

## **WELWYN HATFIELD LOCAL PLAN DPD EXAMINATION: NOVEMBER 2018**

### **Statement from CPRE Hertfordshire**

#### **STAGE 3 GREEN BELT REVIEW**

1. I am Stephen Baker, DMS, BSc, Dip TP, MRTPI, Planning Manager at Campaign to Protect Rural England, Hertfordshire (CPREH).
2. This statement relates to the Inspector's invitation by way of the email of 24 August 2018 from the Programme Officer to comment on Welwyn Hatfield Council's Green Belt Study Stage 3 (Examination Documents EX88 A to D).
3. At the date of its publication on the examination website, the Council had not considered how the Study would be interpreted and used in responding to the issues raised by the Inspector at the end of Stage 2 of the examination, and CPREH understands that the Council had made no such decisions by the date this statement had to be sent to meet the submission deadline of 18 September 2018.
4. No additional indication has been provided of the scope of comments on the Green Belt Study documents that the Inspector is seeking. Given the amount of documentation and the detail included in both written and map form, CPREH has not been able to consider the content adequately to enable us to set out our concerns by the above deadline, and in the absence of any indication of how the Study may be used by the Council to support its proposals in the Local Plan or to propose modifications to it for consideration at the examination hearing session now programmed to commence on 6 November 2018, we may not be able to do so for some time.
5. In the light of the above, we have written to seek a further time period for the submission of comments.
6. In the event that there will be no further opportunity provided to submit written comments to the examination on this matter prior to the November hearing date, we are likely to wish to participate in discussion of several aspects of the Green Belt Study, including in particular the methodology, the interpretation of national Green Belt policy and purposes, the findings of the Study on 'washed-over' settlements, harm to the Green Belt, new settlements, 'essential' Green Belt, and the Study's conclusions and recommendations.

CPRE Hertfordshire: 14 September 2018