

Local Plan Tracker | Hertfordshire

January 2020

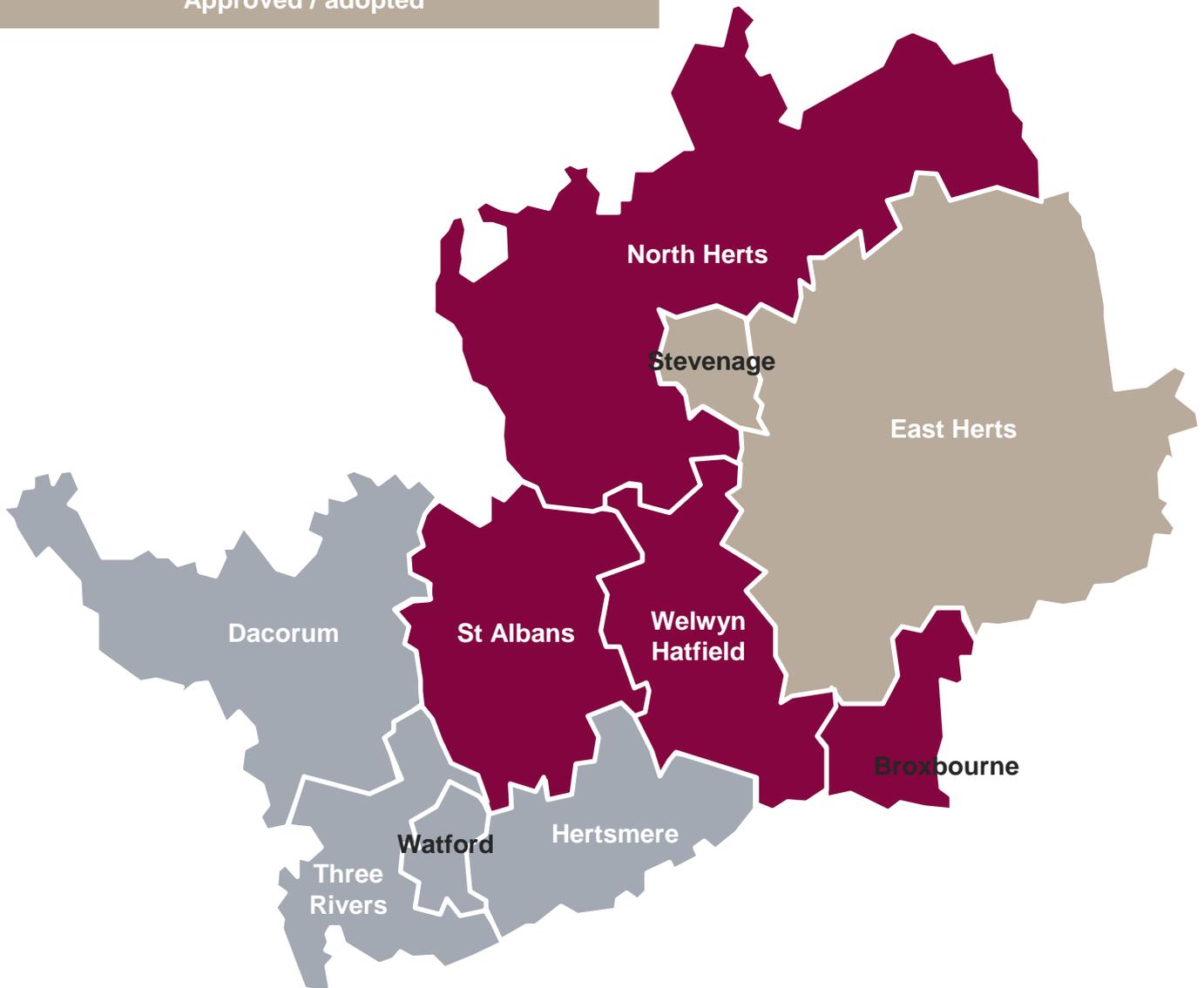
Regulation 18 – Public consultation

Regulation 19 – Publication of submission local plan

Regulation 22 – Submitted to Secretary of state

Regulation 24 – Examination

Approved / adopted



LOCAL AUTHORITY**CURRENT POSITION****Broxbourne**

- The Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for Independent Examination on 15 March 2018.
- Hearing sessions took place in late 2018, and the Inspector issued a post-hearing advice note in December. Within this advice note, the Inspector set out concerns in respect of a proposed garden suburb at Brookfield, describing the policy as not justified, effective, or consistent with national policy; and inviting the Council to propose modifications.
- The Council published a response to the Inspector's Post Hearings Advice Note on 25 February 2019, with further modifications proposed to in respect of the Brookfield Riverside policy; traveller site policy; and requirement for new policy, management plan and concept plan in respect of Brookfield and Turnford Brook.
- Matter 6 was resumed at a Hearing Session which took place on 11 June 2019 to discuss Policies & Proposals in Different Parts of the Borough (Brookfield).
- The Inspector published a note on 18 June detailing actions required following resumed Hearing Session Matter 6.1. It sets out a series of Actions Points requesting the Council to update the list of proposed main modifications published on 28 November 2018, and undertake Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment.
- On 31 July the Council published a consolidated schedule of main modifications.
- On 20 September 2019 the Council published the Sustainability Appraisal of proposed main modifications, and had anticipated that public consultation on this would start in October.
- On 16 December 2019, the Council published a series of examination documents for the Inspector's consideration; namely: Further Modifications since November 2018; Consolidated Schedule of Main Modifications; Additional Modifications (not subject to Examination); 'Tracked Changes' version of the Local Plan; 'Clean' Version of the Local Plan; Modifications to the Policies Map; HRA; and a Sustainability Appraisal. Alongside the release of these documents, the Council confirmed public consultation is anticipated early 2020.
- The Council sent the Inspector a letter (dated 17 December 2019) requesting the Inspector recommend modifications to the submitted Plan that would make it sound and legally compliant.
- On 20 December 2019, the Inspector wrote to the Council confirming that the Council's latest schedule of proposed main modifications, changes to the policies map and updated SA and HRA should be published for consultation. The public consultation will be for six weeks in January 2020 however an exact date for consultation is yet to be confirmed.

Dacorum

- A revised LDS has extended the timetable for consultation (Regulation 19) to June 2020, with subsequent delays meaning submission is anticipated in November 2020.
- The Council is working with St Albans District Council on proposals for the Hemel Garden Communities project, through which 10,000 new homes and jobs are anticipated to be delivered. The Council submitted a joint bid for Government support funding under the Garden Communities Fund in November 2018.
- Adoption of the Local Plan is anticipated for February 2022.
- In addition to the Council's own Local Plan, South West Hertfordshire Authorities (Hertsmere St Albans City and District, Three Rivers and Watford) have begun work on a Joint Strategic Plan (JSP). The JSP remains in its early stages, but is intended to properly coordinate and deliver infrastructure alongside housing and employment growth.

East Hertfordshire

- The Local Plan was adopted on 23 October 2018.

Hertsmere

- The Council opened an "engagement process" on the Council's Potential Site Document which ran until the 20 December 2018. This document was intended for 'engagement' rather than formal consultation.
- The Council is looking to agree their Pre-Submission Plan in Q2 of 2020.
- In addition to the Council's own Local Plan, South West Hertfordshire Authorities (Hertsmere St Albans City and District, Three Rivers and Watford) have begun work on a Joint Strategic Plan (JSP). The JSP remains in its early stages, but is intended to properly coordinate and deliver infrastructure alongside housing and employment growth.

North Hertfordshire

- The Local Plan was submitted for examination on the 9 June 2017.
- Hearing sessions took place in November 2017 and ended in March 2018.
- Following the Hearing Sessions, the Inspector has published his proposed main modifications to the plan and the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal.
- Consultation on the main modifications ran from Thursday 3 January to 11 April 2019.
- In May 2019, it was confirmed that the Inspector was currently reviewing and considering the representations made in response to the main modifications; and that once this is complete he will indicate the way forward for the Examination and the likely timescales.
- The Inspector has since written to the Council to set out the next stages of examination. The letter dated 9 July 2019 set out a number of issues and reservations in relation to the ongoing Examination of the Local Plan, with the intention of holding additional hearing sessions on a range of matters.
- North Hertfordshire District Council responded to the Inspector's letter on the 18 July requesting that within 21 days of the receipt of the letter that the Inspector inform the Council on the likely completion and timescales of the Inspector's representation review exercise.
- On 9 August 2019 the Inspector raised a number of additional questions to the Council, having concluded his review of the representations. This included asking the Council to respond to concerns that a number of Regulation 19 representations have been lost and not published, and consequently respondents have been excluded from the examination process.
- The Council responded to the Inspector's letter on 24 September 2019, advising that the Council intends to respond in full to all of the queries raised by Friday 29 November 2019 at the latest.
- On 29 November 2019, the Council provided further responses to the Inspector's letter of 9 July, as well as proposed modifications. Following this the Council provided a further response on 10 December responding specifically to Question 6 of the Inspector's letter dated 9 August 2019, with the response comprising a Statement of Common Ground between North Hertfordshire District Council and Hertfordshire County Council concerning education matters.
- The Inspector has confirmed he intends to issue a full list of matters on which additional hearing sessions are considered necessary, following the receipt of this advice.

St. Albans City and District

- The Council is working with Dacorum Borough Council on proposals for the Hemel Garden Communities project, through which 10,000 new homes and jobs are anticipated to be delivered. The Council submitted a joint bid for Government support funding under the Garden Communities Fund in November 2018.
- The Council submitted its Local Plan for examination in March 2019 with Inspectors Louise Crosby MA MRTPI and Elaine Worthington BA (Hons) MTP MUED MRTPI appointed by the Secretary of State.
- The Inspectors issued their Initial Questions on 17 April 2019, listing a number of concerns and citing missing information. The Council responded to the Inspectors Initial Questions and provisional hearing sessions were scheduled for w/c 14 October and w/c 21 October 2019 with the confirmation of the Programme and Inspectors' Matters Issues and Questions to be provided at least 6 weeks before the first hearing session.
- However, on 2 July 2019 the Inspectors wrote again to the Council, requesting further information and setting out a number of questions. The Council responded to the Inspector's questions through a letter dated 11 July, and formally submitted their response to the Planning Inspectorate on 6 August 2019.
- Subsequently, the Inspectors' Matters, Issues and Questions for the examination, along with a draft hearings timetable, have been published.
- Hearing sessions are scheduled to take place in two stages. Stage 1 will cover legal and strategic matters; whereas Stage 2 will focus on development management type policies.
- Stage 1 hearing sessions are scheduled to start on 21 January 2020.
- The examination will move on to stage 2 once the Inspectors are satisfied the Plan is legally compliant and capable of being found sound on matters considered at Stage 1.
- Adoption of the Plan was scheduled for Spring 2020, but such a timescale is considered unfeasible given the delays.
- In addition to the Council's own Local Plan, South West Hertfordshire Authorities (Hertsmere St Albans City and District, Three Rivers and Watford) have begun work on a Joint Strategic Plan (JSP). The JSP remains in its early stages, but is intended to properly coordinate and deliver infrastructure alongside housing and employment growth.

Stevenage

- The Stevenage Borough Local Plan 2011-2031 was adopted on 22 May 2019. The Local Plan replaces the District Plan (Second Review).

Three Rivers

- The Council published the latest Local Development Scheme on 22 October 2019. Publication of the Regulation 19 (pre-submission) iteration of the Local Plan is now scheduled for May 2020 – a slippage of 6 months from the previous timetable. Submission is now anticipated for December 2020 and examination January 2021.
- In addition to the Council's own Local Plan, South West Hertfordshire Authorities (Hertsmere St Albans City and District, Three Rivers and Watford) have begun work on a Joint Strategic Plan (JSP). The JSP remains in its early stages, but is intended to properly coordinate and deliver infrastructure alongside housing and employment growth.

**Watford**

- The Local Plan Issues & Options consultation ran until 19 October 2018.
- The First Draft Local Plan was published for consultation on Friday 27 September 2019 and ran until Friday 8 November 2019.
- The Final Draft Local Plan is due for consultation in summer 2020.
- Adoption of the plan is scheduled for summer 2021.
- In addition to the Council's own Local Plan, South West Hertfordshire Authorities (Hertsmere St Albans City and District, Three Rivers and Watford) have begun work on a Joint Strategic Plan (JSP). The JSP is still in its early stages, but is intended to properly coordinate and deliver infrastructure alongside housing and employment growth.

Welwyn Hatfield

- The Local Plan was submitted for Examination in May 2017.
- A number of examination hearing sessions stage have been undertaken between September 2017 in December 2018.
- Following a request from the Inspector, and concerns that the Green Belt had not previously been reviewed at a sufficient scale to conclude full development needs could not be met, the Council has been required to undertake further Green Belt assessment to explore the scope for additional housing sites to be identified.
- Further work has included an additional call for sites and consultation on the results.
- An Addendum to the Stage 3 Welwyn Hatfield Green Belt Study was prepared on 12 June 2019 in response to consultation on the consistency of the scorings and subdivision of parcels within the Welwyn Hatfield Stage 3 Green Belt Assessment (2018) and has been submitted to the examination.
- The Council has also prepared a Green Gap Assessment, on which it is consulting until 4 November 2019.
- The Council received a letter from the Planning Inspectorate on 8 August 2019 highlighting the failure on the Council's part to prepare and submit additional information requested by the Inspector within the proposed timeframe. The Inspector requested a revised timetable setting out realistic time periods and milestones for the conclusion of all outstanding tasks, including the Hearings.
- Dates for Stage 6 of the examination hearing sessions have now been confirmed as Tuesday 10, Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 December 2019.
- The Council has a target adoption date of June 2020.

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