



Local Development Scheme

Timetable for producing a new Local Plan for
North Hertfordshire

November 2022

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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) North Hertfordshire Local Plan 2011-2031
 - (ii) Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan adopted in 2007 (HCC)
 - (iii) Hertfordshire Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Document, 2012 (HCC)
 - (iv) Hertfordshire Waste Site Allocations Document, 2014 (HCC)
- 2.2 The North Hertfordshire Local Plan replaces the saved policies from the North Hertfordshire District Local Plan No. 2 with Alterations (adopted 1996). The County Council is currently reviewing its Minerals and Waste Local Plan documents. A new Minerals and Waste Local Plan is being prepared and is expected to be adopted in 2024.
- 2.3 Figure 1 summarises the stages and timescales that have been undertaken for the production of the North Hertfordshire Local Plan.
- 2.4 In addition to the Local Plan, we have existing Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) providing greater detail on the policies contained in the plan. Supplementary Planning Guidance has been replaced by the new policies within the Local Plan or subject to review to ensure they are up-to-date and compliant with the NPPF and the new policies of the Local Plan.
- 2.5 It was agreed at Cabinet in March 2021 that three new or revised SPDs will be produced in addition to the Developer Contributions SPD which has already been subject to public consultation. These include a re-scoped Design SPD, a Sustainability SPD (incorporating the previously approved Parking and Transport SPD) and a Biodiversity SPD.
- 2.6 Cabinet resolved in March 2021 to not pursue a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for North Hertfordshire at that time pending greater certainty on Government reforms.
- 2.7 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.
- 2.8 The Council produces annual monitoring reports which assess the effectiveness of the policies contained within the Local Plan. The Local Plan sets out a series of indicators and targets to assess the impact of the policies. Policy IMR1 sets out targets for housing delivery, and Policy IMR2 sets out that an early plan review will be undertaken by the end of 2023 to assess whether the Local Plan needs updating and to consider longer term requirements (See Figure 3). Notwithstanding this, the 2021 NPPF requires local plans to be reviewed every five years.

Summary and Profile of the Local Plan

Figure 1: Local Plan

The Local Plan	
Subject	This document includes 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. The Proposals Map shows 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.
Timetable for production	
Housing Options	February 2013 – March 2013 (Regulation 18)
Housing Additional Location Options	July 2013 – August 2013 (Regulation 18)
Preferred Options Consultation	December 2014 – January 2015 (Regulation 18)
Proposed Submission Consultation	October 2016 – November 2016 (Regulation 19)
Formal Submission to Secretary of State	June 2017 (Regulation 22)
Independent examination	June 2017– September 2022 (Regulation 24)
Consultation on Main Modifications arising from examination (if required)	Main Modifications and Additional Work Produced by the Council 2019: January- April 2019. Further Proposed Main Modifications and Additional Work produced by the Council 2021: May - June 2021
Final Inspector's report	September 2022 (Regulation 25)
Adoption	November 2022 (Regulation 26)

Figure 2: Statement of Community Involvement

Statement of Community Involvement	
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.
Timetable for production	
The current North Hertfordshire Statement of Community Involvement was formally adopted by the Council on 21 July 2020. The Statement of Community Involvement will be updated following adoption of the Local Plan.	

Figure 3: Local Plan Early Review

The Local Plan	
Subject	<p>An early review will be undertaken by the end of 2023 in accordance with Local Plan Policy IMR2. The purpose of the initial review is to assess whether the Local Plan needs updating.</p> <p>Whilst all policies will be reviewed, there will be a specific focus on certain matters that were identified during the preparation and examination of the Local Plan.</p> <p>The review will be undertaken in line with Government policy and legislation, bringing together current information and cross boundary implications.</p>
Geographical area	North Hertfordshire District
Status	Early Review of the Local Plan
Chain of conformity	Must conform with national planning policy.
Timetable for production	
	<p>Detailed timetable to follow but will be undertaken by the end of 2023.</p> <p>Subject to the outcomes of that initial review to assess whether the Local Plan needs updating, a new plan or policies will be prepared to a new plan period to at least 2041.</p>

Amendments to the Local Plan timetable from previous (2017) version of the Local Development Scheme:

- Reg. 22 Submission to the Secretary of State changed to June 2017 (was May 2017)
- Reg. 24 Independent examination changed to June 2017– September 2022 (was September to December 2017)
- Consultation on main modifications added May-June 2021 (not previously included)
- Reg. 25 Receipt of Inspector's final report changed to September 2022 (was May 2018)
- Reg. 26 Adoption of the Local Plan changed to November 2022 (was June 2018)