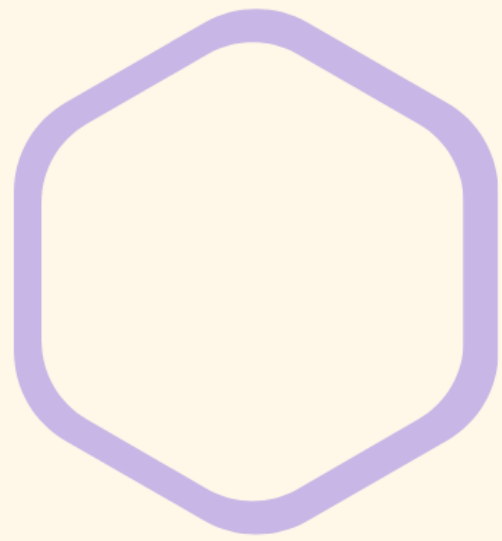


# East Herts LDS 2024

## Local Development Scheme



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## 1.0 Introduction

1.1 Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires local planning authorities to prepare, maintain, and make available to the public, a Local Development Scheme<sup>1</sup>.

1.2 A Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out the timetable for the production of the Council's development plan documents. It enables those with an interest in the plan-making process to understand which documents are to be prepared for the district and at what stages they will be able to participate.

1.3 A Local Development Scheme must specify:

- The development plan documents (i.e., local plans) which, when prepared, will comprise part of the development plan for the area.
- The subject matter and geographical area to which each development plan document is to relate.
- Which development plan documents (if any) are to be prepared jointly with one or more other local planning authorities.
- The timetable for the preparation and revision of the development plan documents.

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<sup>1</sup> [Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

1.4 Local planning authorities are also encouraged to include details of other documents which form (or will form) part of the development plan for the area, such as Neighbourhood Plans<sup>2</sup>.

1.5 So that it is kept up to date, a local planning authority must revise its LDS at a time it considers appropriate, (or as otherwise directed to do so by the Secretary of State).

1.6 The LDS should be published on the Council's website.

1.7 The Council's previous LDS was agreed in July 2020. The previous LDS is replaced by this new LDS, which sets out the proposed timetable for the East Herts District Plan Review.

1.8 Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires development plan documents to be prepared in accordance with the LDS. As such, progress made against the LDS will be monitored, and a report, known as the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR), will be published annually.

## **2.0 The Existing Development Plan**

2.1 The Development Plan is defined in Section 38(3)(b) and (c) of the P&CP 2004 Act<sup>3</sup> as, "*the development plan documents (taken as a whole) that have been adopted or approved in relation to that area*",

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plan-making> - Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 61-003-20190315

<sup>3</sup> [Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/24/section/19)

and *“the neighbourhood development plans which have been made in relation to that area.”*

2.2 The Development Plan for an area includes the combination of strategic and non-strategic policies which are in force at a particular time. The Development Plan for East Herts currently comprises:

- The East Herts District Plan (2018)
- The Hertfordshire Waste Site Allocations Development Plan Document (2014)
- The Hertfordshire Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (2012)
- The Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan (2007)
- Various Neighbourhood Plans (listed below in paragraph 2.6)

### **The East Herts District Plan (2018 – 2033)**

2.3 The East Herts District Plan sets out the Council’s strategy for delivering growth in East Herts over the plan period up to 2033. It describes the Council’s spatial vision for the district and includes a framework for addressing housing and other economic, social, and environmental priorities.

2.4 The District Plan can be accessed [here](#) and the Policies Map can be accessed [here](#).

## Minerals and Waste Local Plans

2.5 Hertfordshire County Council as the Waste and Minerals Planning Authority is preparing a new Waste and Minerals Plan. A draft plan was published for consultation in 2022. The County Council is responsible for preparing, maintaining, and publishing an LDS for the Waste and Minerals Local Plan<sup>4</sup>.

## Neighbourhood Development Plans

- 2.6 East Herts currently has 15 adopted Neighbourhood Plans:
- Silverleys and Meads 1st Revision (July 2022)
  - All Saints, Central, South and Part of Thorley 1st Revision (July 2022)
  - Braughing (September 2018)
  - Buntingford Community Area (May 2017)
  - Gilston Area (July 2021)
  - Hertford - Bengo Ward (July 2021)
  - Hertford - Kingsmead Ward (July 2023)
  - Hertford – Sele Ward (July 2021)
  - Hunsdon (November 2022)
  - Much Hadham (November 2022)
  - Standon (September 2019)
  - Thundridge (July 2021)

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<sup>4</sup> [Emerging Minerals and Waste Local Plan | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

- Walkern First Revision (July 2024)
- Ware (December 2023)
- Watton-at-Stone (December 2023)

2.7 Neighbourhood Planning activity in East Herts, including the adopted plans, can be viewed [here](#).

### **3.0 The East Herts District Plan Review**

3.1 Local Planning Authorities are required to complete a review of their local plans at least once every 5-years from the adoption date of a plan. This is to ensure that policies remain relevant, taking into account matters such as changes to local circumstances, conformity with national planning policy, significant economic changes that may impact on viability, whether issues have arisen which impact on the deliverability of key site allocations, and whether any new social, environmental or economic priorities may have arisen.

3.2 In October 2023, the Council agreed that the District Plan needs updating, and a full review of the Plan will be undertaken. The decision can be viewed [here](#).

## 4.0 Plan-making Reforms

4.1 [The Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act 2023](#) (LURA 2023) paves the way for reforms to the plan-making system.

4.2 Under the new Labour government (elected in July 2024), it is currently anticipated that the new plan-making system will be implemented from summer or autumn 2025<sup>5</sup>.

4.3 Authorities should prepare plans over an accelerated 30-month timeframe based on the following key stages and activities:

- Scoping and early participation stage
- Plan visioning and strategy development
- Evidence gathering and drafting the plan
- Engagement, proposing changes and submission of the plan
- Examination
- Adoption

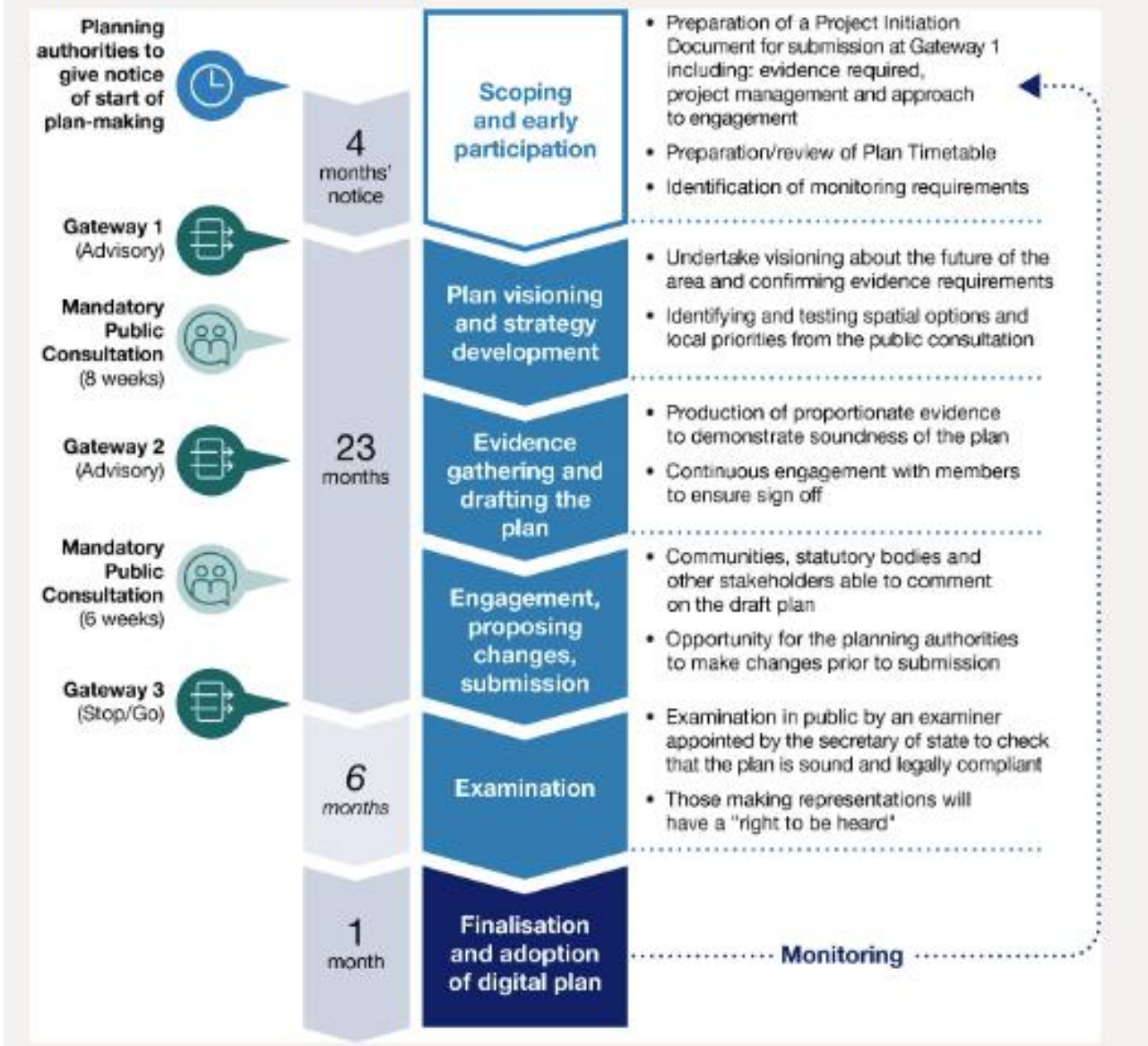
4.4 These stages are shown in Figure 1 below.

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<sup>5</sup> [Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)



Figure 1: The new 30 month plan timeframe



4.5 Secondary legislation is still necessary to implement these plan-making reforms. The Council will be able to formally commence the District Plan Review process once the secondary legislation is published.

## 5.0 Timetable for the East Herts District Plan Review

5.1 Table 1 sets out the key plan-making stages and timetable for the East Herts District Plan Review. The key milestones take account of the government's prospective plan-making reforms; as such the timetable set out below is indicative and may be subject to change.

5.2 The Council will consider any changes made to the statutory framework that affects its plan-making timetable and make the necessary changes at the appropriate time.

**Table 1: Indicative District Plan Review Timetable**

Title	The East Herts District Plan Review	
<b>Subject matter</b>	The District Plan will set out a vision for the district and a framework for the future development of the area, addressing needs and opportunities in relation to housing, the economy, community facilities and infrastructure, as well as a basis for conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment, mitigating and adapting to climate change, and achieving well designed places.	
<b>Geographical area</b>	The administrative area of East Herts District Council.	
<b>Plan-making stage</b>	<b>(Indicative) Activity</b>	<b>(Indicative) Timetable</b>
<b>Informal plan-making</b>	Updating evidence base, and other preparatory work including a Call for Sites.	August 2024 – August 2025
<b>Give Notice</b>	The planning authority gives four months' notice of the start of plan-making.	September 2025

<b>Scoping and early participation</b>	Prepare Project Initiation Document (the evidence required, project management and approach to engagement) for submission at Gateway 1. Prepare/review plan timetable. Identify monitoring requirements. Invite early participation on matters that might shape the direction of the plan.	September – December 2025
<b>Gateway 1 – plan making support</b> (advisory)	Takes place at the start of the 30-month process, following scoping stage. Ensures the plan sets off in the right direction. Support for early diagnosis of potential issues (legal and procedural requirements, and soundness).	January 2026 (4 weeks, up to 6 by exception)
<b>Start of 30-month plan-making</b>	Visioning, confirm evidence requirements, strategy development.	January 2026
<b>Plan-production</b>	Proportionate evidence gathering and drafting the plan.	Ongoing
<b>Mandatory Public Consultation (1)</b>	Build on outputs from the early participation at the scoping phase, e.g. vision for the area, identify and test spatial options and local priorities.	Summer 2026 (8 weeks)
<b>Gateway 2</b> (advisory)	Part-way through plan preparation, between the two mandatory consultation windows. Early resolution of potential soundness issues, where possible. Ensures legal and procedural compliance. Monitors/tracks progress.	Winter 2026/ 2027 (4 weeks, up to 6 by exception)
<b>Mandatory Public Consultation (2)</b>	The planning authority seeks views on the draft plan, which the planning authority intends to submit for examination.	Summer 2027 (6 weeks)

<b>Prior to submission</b>	The planning authority has an opportunity to make changes prior to submission.	Autumn 2027
<b>Gateway 3 (Stop/Go)</b>	Takes place at the end of the plan-preparation process following the second mandatory consultation, at the point the authority intends to submit the plan for examination. Checks that the plan is ready to proceed to examination, ensure legal and procedural compliance, monitor and track progress.	September/October 2027 (4 weeks, up to 6 by exception)
<b>Submit</b>	The planning authority submits the plan for examination.	November 2027
<b>Examination</b>	An examination in public by an independent Inspector. Those making representations will have a “right to be heard”.	December 2027 – May 2028
<b>Finalise and adoption</b>	The District Plan is finalised, and the LPA adopts the digital District Plan.	June 2028

## 6.0 Next Steps

6.1 The Council will commence formal work on the District Plan Review once the secondary legislation to implement the plan-making reforms has been published.

6.2 In the meantime, the Council will continue to focus on updating the evidence base and other preparatory work needed to support the District Plan Review, including a Call for Sites<sup>6</sup>. This will enable

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<sup>6</sup> [Call for Sites | East Herts District Council](#)

work on updating the District Plan to progress quickly when the new plan-making system formally commences.

6.3 The best way to stay informed about progress on the preparation of the East Herts District Plan Review and associated documents is to sign up to our mailing list. You can do this via the Council's [website](#) or by emailing [planningpolicy@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@eastherts.gov.uk).