

TITLE OF REPORT: STRATEGIC PLANNING MATTERS - ADDENDUM

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, HOUSING AND ENTERPRISE
PORTFOLIO HOLDER: COUNCILLOR DAVID LEVETT

1. SUMMARY

1.1 This report forms an addendum to the '*North Hertfordshire Local Plan*' section of the Strategic Planning Matters Report (Item 7) in relation to paragraphs 8.10 to 8.13. It seeks to provide an indicative timetable outlining the work to be undertaken for the preparation of the proposed submission draft of the Local Plan and includes suggested amendments to the recommendations at Section 2 of the main report.

2. NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE LOCAL PLAN – INDICATIVE WORK PROGRAMME

2.1 As stated in the main report at paragraph 8.11, having assessed the representations submitted to the Preferred Options, the next 6 months will be spent working towards a proposed submission draft of the Local Plan. In order to ensure that the proposed submission version of the Local Plan meets the Regulations and the tests of soundness, it will be important for the Council to demonstrate a clear and transparent Development Strategy that ensures consideration is given to all options including alternatives when assessing its site allocations as well as ensuring that the policies are NPPF compliant and are supported by an up to date evidence base.

2.2 In working towards a clear and transparent development strategy, key areas of work will include:

- (i) Updating the North Hertfordshire Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment in light of new sites submitted as part of the Preferred Options consultation.
- (ii) Reviewing the site allocations and addressing the issues emerging from the representations including:
 - Assessing the sites in terms of the 14,400 Objectively Assessed Need housing figure for North Hertfordshire;
 - Updating the Green Belt Review;
 - Undertaking further transport modelling work and other infrastructure requirements, such as education, water studies;
 - Undertaking historic assessments to meet Historic England's requirements, raised in their representations;
 - Undertaking further environmental and ecological assessments where required to address statutory consultee requirements.
- (iii) Reviewing settlement boundaries within the Green Belt and beyond.
- (iv) Reviewing and updating the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA).

- (v) Identifying key issues that will need to be discussed and resolved with neighbouring authorities and statutory consultees under the duty to cooperate. A key issue will be addressing the unmet housing needs for Luton as outlined in the main report. It is proposed for the sake of clarity that recommendation 2.2 in the main report is amended to reflect the proposed 2,100 dwellings to be put forward as a reasonable allowance East of Luton for Luton's unmet housing need as proposed in the Preferred Options.

2.3 In ensuring that the policies are NPPF compliant, and in addition to amending certain parts of the plan, key areas of work include reviewing the:

- Retail and town centre section;
- Heritage Strategy;
- Transport section;
- Housing and Green Belt sections in relation to the site allocation work;
- Green space and sport standards following completion of the Indoor and Outdoor Sport Study commissioned earlier this year; as well as
- Infrastructure and delivery section which includes reviewing the master plan policy, updating the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and undertaking a whole plan viability to ensure that the plan can be delivered.

2.4 A proposed submission draft of the Local Plan will be presented to Full Council in July 2016. A next steps report together with a revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) will be presented to Cabinet in December and Full Council in January. This report will provide more detail on the development strategy and the emerging work as well as outlining identified associated risks. The LDS will provide an update on the timetable for producing the Local Plan. It is proposed that reference to the revised LDS is added to the recommendations in the main report.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That the recommendation as stated at paragraph 2.1 in the main report remains unaltered.

3.2 That the recommendation at 2.2 be amended as follows:

2.2 That Cabinet acknowledges that the Objectively Assessed Need for housing for North Hertfordshire District is 14,400 dwellings for the period 2011 to 2031. This excludes the allowance of 2,100 dwellings to meet the unmet housing needs of Luton as set out in paragraph 8.10.

3.3 That an additional recommendation be added at 2.3:

2.3 That a next steps report including a revised Local Development Scheme outlining the timetable for producing the Local Plan is presented to Cabinet at its meeting on 15 December 2015 and to Full Council on 21 January 2016.