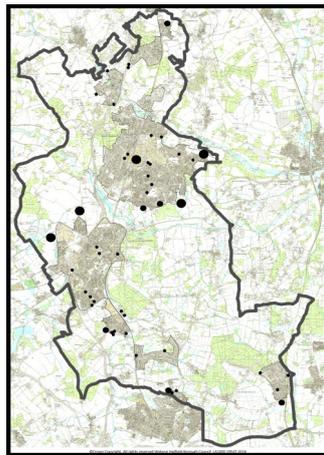




Welcome to Newsletter 7

Between January and March this year, we consulted with residents and key stakeholders on the Local Plan consultation document. The Sustainability Appraisal and a draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan were also out for consultation. Almost 6,000 comments were received, so many thanks to all of you who took the time to share your thoughts.



These sites, along with other emerging issues, were reported to the council's [Cabinet Housing and Planning Panel on 23 June 2015](#). Work will continue over the summer to assess these for their suitability.

New sites can be put forward until **14 August 2015**. After this date, we will be unable to assess any new Green Belt sites. Updates to the Local Plan evidence base are also being carried out. This is in preparation for a final draft of the Local Plan which we are aiming to consult on early next year.

The final draft will set out the sites we believe should be allocated for development.

What happens next?

We are now in the process of analysing these comments and identifying the key issues that need to be addressed. All the comments received can be viewed on our [website](#).

A number of new and revised sites for housing were promoted to us and some sites were withdrawn. These changes include:

- The withdrawal of the site in Hatfield north of Toms Field (HW12).
- 15 new Green Belt sites including a proposal for a new village of 1,100 homes to the north west of Hatfield at Symondshyde.
- 12 new sites within existing settlement boundaries and four extensions to existing Green Belt sites (BrP7, Cuf3, OMH5, and Wel11).
- Alternative options to two existing green belt sites (one in Welwyn Garden City and two in Cuffley).

Updates to the evidence base

Key pieces of our evidence will be updated. This includes the Strategic Housing Market Assessment which will be updated to take account of the latest demographic and economic projections.

The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is currently being updated to consider sites which contain floodplains. A Hertfordshire wide Water Study is out to tender. This will look at the implications of growth on water supply and sewage treatment works.

Further work on transport modelling for junctions 3 and 4 of the A1(M) is taking place. Other pieces of evidence to be updated include the Economy Study.



Local Plan Indicative Timeline

Review responses to Local Plan
consultation and further technical work
Revise policies
Summer- Winter 2015



Consultation on final draft Local Plan
Early 2016



Review responses to consultation and
submit for examination
Spring/ Summer 2016



Examination in Public
Autumn 2016



Examination Inspector's Report and
Adoption
Winter 2016/17

Your views matter

The final draft Local Plan document will go out to public consultation in early 2016 and will set out the sites we believe should be allocated for development. It is vital we hear what you think at that stage.

Your comments will be taken into account and we will then submit the plan to the independent Planning Inspectorate.

Following this, the draft Local Plan will undergo an Examination in Public where the proposals will be scrutinised by an independent inspector to ensure they are sustainable and in line with national planning policy and guidance.

INFORMATION

Planning Policy
Tel: 01707 357 000
Email: planningpolicy@welhat.gov.uk

The completed studies are available on the council's website, and as new studies are completed, they will also be published. Copies of all the documents can be found on our website: www.welhat.gov.uk/evidencebase

The latest report to Cabinet Housing and Planning Panel updating progress on the Local Plan can be found at: www.welhat.gov.uk/cabinethousingplanningpanel

Copies of the Statement of Community Involvement and Local Development Scheme can be found at: www.welhat.gov.uk/localplanningframework

Details of the latest planning consultations can be found at: www.welhat.gov.uk/planningconsultations

We welcome your views on Local Plan News so please send your comments by email as above, or in writing to:

Planning Policy
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
The Campus, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL8 6AE

