

East Herts Council Report

Council

Date Of Meeting: Wednesday, 10 June 2026

Report By: Councillor Ben Crystall, Leader of the Council

Report Title: Executive Report – 2 June 2026

Ward(S) Affected: All

Summary

- This report details the recommendations to Council made by the Executive at its meeting on 2 June 2026.

1.0 Item considered and recommended to Council

1.1 The Executive met on 2 June 2026. At this meeting the Executive considered and supported recommendations for Council on the following items:

1.1.1 Local Plan Timetable and Notice of Intention to Commence Local Plan Preparation

1.1.2 Local Plan Scoping Consultation

1.1.3 Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report

1.2 This report sets out the recommendations for the above items, and a Council decision is required by 30 June 2026.

2.0 Local Plan Timetable and Notice of Intention to Commence Local Plan Preparation

2.1 East Herts Council has a statutory duty to produce the East Herts Local Plan. The government published details of a new plan making system in November 2025. Regulations¹ to implement the new system came into force on the 25 March 2026.

¹ The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026

- 2.2 The Executive considered the report which sought to initiate the first two stages of the new plan-making system, namely the publication of the East Herts Local Plan Timetable and Notice of Intention to Commence the East Herts Local Plan.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

- A) That the East Herts Local Plan Timetable, attached at Appendix A, be approved for publication; and**
- B) The Notice of Intention to Commence the East Herts Local Plan, attached at Appendix B, be published on the Council's website.**

3.0 Local Plan Scoping Consultation

- 3.1 The Executive considered the report which sought to initiate will initiate the third stage of the new plan-making system, the scoping consultation. The scoping consultation follows the first two stages – publishing a local plan timetable and publishing a notice of intention to commence local plan preparation.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

- A) Subject to the publication of the Notice to Commence Local Plan Preparation and the Local Plan Timetable, the East Herts Local Plan – Scoping Consultation document (Appendix A) is made available to relevant stakeholders and the wider community to begin a discussion about the district's new Local Plan, and to seek comments in accord with the Regulations;**
- B) Engagement on the Scoping Consultation document should commence, taking place between June 11 and July 10 2026, through a range of different forums, including online on the Council's website; and**
- C) Any minor amendments required to the content of the Scoping Consultation document prior to the consultation period be delegated to the Director of Place in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Growth;**
- D) A further report detailing any feedback is prepared for**

Executive following engagement, with the intention of informing the Local Plan content and evidence stages of the plan-making process.

4.0 Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report

4.1 East Herts has a duty to produce the East Herts Local Plan. In preparing a local plan the local authority is required by the Town and Country Planning Regulations (Local Planning) (England) 2026 and The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended) to prepare a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The SEA will identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the local plan and any potential reasonable alternatives to the proposed plan. Executive considered the content of the proposed SA/SEA Scoping document.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

- A) That subject to the publication of the ‘Notice to Commence Local Plan Preparation and the Local Plan Timetable’, the content of the SA/SEA Scoping document (Appendix A) is approved;**
- B) That the SA/SEA Scoping document be formally consulted upon with the Environment Agency (EA), Historic England (HE) and Natural England (NE) in accordance with statutory requirements;**
- C) That subject to the approval of the ‘Local Plan Scoping Consultation’, the SA/SEA Scoping document will be made available alongside the Local Plan Scoping Consultation, and will include a period of activity between 11 June 2026 and 10 July 2026 through a range of different forums, including online on the Council’s website; and**
- D) Any minor amendments required to the content of the SA/SEA Scoping document prior to the consultation period be delegated to the Director of Place in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Growth.**

5.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material

5.1 Executive – 2 June 2026

District Planning Executive Panel - 19 May 2026

Contact Member

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