



### **Note to accompany publication of Green Belt Study Stage 3**

At the end of the Stage 2 hearing sessions in October 2017, the Inspector of the Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan identified a need for further work in relation to the Green Belt. The Council subsequently commissioned specialist consultants LUC to undertake this work.

The work, which is titled “Welwyn Hatfield Green Belt Study Stage 3”, is published in full in the online Examination Library. The Examination Document references are EX88B, EX88C and EX88D. The Study comprises the following:

1. Main Report
2. Figures
3. Appendices

The study has been published as three separate documents but these should be read together as a whole. It has been necessary to include appendices due to the volume of analysis involved in the completion of the study.

Now that the study has been completed the Inspector has indicated that the examination of the Local Plan is able to move forward.

The Green Belt Study Stage 3 is a key piece of evidence which will inform the next steps the Council takes in respect of the Local Plan and its examination, in particular the potential approach it decides to take in connection with reducing the housing shortfall against the identified Objectively Assessed Housing Need.

It is important to note that the study itself does not direct how the Council should move forward with the Local Plan. The study is limited to expanding the Council’s Green Belt evidence. Any subsequent decisions relating to the Local Plan will be made having regard to all relevant evidence and considerations, including but not limited to the updated Green Belt evidence.

The next steps proposed to be taken in respect of the Local Plan will be outlined to Cabinet Planning and Parking Panel on Thursday 6 September.

**24 August 2018**