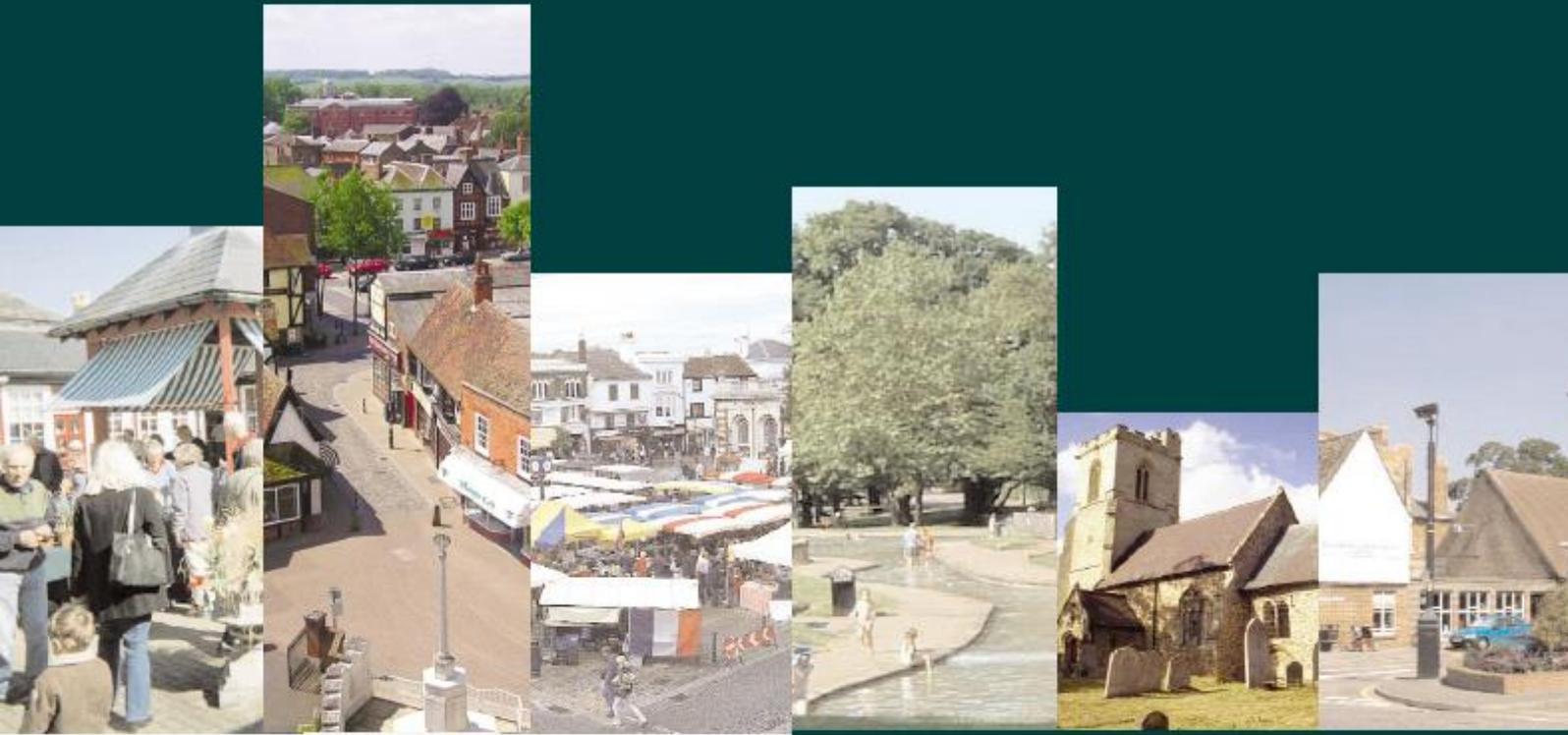


North Hertfordshire District Council



*Strategic Planning and Projects*



[www.north-herts.gov.uk](http://www.north-herts.gov.uk)

# Local Development Scheme

Timetable for producing  
a new Local Plan for  
North Hertfordshire  
April 2017

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**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 As the Local Planning authority, North Hertfordshire District Council has to prepare a Local Plan and keep it under review. The Local Plan has to set out the Council's plans for the area, including allocating sites for development, identifying areas to be protected from development and setting the policies to be used when determining planning applications.
- 1.2 A new Local Plan must proceed through four key stages:
- Preparation of the new plan
  - Publication of a final draft
  - Examination; and
  - Adoption
- 1.3 The Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out a timetable for the preparation of a local plan and other relevant documents.

## **2. Current position and the way forward for North Hertfordshire**

- 2.1 Planning applications have to be determined in accordance with the policies of the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. At present the statutory development plan for North Hertfordshire comprises:
- (i) Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan adopted in 2007 (HCC)
  - (ii) Hertfordshire Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Document, 2012 (HCC)
  - (iii) Hertfordshire Waste Site Allocations Document, 2014 (HCC)
  - (iv) Saved policies from the North Hertfordshire District Local Plan No. 2 with Alterations adopted 1996 (NHDC)
- 2.2 The County Council is at the early stages of reviewing the Minerals Local Plan, 2007 and undertook an initial consultation in 2015. It is anticipated that a review of the Minerals Local Plan would be adopted in 2019. The saved policies from the North Hertfordshire District Local Plan No. 2 with Alterations, adopted 1996 will be replaced by the North Hertfordshire Local Plan, following the timetable outlined in this Local Development Scheme.
- 2.3 The timetable for producing the new local plan for North Hertfordshire is summarised in Figure 2.
- 2.4 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the policies of the local plan were saved for three years from September 2004. Since September 2007, only certain policies have been saved, as listed in Figure 1.
- 2.5 These policies are now saved indefinitely, until such time as they are explicitly revoked by other documents. The policies need to be considered alongside policies in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Where policies are inconsistent with the NPPF, less weight will be applied to them.
- 2.6 There are four policies where the Council has identified an inconsistency between the Local Plan and the NPPF – these are noted in the table below. More details can be found on the Councils' website, [www.north-herts.gov.uk](http://www.north-herts.gov.uk).
- 2.7 In addition to the Local Plan, we have an existing suite of Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD). These SPG will be replaced by the new policies within the Local Plan or subject to review to ensure they are up-to-date and compliant with the NPPF and the new policies of the Local Plan.
- 2.8 A decision on whether to produce a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for North Hertfordshire is on hold until the Government clarify their intentions. A decision is anticipated during 2017.
- 2.9 Within NHDC, production of the plan is led by the Strategic Planning & Projects group, with input from the Local Plan Project Board and other internal departments as appropriate. The adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out how external parties and members of the public will be involved.
- 2.10 The Council produces annual monitoring reports which assess the effectiveness of the policies contained within the Local Plan. The Government's recent Planning White Paper proposes to formalise a requirement for local plans to be reviewed every five years.

**Figure 1: Saved Policies of Local Plan No. 2 with Alterations**

Policy	Title
2	Green Belt
3	Settlements within the Green Belt
4	North East Stevenage
5	Excluded villages
6	Rural areas beyond the Green Belt (inconsistent with NPPF)
7	Selected villages beyond the Green Belt
8	Development in towns
9	Royston's development limits
11	Chilterns AONB
14	Nature conservation
16	Areas of archaeological significance and other archaeological areas
19	Historic Parks and Gardens
21	Landscape and open space pattern in towns
25	Re-use of rural buildings (inconsistent with NPPF)
26	Housing proposals (inconsistent with NPPF)
28	House extensions
29	Rural housing needs
29a	Affordable housing for urban local needs
30	Replacement or extension of dwellings in the countryside
33	Relatives and staff accommodation
34	Caravans and mobile homes
36	Employment provision (inconsistent with NPPF)
37	Business uses (B1 Use Class)
39	Leisure uses
42	Shopping
43	Shopping areas in town centres

North Hertfordshire  
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<b>Policy</b>	<b>Title</b>
45	Shopfronts
47	General aviation
51	Developments effects and planning gain
55	Car parking standards
57	Residential guidelines and standards
58	Letchworth Garden City design principles

**Summary and Profile of the Local Plan**

**Figure 2: Local Plan**

<b>The Local Plan</b>	
Subject	This document will include the Council's spatial vision for North Hertfordshire, detailed planning policies against which planning applications will be assessed and land allocations (including housing, employment, retail, community and leisure facilities) for the District up to 2031. It will be closely linked to the priorities identified in the Sustainable Community Strategy for North Hertfordshire. The Proposals Map will show the geographical application of relevant policies on an Ordnance Survey map base.
Geographical area	North Hertfordshire District
Status	Local Plan
Chain of conformity	Must conform with national planning policy.
<b>Timetable for production</b>	<b>See also timeline in Figure 4</b>
Housing Options	February 2013 – March 2013
Housing Additional Location Options	July 2013 – August 2013
Preferred Options Consultation	December 2014 – January 2015
Proposed Submission Consultation	October 2016 – November 2016
Formal Submission to Secretary of State	May 2017

*Subsequent steps are subject to the timing and progress of the examination. This is the responsibility of the appointed Inspector and may change.*

Independent examination	September – December 2017
Consultation on Main Modifications arising from examination (if required)	February - March 2018
Final Inspector's report	May 2018
Adoption	June 2018

**Figure 3: Statement of Community Involvement**

<b>Statement of Community Involvement</b>	
Subject	This document sets out the Council's policy on involving the community in the preparation of policies and the determination of planning applications.
Geographical area	North Hertfordshire District
Status	Local Development Document
Chain of conformity	Must meet minimum standards set in legislation. All other documents must be produced in accordance with this document.
<b>Timetable for production</b>	
<p>Following changes in legislation and the Regulations, the Statement of Community (SCI) Involvement was revised and adopted by the Council in September 2015.</p> <p>It is the Council's intention to update the SCI in parallel with the Local Plan examination. This will provide additional guidance on how promoters and developers of significant sites should engage with the public as their schemes evolve prior to any application. This will include, but will not necessarily be limited to, the Strategic Sites identified in the plan.</p> <p>A draft SCI will be consulted on in Autumn 2017 and adopted in early 2018, subject to confirmation of the timing of the proposed examination of the Local Plan.</p>	

