and location in relation to Stansted Airport.

The proposed Hertfordshire Essex Rapid Transit (HERT) proposals for a new sustainable transport network could offer significant economic opportunities which should be considered the Council.

Entrepreneurial businesses related to the environmental sector should be supported.

The Council's economic evidence will need updating and the LEP would welcome ongoing involvement in this work.

NHS – Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board:

Meeting date to be confirmed.

Sport England:

The discussion focused on updating the evidence base for community sport and the increasing policy focus on creating 'active environments' through development. Sport England would like to see 'active design' embedded into strategic policies.

Energy Undertakers:

Meeting date to be confirmed.

Thames Water:

The discussion focussed on Thames Water's Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan, draft Water Resource Management Plan and their current business plan. Generally, the policies in the District Plan remain fit for purpose.

Water efficiency was discussed, and Thames Water considers that there are benefits to requiring the calculations to be based on the 'fittings approach'.

It was noted that Rye Meads Sewerage Treatment works was upgraded in 2020 and currently has capacity until 2036, with space for future upgrades.

Affinity Water:

Meeting date to be confirmed.

Hertfordshire County Council:

Growth and Infrastructure Unit:

The discussion focussed on HCC's 'Local & Joint Strategic Plans Engagement Document'. The document stresses the importance of sharing potential sites and growth scenario(s) with the county council at the earliest opportunity.

The main focus of the discussion was on education provision (including early years, mainstream schools and special schools) with specific attention drawn to the county council's new tiered approach to new development sites (1:400, 1:500, 1:1000). The planning ratio expresses the number of new dwellings in each category for which the county council would plan to be able to provide an additional form of entry. Depending on the growth strategy proposed there may be a requirement to identify reserve school sites.

The Growth and Infrastructure Unit will also coordinate responses from Adult Care Services, Community Protection, Library Services, Public Health, and Services for Young People.

Minerals and Waste:

Meeting date to be confirmed.

Highway Authority:

HCC's Local Transport Plan (LTP4 2018-2031) was adopted in 2018 and is currently being reviewed. The District Plan will need to need to take account of any update to the Local Transport Plan (LTP5), in particular how emerging technology might affect the way that transport needs to be provided in the longer term.

The proposed Hertfordshire Essex Rapid Transit (HERT) proposals for a new sustainable transport network should be considered.

Updated parking standards should be considered taking account of LTP5.

The provision of a Hertford bypass to address identified constraints on the A414 needs reviewing.

It will be important to take account of development in Uttlesford and any impacts on Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth

A new transport model (which will replace COMET) will be available in due course.

Landscape Ecology Archaeology Design (LEADs) Team:

Meeting date to be confirmed.

Lead Local Flood Authority:

Meeting date to be confirmed.

Essex County Council:

Highway Authority:

The discussion focussed on the A120 and A414 corridors. The timing of the second Stort crossing was raised. Updates were provided on key schemes, including the HGGT/Gilston Area sustainable transport corridor (due to be completed by March 2026), M11 Junction 7a (now open and fully operational), and M11 Junction 8 (under construction and due to be completed in Autumn 2023).

A multi-modal transport model is now available, which covers the district across to the A10.

Neighbouring Local Planning Authorities (Hertfordshire):

Broxbourne Borough Council:

Meeting date to be confirmed.

North Herts District Council:

Meeting date to be confirmed.

Stevenage Borough Council:

SBC confirmed that they will likely be undertaking a partial review of their local plan, with a full review to follow in 2025. Unlike East Herts the standard method does not result in a significant change in their housing need figure, and they are currently able to demonstrate a 5-year housing land supply.

Opportunities to work collaboratively on evidence base updates were discussed.

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council:

Meeting date to be confirmed.

Neighbouring Local Planning Authorities (Essex):

Epping Forest District Council:

The Epping Forest Local Plan 2011-2033 was adopted on 6 March 2023. It is anticipated that a review will be undertaken by March 2025. The discussion focussed on implementation of the Epping Forest Local Plan, including masterplanning work. The Plan identifies a number of strategic sites which will continue to deliver after 2033.

The potential strategic implications of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) were discussed.

No other Duty to Co-operate matters were raised.

Harlow Council:

Meeting date to be confirmed.

Uttlesford District Council:

Meeting date to be confirmed.