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#### NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

9 December 2025 Our Ref Letchworth Community Forum 17

December 2025

Contact. Community and Partnerships Team

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To: Members of the Area Forum: Councillors Sadie Billing (Chair), Tamsin Thomas (Vice-Chair), Amy Allen, Daniel Allen, Tina Bhartwas, David Chalmers, Mick Debenham, Emma Fernandes, Ian Mantle, Sean Nolan, Sean Prendergast and Claire Winchester

#### NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A

#### MEETING OF THE LETCHWORTH COMMUNITY FORUM

to be held in the

# LETCHWORTH LIBRARY, BROADWAY, LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY, SG6 3PF

On

WEDNESDAY, 17TH DECEMBER, 2025 AT 7.30 PM

Yours sincerely,

Isabelle Alajooz Director – Governance

#### \*\*MEMBERS PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU DOWNLOAD ALL AGENDAS AND REPORTS VIA THE MOD.GOV APPLICATION ON YOUR TABLET BEFORE ATTENDING THE MEETING\*\*

#### Agenda <u>Part I</u>

Item **Page** 1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** 2. **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS** Members are reminded that any declarations of interest in respect of any business set out in the agenda, should be declared as either a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Declarable Interest and are required to notify the Chair of the nature of any interest declared at the commencement of the relevant item on the agenda. Members declaring a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest must withdraw from the meeting for the duration of the item. Members declaring a Declarable Interest, wishing to exercise a 'Councillor Speaking Right', must declare this at the same time as the interest, move to the public area before speaking to the item and then must leave the room before the debate and vote. 3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - GRANT APPLICATION** (Pages 5 - 12) To consider a community grant application for recommendation to the Executive Member for Governance. LETCHWORTH BID UPDATE 4. To receive a verbal update from the Letchworth BID on their work in Letchworth town centre. 5. PRESENTATION - NORTH HERTS COUNCIL'S DRAFT TOWN CENTRES (Pages 13 - 26) STRATEGY Presentation on North Herts Council's Draft Town Centres Strategy from a council representative, followed by Q&A. PRESENTATION - MARTIN GROUP'S PUBLIC CONSULTATION FOR 6. (Pages EMERGING MASTERPLAN FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF GARDEN 27 - 36) **SQUARE SHOPPING CENTRE** Martin Group will be presenting details of their public consultation relating to the emerging Masterplan for the redevelopment of the Garden Square Shopping Centre for feedback and ideas. This forms part of their public consultation which ends at 5pm, 8th January 2026. Mike Martin from Martin Property Group and John Bradley from Studio4Design architects will be

INFORMATION NOTE ON PROPOSED PARKING TARIFF INCREASES

Information note to inform the Community Forum of the proposed parking

tariff increases for 2026/27 initial option. For the Community Forum to provide

(Pages

37 - 44)

presenting.

7.

any views on the initial proposed car parking tariff increases as set out in Appendix A.

#### 8. COMMUNITY UPDATE

(Pages

To provide the Forum with an update to ensure Members are kept informed 45 - 46) of the work of the Community and Partnerships Team.

#### 9. WARD MATTERS & OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

To receive any verbal reports from Members and questions from members of the public regarding Ward matters and Outside Organisations.

#### 10. FUTURE AREA FORUMS

To discuss topics for future meetings.



### Agenda Item 3

#### REPORT (FOR RECOMMENDATION & NOTING BY COMMUNITY FORUM)

### DATE 17 DECEMBER 2025

#### \*PART 1 - PUBLIC DOCUMENT

#### SERVICE DIRECTORATE: GOVERNANCE

#### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To advise the Community Forum on the current expenditure and balances of the Community Grant budget.
- 1.2 To bring to the Forum's attention details of recent requests received for Community grant funding, made by community groups and local organisations.
- 1.3 To enable Forum Members to make recommendations to the Executive Member for Governance (formally Community & Partnerships), the Leader on grant applications.
- 1.4 To advise the Forum of the activities and schemes with which Community & Partnerships officers have been involved in and some important community-based activities that will take place during the next few months.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

#### THAT THE COMMUNITY FORUM:

- 2.1 Considers and notes the information within this report.
- 2.2 Makes recommendations to the Executive Member for Governance on the grant applications detailed below.
- 2.3 Home-Start Hertfordshire £1,470 towards hall hire and healthy eating refreshments for their Letchworth Family Group sessions, for a 12-month period.

#### 3. BACKGROUND/ RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Community Grant budget for Letchworth Community Forum 2025/26 is £18,900.
- 3.2 Community grant payments totalling **£4,598** have been made to date, as itemised in Appendix 1.
- 3.3 The remaining budget available for community grants for the Letchworth area for 2025/26 therefore stands at £14,302.

#### 4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Following the decision of Full Council on 18 April 2023, a Community Forum shall consider applications for community grants in its area and make recommendations to the Executive Member for Community & Partnerships (now Governance) on them.

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The Executive Member is the Leader of the Council and has delegated authority to make these Executive decisions under section 14.6.9(b)(iii)A of the constitution, in consultation with the Service Director: Governance. That decision will be subject to a 5 clear working day call-in period, following publication in the Members Information Service (MIS) and on the Council's website.

- 4.2 The Terms of Reference of the Community Forum can be found in Section 9 of the constitution which states that the forum will 'consider and act as an advisory body to the relevant Executive Member responsible for grants who approves these (in consultation with the relevant Director)'.
- 4.3 Other issues raised in this report are for information and noting and therefore no direct legal implications arise.

#### 5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 As outlined in Appendix 1 and under item 3.3 the Community Grant budget available is £14,302.
- 5.2 The total amount of funding requested for this meeting is £1,470.
- 5.3 If the application outlined in Appendix 2 is recommended by the Forum and subsequently approved by the Executive Member for Governance there would be £12,832 available for Community Grants for the remainder of the 2025-2026 financial year.

#### 6. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Good risk management supports and enhances the decision-making process, increasing the likelihood of the Council meeting its objectives and enabling it to respond quickly and effectively to change. When taking decisions, risks and opportunities must be considered.
- There are no relevant risk entries that have been recorded on Ideagen Risk Management, the Council's performance and risk system. Individual events should have their own risk assessments in place to mitigate any health and safety issues. Whenever a request for grant funding for equipment is received, the recipient of the funding will be advised to obtain insurance for the item to avoid a repeat request for funding in the event of the equipment being stolen or damaged. There are no pertinent risk implications for the Authority associated with any items within this report.

#### 7. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 7.2 Community Grant funds are awarded to community groups that clearly demonstrate positive impact on the community and wider environment. The projects outlined in this report seek to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

#### 8. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The Social Value Act and "go local" policy do not apply to the matters contained within this report, as there are no recommendations on procurement.

#### 9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

#### 10. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The activities of the Community & Partnerships team are covered by existing budgets.

#### 11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 Terms of Reference for Community Forums, Section 9 of the Council Constitution updated May 2024.
- 11.2 Community Grants Criteria Policy March 2025.

#### 12. APPENDICES

- 12.1 Appendix 1. Letchworth Grant Budget 25-26
- 12.2 Appendix 2. Home-Start Hertfordshire
- 12.3 Appendix 3. Community Updates

#### 13. CONTACT OFFICERS

#### 13.1 Author

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#### **LETCHWORTH COMMUNITY FORUM**

#### **SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION 2025/26**

Original Budget	Carry Forward Budget	Total Funding		Unallocated
2025/26	2024/25	2025/26	<b>Grants Allocated</b>	Budget
£18,900		£18,900	£4,598	£14,302

#### **FUNDED PROJECTS**

<u>Project</u>	Forum Date	Grant Allocated
Saracens Sport Foundation - dance project for women over 50 (at Jackmans Community		
Centre)	25th July 2025	£1,508
Letchworth Educational Settlement - setting up sewing starter course	25th July 2025	£1,590
<b>Resolve</b> - key worker staff members who run group therapy and key work sessions	24th September 2025	£1,500
, , , , ,		
TOTAL LETCHWORTH COMMUNITY FORUM		£4,598



#### =Document Control:

Version	Issue Date	Changes	
1.0	NA	First Draft (BE)	

Reference	6149	]					
Name of Organisation	Home-Sta	Home-Start Hertfordshire					
Organisation Type	Registered	d Charity					
Ward	Letchworth	n South					
Project Type	Family Su	pport					
Green option	N/A						
considered?							
NHC Councillor	None known						
involvement that may							
constitute a conflict of							
interest							
Previous financial	2024						
support within six years	• £2,	060 Letchv	vortl	h Communi	ty Foru	m	
	• £2,	060 Baldoo	ck C	ommunity F	orum		
	• £2,	058 Hitchir	n Co	mmunity Fo	orum		
Documentation reviewed and	Safeguard	ling		Yes	Acco	unts	Yes
approved*	Demonstra	ates clear		Yes			
αρριστοι	governance						
Total applied for	£1,4	170	Tot	tal project c	ost	£15,0	65
_	Officer Summary						

Home-Start Hertfordshire (HSH) deliver high quality services to support families in Hertfordshire through challenging times. They step in to support parents through their difficulties as early as possible, helping them grow in confidence and build support networks in their community. HSH is a self-funded charity, working alongside statutory provision. Over 75% of referrals to HSH come from Statutory Services.

HSH are applying for funding towards their Letchworth Family Group at Howard Memorial Hall, where they deliver 2-hour sessions, 35 times a year. It is run by a Family Group Leader (staff), to ensure safeguarding, and two volunteer family mentors.

The total cost of running the sessions for a 12-month period is £15,065, which includes staff costs, equipment/materials, and overheads. They are applying for £1,470 to cover hall hire and healthy eating refreshments for the year. The remaining £13,595 will be funded by Letchworth Heritage Foundation and fundraising such as a gala dinner and Big Give campaign.

This will support around 10-15 Letchworth families, including around 10-15 adults and 10-15 children under 5. Therefore, approximately 20-30 people would directly benefit.

Through this work, HSH help families face their challenges; they help them build confidence, learn coping strategies and become stronger family units. With their support and signposting, parents are more able to offer their children the best start. It also allows children to play and socialise each week, with others of a similar age and for some, it is the only opportunity to do so.

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<sup>\*</sup>Funding will only be released on receipt and approval of all supporting documentation



#### Information Report for Noting and Discussion by the Community Forum

### LETCHWORTH COMMUNITY FORUM 17 DECEMBER 2025

#### DRAFT TOWN CENTRES STRATEGY FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

SERVICE DIRECTORATE: PLACE

#### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform the Community Forum of the draft Town Centres Strategy agreed by Cabinet at its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025 for public consultation in December and January.

#### 2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The adopted Local Plan 2011-2031 stipulates that the Council "prepare and maintain upto-date town centre strategies to support its strategic policy approach and / or adapt to change. These will be used to inform the approach to retail at the time of the early review of the Local Plan."
- 2.2 As such, we are preparing an overarching Town Centres Strategy to
  - provide additional guidance to current Local Plan Policies: ETC3: New retail, leisure, and other main town centre development, ETC4: Primary Shopping Frontages, ETC5: Secondary Shopping Frontages and SP4: Town Centres, Local Centres and Community Shops.
  - Set out the Council's planning priorities for its town centres which can be given appropriate weight in relevant planning decisions; and
  - Act as a 'bridging document' pending the approved review of the Local Plan.

#### 3.0 OVERVIEW OF THE CONSULTATION DRAFT STRATEGY

- 3.1 In summary, the draft Strategy:
  - Incorporates advice on a range of changes in national policy and guidance and takes account of the updated evidence in the Town Centres and Retail Study (2024).
  - Addresses the relevant policy criteria identified in the adopted Local Plan by providing more robust guidance for developers and stakeholders that should be taken into consideration for any type of development or improvements within the town centres to promote their vitality and viability.
  - Is a planning-led document and should be read in conjunction with relevant policies in the adopted Local Plan whilst also taking into consideration other important Council Strategies and projects, such as the emerging Economic Development Strategy, the Churchgate project, the Council Plan and the

Council's Sustainability Strategy. All these documents together contribute towards the Council's overall strategy for its town centres.

- Has been prepared following similar principles to a Supplementary Planning Document including reference to relevant policies and evidence and stakeholder engagement in its preparation and will be subject to Cabinet approval and public consultation.
- Provides the overall direction of travel with clear policy guidance and priorities for each town centre to guide developers when submitting planning applications and other town centre improvements. It is based on a sound evidence base with clear connections to published policy and supplementary planning documents, including other Council and external organisations documents. These together inform the Strategy and contribute towards meeting the Council's Plan and the Local Plan goals and vision.
- 3.2 The Strategy covers a range of town centre topics including land use capacities and distributions, mixed-use needs, vacancy reoccupation, public realm quality, heritage preservation, sustainable transport, connectivity, active travel, and community facilities and community well-being.
- 3.3 The draft Strategy covers all four town centres of the district: Hitchin, Letchworth Garden City, Royston, and Baldock, with considerations and implications for the surrounding context of each centre. It sets out the Council's vision for the town Centres across four generic themes: land use and retail, built environment, transport access and movement and communities.
- 3.4 The Strategy is delivery and development focussed. **Part 1** sets out the purpose of the Strategy providing a comprehensive overview and summary of the Council's evidence base for development in and affecting town centres. This section will assist landowners, architects, planners, and stakeholders bringing forward development proposals in understanding the relevant context for North Herts' town centres.
- 3.5 In order to bridge the gap between current and emerging Local Plans and to provide further details and guidance to support compliance with relevant town centre policies in the existing Local Plan, **Part 2** sets out a series of Guidance Notes. These Guidance Notes provide supplementary information to inform planning applications for development proposals affecting town centres.
- 3.6 Each of North Herts' town centres have specific strengths and weaknesses, offering their own unique offer and **Part 3** provides a vision statement, summary of key priorities for each centre including development opportunities for larger parcels of land and how these could be taken forward through partnership working. An extract from Part 3 of the Strategy incorporating Letchworth Garden City at section 3B is attached at **Appendix 1** and should be read alongside other parts of the Strategy.
- 3.7 **Part 4** identifies opportunities to support the vitality and viability of the town centres and proposes further actions together with several funding and delivery options that the Council could consider in delivering the ambitions set out within the draft Strategy. The effective delivery of the Strategy will require the Council to work closely with several partners and stakeholders. It is proposed to gauge the support of key identified partners

and stakeholders through the formal consultation process of the Strategy. This will be important in terms of delivering the identified priorities for each of the town centres and the recommended further actions. This approach will help inform a clearer, action-oriented delivery plan to be included in the final version that can be subject to regular review and update.

- 3.8 The **appendices** to the draft Strategy comprise:
  - Appendix 1: providing a full reference list and hyperlinks to the comprehensive evidence base at Part 1.
  - Appendix 2: outlines the Town Centre Policy Direction recommending alterations to the adopted Local Plan given the significant changes in retail floorspace demand, changes in use classes and other policy recommendations identified in the 2024 Retail and Town Centre Study. This has informed the guidance principles outlines in Part 2 of the draft Strategy, but its recommendations will be formally considered and taken forward through the Local Plan review.
  - Appendix 3: includes further background evidence notes for each of the town centres to be read alongside Part 3.
- 3.9 The full draft Strategy can be viewed on the Council's Website at <u>Town centres strategy</u> | North Herts Council
- 3.10 Appendix 1 of this Information note is an extract from Part 3 of the Strategy incorporating Letchworth Garden City at section 3B. It is to be noted that all parts of the Strategy should be read alongside the respective town centre section outlined in Part 3.

#### 4.0 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The consultation period will run from **3 December 2025 to 30 January 2026.** This will be through an online consultation platform available on the Council's website.
- 4.2 We encourage, members, local businesses, organisations and residents to submit their comments via the Council's consultation platform 'Placemaker' or visit our <u>website</u> for more information. Request for any further information regarding the draft Strategy or the consultation period should be made through the following email address: towncentres@north-herts.go.uk
- 4.3 The draft Strategy will be a topic for discussion at all Town Community Forums through December affording wider public consultation in addition to consulting with key stakeholders, local businesses and members of the public registered on the Council's Local Plan data base.
- 4.4 A leaflet outlining the details of where to view the consultation documentation, together with a QR code link to the Council's website will be available as a handout at the Community Forum.

4.5 The consultation will be widely publicised on the Council's website and through various social media channels. Members will also have been informed through Members Information Service (MIS)

#### 5.0 NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 Following the public consultation, any comments received will inform the final version of the Strategy which would then be re-presented to Cabinet for approval and adoption at an appropriate time in early 2026. The final version of the Strategy will be desktop published with graphics, photos and designed as a readable and well-presented document.
- 5.2 If / once adopted, the Town Centres Strategy would be a material planning consideration for relevant planning applications and would supersede the Council's previous town centre strategies for Baldock, Hitchin, Letchworth Garden City and Royston prepared between 2004 and 2008.

#### 6.0 APEPNDICES

6.1 Appendix 1 - Extract from Part 3: Individual Town Centre Strategies - Section 3B Letchworth Garden City (North Hertfordshire Town Centres Strategy draft for public consultation 21.10.2025)

#### **CONTACT OFFICERS**

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Michael Nartey, Senior Planning Officer michael.nartey@north-herts.gov.uk

#### **APPENDIX 1**

- Extract from Part 3: Individual Town Centre Strategies - Section 3B Letchworth Garden City (North Hertfordshire Town Centres Strategy draft for public consultation 19.11.2025)

#### Part 3: Individual Town Centre Strategies

#### Introduction

The following strategies for North Hertfordshire's individual towns focus on a concise series of key priorities for the town centres, that will work alongside the Guidance Notes set out in Part 2 to steer development and investment in and surrounding Hitchin, Letchworth, Royston and Baldock.

The priorities identified provide a focus and key actions for the Council, and work within the planning policy context of the Council's adopted Local Plan 2011-2031, ahead of the new Local Plan. Part 4 also sets out further District-wide initiatives for the Council to undertake alongside the key priorities identified. The Council may wish to revisit these sections and update the priorities in due course as actions are undertaken and new opportunities emerge.

The key priorities are informed by the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis for each town, based on the context and evidence summarised in Part 1 and Appendix 3 alongside consultations, ranging from residents to stakeholder workshops, undertaken during the Town Centre and Retail Study (2024), as well as subsequent meetings with Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), landowners and stakeholders.

Consideration of the suitability of planning obligations will be particularly relevant where proposals impact town centres, either through trade diversion or any increases in the number of visitors or users of existing or proposed town centre services. Part 4 sets out how the Council may also seek to explore alternative funding options including national government funding opportunities, private investment, or direct funding allocations from District Council or County Council budgets to deliver identified priorities.

The strategies' key priorities identify opportunities to support vitality and viability of the town centres.

This strategy has been developed with a planning and delivery focus, setting out next steps and actions to bring forward the key priorities. One area that this can be achieved is through financial contributions from developments that would affect the town centres in the form of planning obligations. It is noted that Section 106 sets out the tests for requesting planning obligations<sup>1</sup>, in accordance with Regulation 122 of The Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010. It is not for strategies such as this, to specifically set out formulaic requests for such financial contributions, which would be subject to viability and costings via the Council or applicant.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Planning obligations assist in mitigating the impact of unacceptable development to make it acceptable in planning terms. Planning obligations may only constitute a reason for granting planning permission if they meet the tests that are necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms. They must be:

<sup>•</sup> necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms;

<sup>•</sup> directly related to the development; and

<sup>•</sup> fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.

#### **3B: Letchworth Garden City**

Further information on Letchworth Garden City town centre is found in Appendix 3B: Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Evidence Notes.

#### **Identity**

Letchworth Garden City (Letchworth) is a unique town centre as a result of its origins as an intensively planned town – the world's first Garden City – founded in the early twentieth century. By following masterplan principles to balance high quality residential homes with nature pursuits, local employment and accessible transport, the areas of open space, commercial land uses and housing are integrated and convenient to one another. Detailed buildings contribute to the town centre's unique flair, as the concept of the Garden City incited innovation and competitive design.

The Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation owns a large proportion of the town centre land and assets, and are involved in the visioning, development and investments of the town's future. Such a large volume of ownership to a single organisation is unique compared to the other town centres and stimulates different commercial decisions and town-centre-wide interventions. This single ownership also provides a key point of difference, providing opportunities for broader strategic alignment.

Letchworth is the only town centre with a railway station directly within its boundary and allows visitors to immediately arrive to the centre. The town centre, although hosting wide, accessible and pleasant footpaths, is spread without a distinct core. There is a variety of uses throughout the town centre, shops, residential flats, restaurants, cafes, with a range of budget priced comparison retail. Letchworth is positioned as an important town centre demonstrating Garden City principles, opportunities for recreation and leisure, and a balanced offer.

More recently, Letchworth is part of Hertfordshire County Council's Sustainable Travel Town programme, which aims to bring forward a series of measures to reshape the local highways network and achieve a significant switch to walking, cycling and public transport.

#### Vision

Letchworth will maintain and develop the town centre for civic and social life, connected by accessible public transport networks through leadership, sense of place, and enterprise. Letchworth will: support the future of arts and heritage; will be a great place to live, visit and shop in; will increase residents life chances; and will be a protagonist in raising investment for the local economy; uphold and promote Garden City principles, and therefore its unique identity, as the first of its kind.

#### **SWOT Analysis**

Summary of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats

#### **Strengths**

- 1. Letchworth is a compact well-defined centre with a natural circuit for shoppers. The centre has a relatively pleasant shopping environment.
- 2. The large Morrisons food store is an important anchor store catering for main and topup food shopping.
- 3. Letchworth has retained a reasonable range of comparison goods shops, although this has declined and there is a lower representation of comparison retailers than Hitchin.
- 4. The Arcade, The Wynd and other secondary areas provide a good range of interesting specialist retailers.
- 5. The centre is easily accessible by a range of modes of transport, with a railway station located within the town centre. Car access is also convenient with several centrally located car parks.
- 6. Movement around the centre on foot is supported by wide pavements and pedestrianised areas, and Letchworth is one of the County Council's Sustainable Travel Towns.
- 7. The centre is attractively landscaped giving the centre a sense of spaciousness. Environmental improvements have enhanced the overall attractiveness of the centre.
- 8. Much of the town centre is consolidated under the sole ownership of the Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation, which provides a simpler single point of contact and greater opportunities for longer-term strategies.

#### Weaknesses

- 9. The proportion of vacant units is significantly above the national average, with vacancies spread across the centre, which suggest the supply of units is currently greater than operator demand.
- 10. The centre has a lower number of national multiples when compared with Hitchin and other larger centres in the sub-region such as Cambridge and Welwyn.
- 11. Like many centres of a similar size, Letchworth has lost most of its banks and building societies.
- 12. Leakage of higher value comparison spend to other centres within and beyond District

#### **Opportunities**

- 13. Letchworth has a reasonably large and affluent population, which presents an opportunity to claw-back leakage from this catchment by improving its current offer.
- 14. The vacant premises across the centre could provide an opportunity to consolidate retail, redevelop and accommodate new facilities.

- 15. The new Emil Dale Academy school recently opened, providing another source of footfall within the centre and an opportunity to cater to the new student population.
- 16. The Broadway Cinema helps to boost the evening economy, but this facility could be improved and the number of visitors optimised.
- 17. There remains a number of opportunity sites within the town centre, including the potential regeneration of Garden Square Shopping Centre, which could accommodate new retail/leisure uses that could help to retain more expenditure and customers in the area.
- 18. There are a number of open and green spaces in close proximity to the town centre that would provide a draw to the centre (if supported by necessary routes and linkages) in keeping with the town's Garden City principles.

#### **Threats**

- 19. The continued rationalisation and restructuring of national multiples could lead to the closure of outlets. Multiple operators could seek to focus on (sub-)regional centres such as Stevenage, Cambridge and Luton rather than Letchworth.
- 20. Prominent town centre units are vacant with a lack of interest from suitable (main town centre uses) occupiers, held back by various heritage, conservation and planning constraints, with a risk of long term or repeat vacancies.
- 21. The District Council's offices are located adjacent to the centre, providing a steady stream of workers in the centre each day. In the long-term, potential Local Government Reorganisation could impact the need for this office space.

#### <u>Key Priorities – Letchworth Garden City Town Centre</u>

Theme	Priority area	Actions / Planning considerations	Responsibility
A  • Land use and retail  • Built environment	Town centre development opportunities and allocations (Garden Square Shopping Centre and Arena Parade)	• Through the Council's development management role in the planning system, the Council will assess proposals associated with the development of Garden Square and Arena Parade (Local Plan Allocation LG21) as a Significant Development in accordance with Local Plan Policy SP9 and the Guidance Notes identified in Part 2. This would require the preparation of a strategic masterplan demonstrating how the developments could:  - provide a mix of flexible and adaptable units that would enable future reoccupation by a range of town centre uses, as well a mix of accommodation to increase the town centre's resident population;  - strategically target a mix of retail, food and beverage, and leisure operators, including recognition and assessment of the impact of any potential overlap of catchments for leisure uses;  - demonstrate consideration of the inclusion of community facilities, including the potential for a primary care/health hub;  - improve pedestrian and active travel permeability through the site and surrounding area, such as introducing street patterns to increase legibility	NHDC (as Local Planning Authority (LPA) development management)  Future development partners

		<ul> <li>support the ongoing vitality of the town centre by increasing potential for visitors and footfall, including the promotion of active travel to the centre; and</li> <li>ensure any scheme facilitates and does not prejudice further sites being brought forward in the future.</li> </ul>	
B • Land use and retail	Repurposing of vacant units	• Through the Council's development management role in the planning system, the Council will seek to address higher levels of vacancy by giving positive weight to the repurposing of vacant units by uses that contribute to the vitality and viability of the centre as a material benefit to be weighed against limited loss of floorspace or limited harm to heritage assets in the determination of planning applications.	NHDC (as Local Planning Authority (LPA) development management) Landowners Future development partners Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation
C  • Land use and retail  • Community	The Wynd	• Through the Council's development management role in the planning system, the Council will give positive weight to new uses and formats (including non-main town centre uses) in the Wynd where it can be demonstrated that they would contribute to the character of the street (to be weighed against any loss of main town centre uses and floorspace).	NHDC (as Local Planning Authority (LPA) development management
D  • Land use and retail	Evening economy	Through the Council's development management role in the planning system, the Council will give positive weight to	NHDC (as Local Planning Authority (LPA)

• Community		innovative commercial uses that contribute to the nighttime economy, particularly options for young people, when supported by	development management) Love Letchworth
		evidence of viability, long-term vacancies, preventing breaks in active frontages, resolving historic amenity issues (e.g. noise, unpleasant odours, or anti-social behaviour), and the impact on the nature and character of the retail frontages.	Business Improvement District (BID)  Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation
		Through the Council's development management role in the planning system, the Council will give positive weight to planning applications for amendments to operating hours to support an evening economy where supported by evidence that it will not lead to unacceptable adverse amenity issues.	
		Collaborate with the Letchworth     Garden City Heritage Foundation,     alongside the BID, to build on the     Letchworth Culture Strategy     'Create the Future' to incorporate     the evening economy. This will     include identifying funding sources     and future joint bidding     opportunities to support potential     pilot schemes and the roll-out of     extended operating hours as part of     a wider evening economy strategy.	
E  • Transport, access and movement	Connectivity and links to Broadway Gardens and Howard Park	<ul> <li>Develop and deliver a joint public realm, connectivity and wayfinding strategy taking forward the recommendations of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). For Letchworth:         <ul> <li>Taking account of the findings and recommendations of the Places &amp; People 'Town Centre Access Review' and</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	NHDC HCC Love Letchworth Business Improvement District (BID) Letchworth Garden City

		'Placemaking Plan' to develop viability and costings to deliver key priorities identified, including orientation and signage improvements at Letchworth Station and Broadway Gardens.	Heritage Foundation
		- Progress the recommendations of the LCWIP for the development of a segregated carriageway facility for cyclists around Broadway Gardens, on Bridge Road, Station Place and Station Road.	
		- Identify funding sources, future joint bidding opportunities, and requests for planning obligations for relevant developments for financial contributions to wayfinding, pedestrian and cycling routes and public realm investments between the town centre and the surrounding open space and gardens.	
F  • Transport, access and movement	Station forecourt	In collaboration with HCC, engage with Network Rail to progress the redevelopment of the Station forecourt as a key gateway into Letchworth, building on existing design and funding for the redevelopment of existing areas of parking and vegetation to improve access and visual links into the centre.	HCC NHDC Network Rail Letchworth Garden City Heritsge Foundation



# GARDEN SQUARE

# LETCHWORTH

PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT



Proposals for the strategic master planning of Garden Square Centre, Letchworth, for a new redevelopment to provide a mixed-use development including retail, leisure and residential development, and a much-improved public realm and landscaping along Commerce Way and other associated routes through the site.

# HELLO & WELCOME!

# PURPOSE OF CONSULTATION AND NEXT STEPS

Thank you for coming along and sharing your feedback, we are currently carrying out a Community Consultation in respect of our proposals for the strategic master planning of Garden Square Centre. These include the partial demolition and redevelopment of parts of the existing centre to deliver a mix of residential and commercial uses on the site.

The proposals will include new apartments on the site as well as the provision of replacement retail and other commercial uses, in addition to the creation of new residential amenity and open spaces including improved public realm and landscaped routes through the site.

# HOW TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK AND FIND OUT MORE

Please provide your feedback either by completing one of the questionnaires or online using the details below.



### Website

There is a dedicated and bespoke website; www.gardensquareconsultation.com where you can browse our plans and view information documents relating to our proposals. An online feedback form can also be completed on the website.





# Speak to Us

Our project team is available Monday-Friday 9 am — 5 pm to discuss the proposals and respond to any queries you may have.

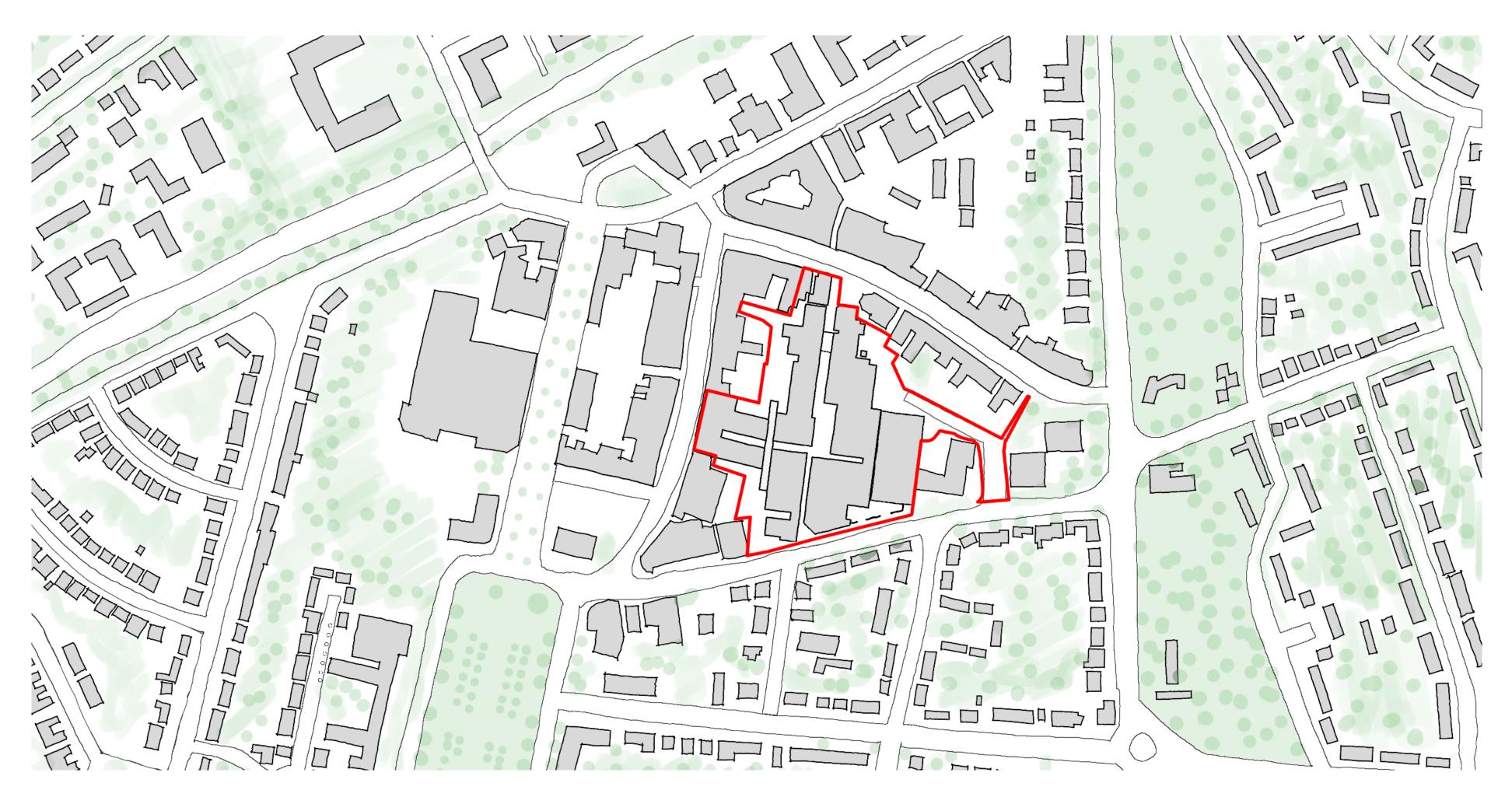
Call: 01462 757019

Email: info@gardensquareconsultation.com

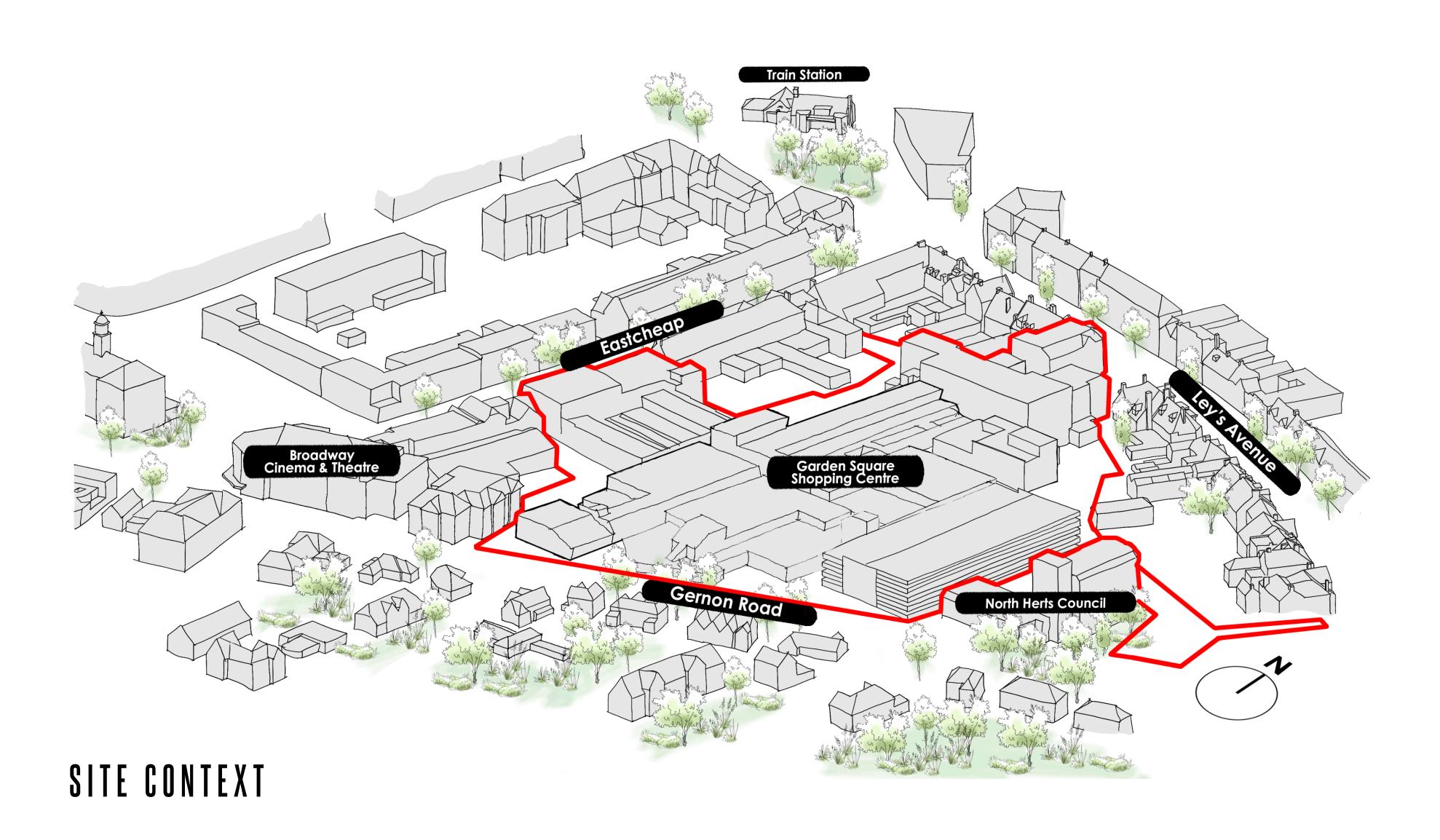
The feedback period will open Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025 to Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026

# SITE LOCATION AND CONTEXT

The subject site is located within Letchworth Garden City town centre at the heart of the retail core and North-East from the historical geographical centre. The site is home to the Garden Square Shopping Centre, which houses a wide mix of retail units. The centre is connected at the North and West sides to two main retail streets and bordered to the South with a residential street and the multi-storey carpark to the East.

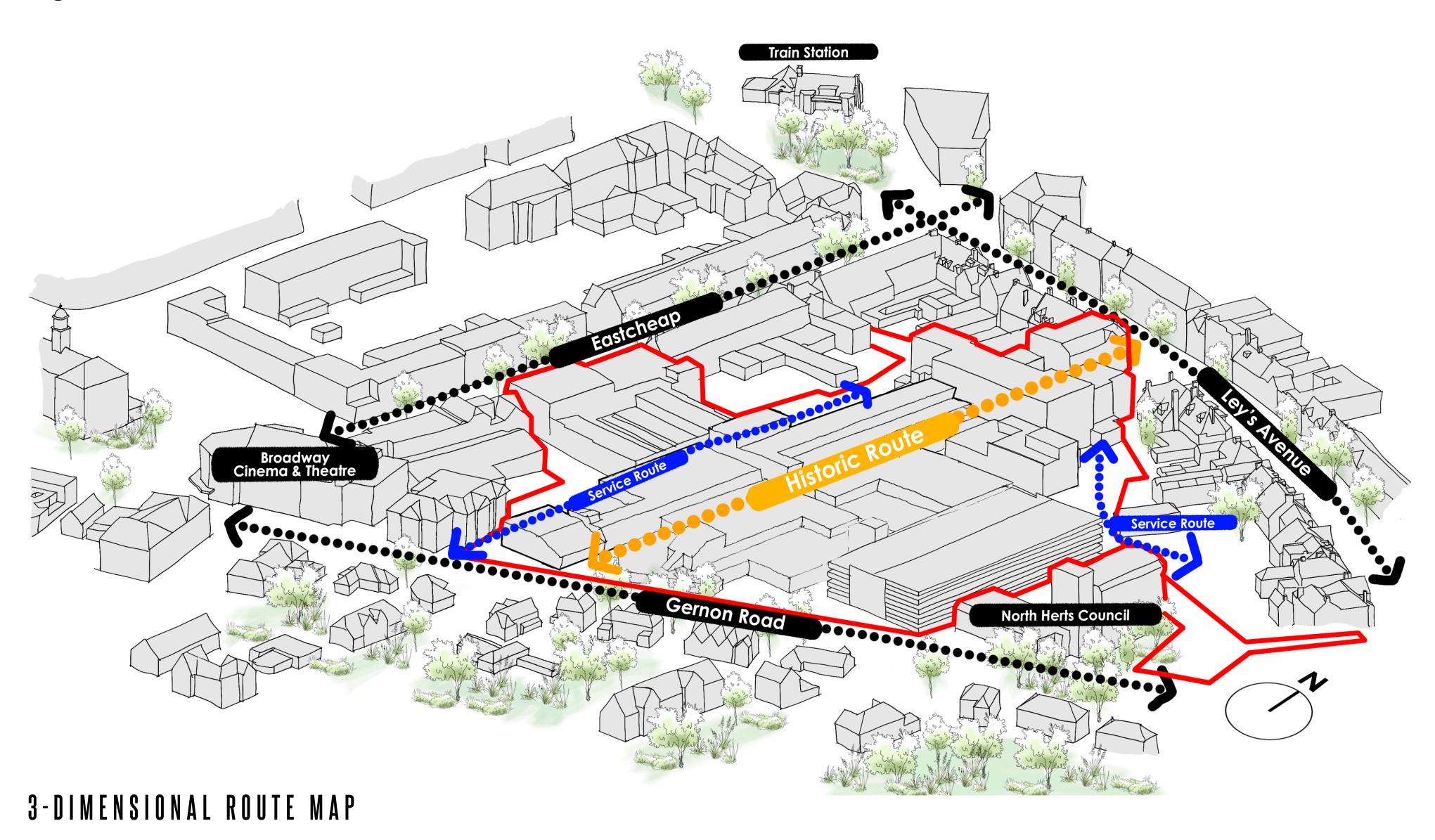


SITE LOCATION (OUTLINED IN RED)



# SITE HISTORY

Looking at historical maps the city's original plan included a street which ran through the site where Garden Square Shopping Centre now sits. This has since been eroded with the development of the shopping centre, which has also led to the area being gated and closed at night.









TODAY'S MAP

# SITE PHOTOS

PHOTO KEY



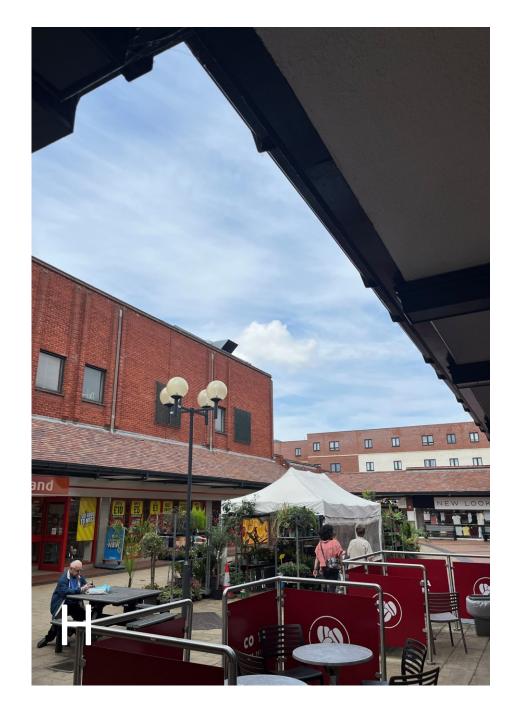
















EXISTING PHOTOS OF THE SITE

# DESIGN PRINCIPLES

The Strategic Masterplan for the site intends to adhere to the following Design Principles:



### **Build on an Accessible and Connected Place**

- Ensure continued connectivity within the town centre, strengthening existing routes, and where possible improve permeability into the site
- Make use of existing infrastructure and transport connections



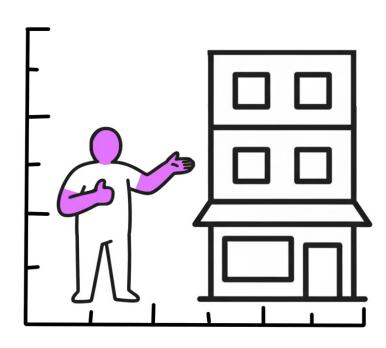
# Sustainability throughout

- Prioritise sustainable design decisions, including passive and active measures
- Ensure spatially efficient design of building layouts



# Positive Amenity and Public Realm

- Green and blue infrastructure effectively incorporated into public realm and amenity
- Incorporation of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) into public realm and amenity spaces
- Improve biodiversity in urban environment



### **Appropriate Density**

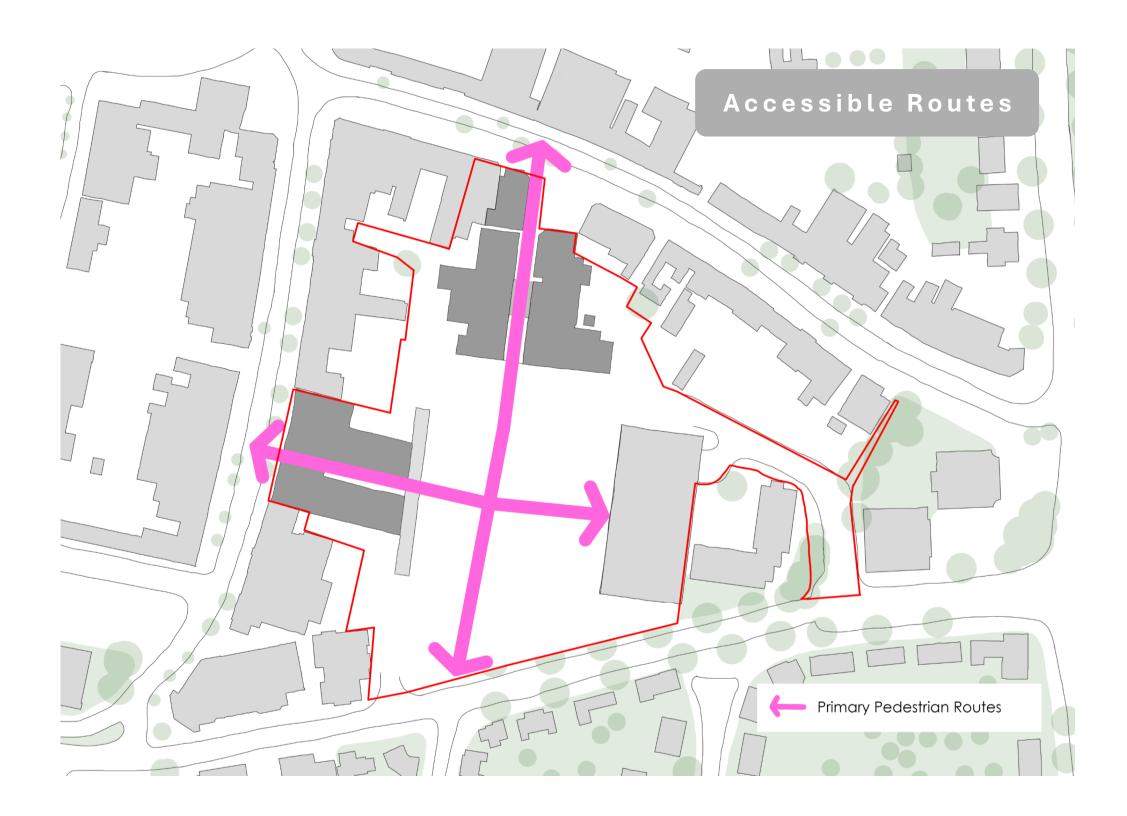
- Density and scale to respond to sensitive areas around the site
- Optimise density across the site to create an economically sustainable development

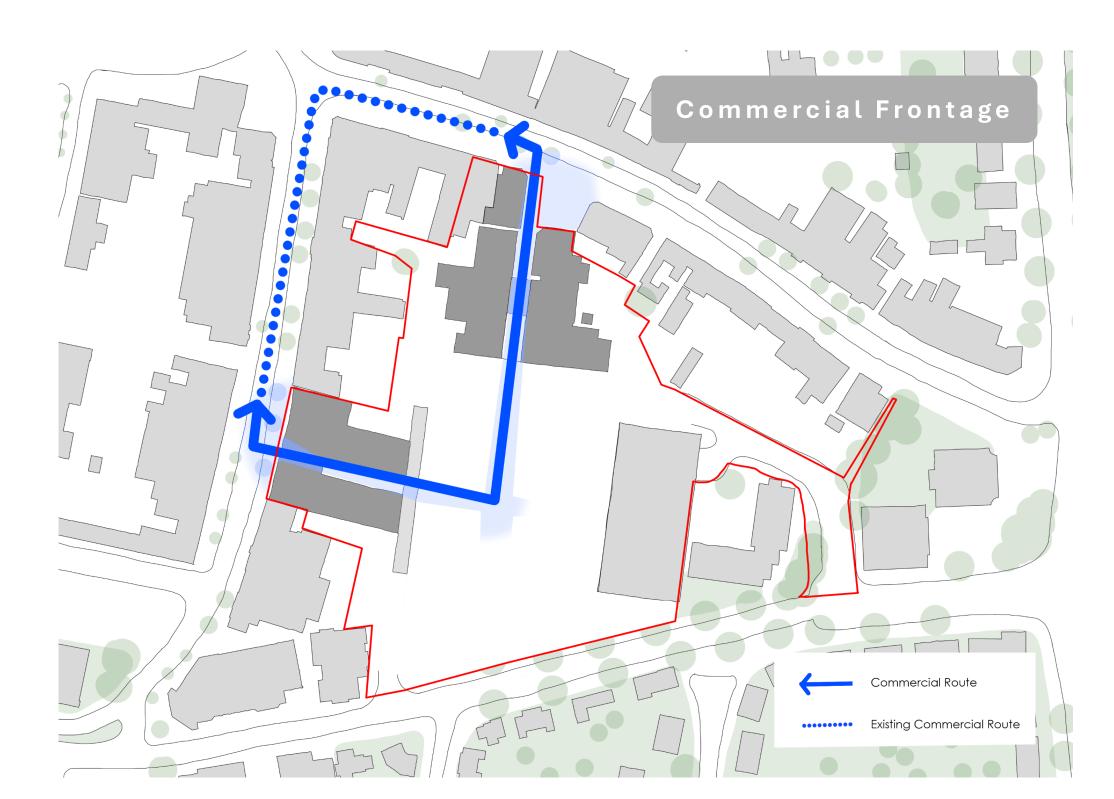


# **Vibrancy**

• Create an improved sense of place for the heart of Letchworth town Centre and provide residents a great place to live

# DESIGN STRATEGY









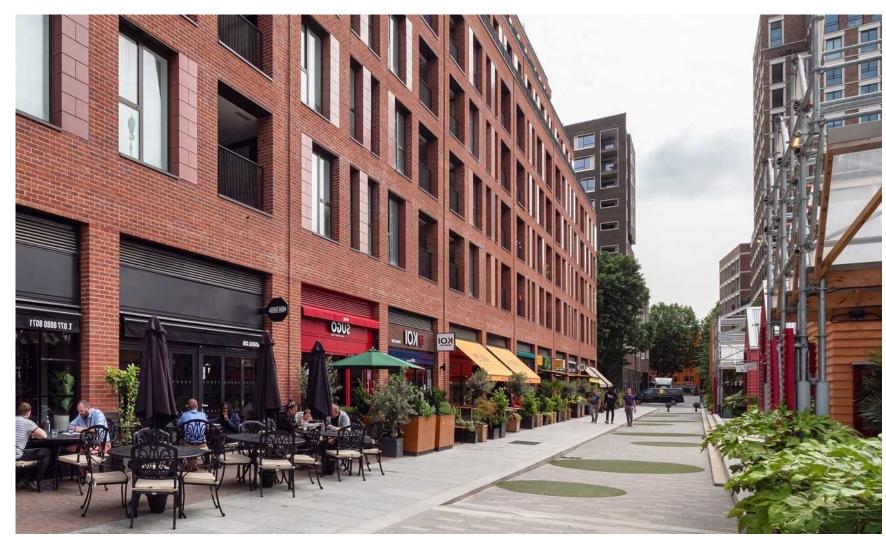
EXAMPLE ACCESSIBLE DETAILING



INDICATIVE COMMUNITY GYMS

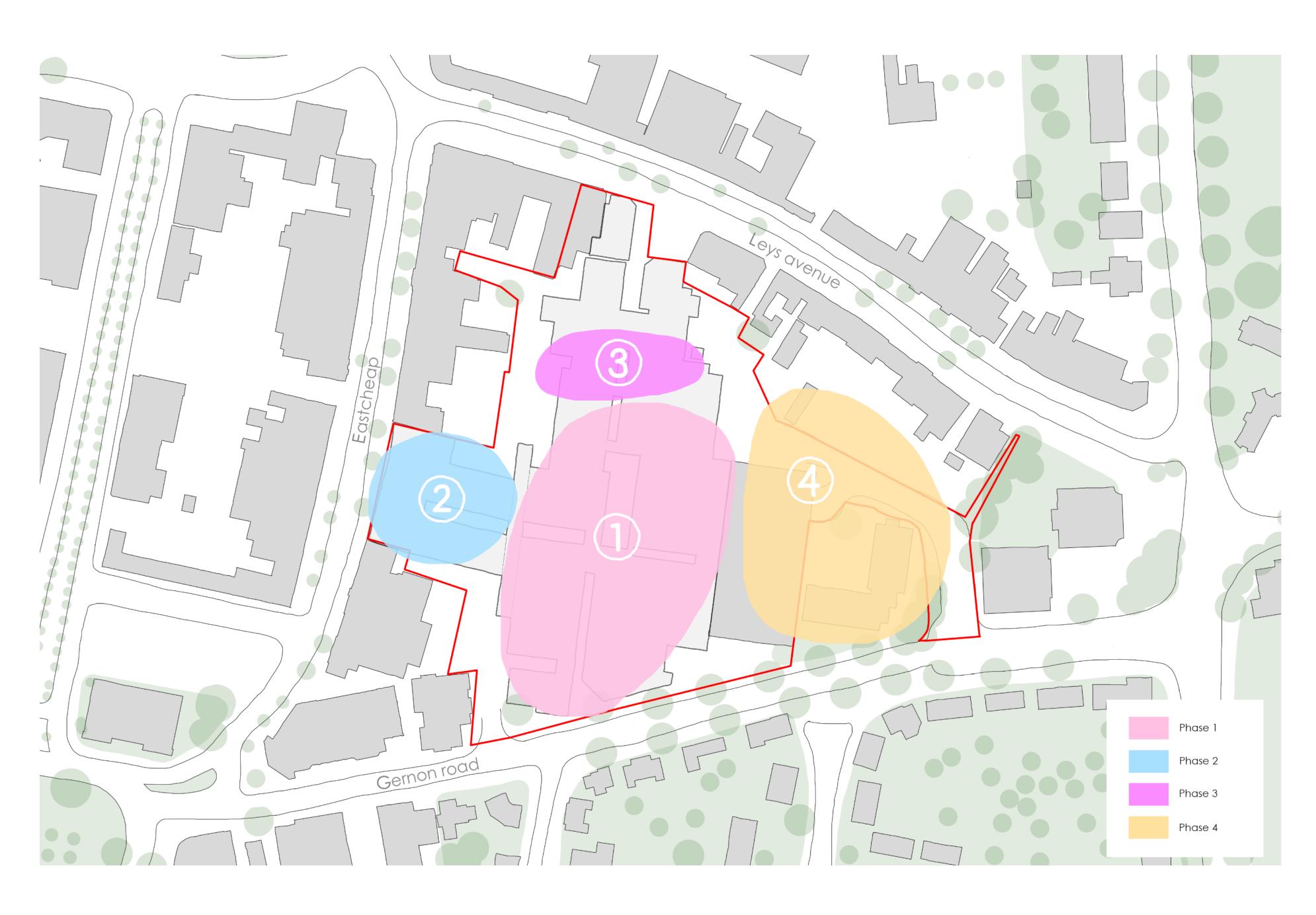


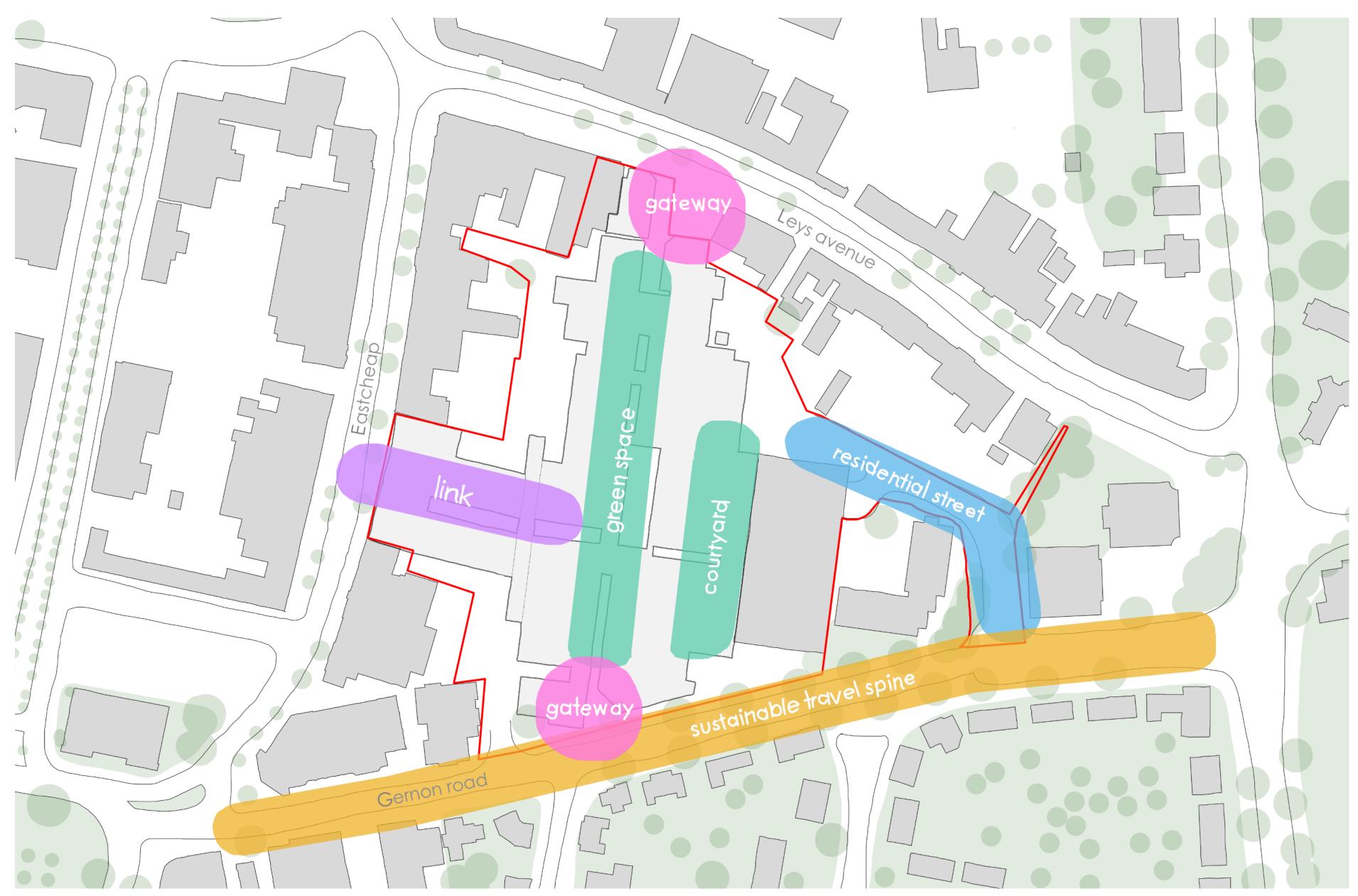
EXAMPLE PLANTING & LANDSCAPING



EXAMPLE RETAIL FRONTAGE

# ILLUSTRATIVE MASTERPLAN



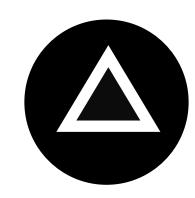


# ILLUSTRATIVE PUBLIC SPACES





# BENEFITTING THE COMMUNITY



# **Revitalising the Town Centre**

Bringing new life into Garden Square and creating a vibrant, attractive destination at the heart of Letchworth.



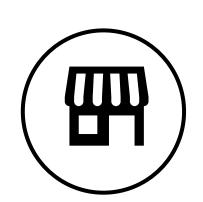
# Celebrating Letchworth's Heritage

A design inspired by the Garden City principles; balancing nature, architecture, and community, to create a development that complements the town's unique character.



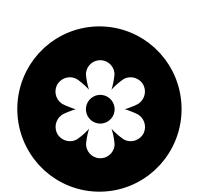
# **High-Quality New Homes**

Providing well-designed, modern homes in a central and sustainable location, helping meet local housing demand.



## **Improved Retail and Commercial Offer**

Introducing new retail and commercial spaces that better reflect current shopping and leisure trends that will support local businesses.



# **Enhanced Public Spaces**

Creating new public realm and landscaped areas, with a welcoming pedestrian thoroughfare that encourages movement, connection, and social activity.



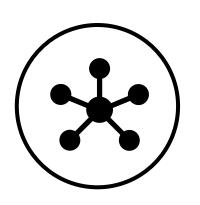
### A More Sustainable Future

Incorporating energy-efficient design, green spaces, and modern building standards to create a development that's environmentally responsible.



# **Economic Growth and Local Jobs**

Supporting the local economy through construction and long-term employment opportunities within the new shops, cafés, and businesses.



# **Better Connectivity**

Opening the site to improve pedestrian routes through the town centre, making it easier and more pleasant to move around.



# **A Generational Opportunity**

Transforming an underperforming site into a high-quality development that will serve the community for decades to come.



# **Creating a Sense of Place**

Delivering a distinctive, welcoming environment where people can live, shop, and spend time - reinforcing Letchworth's identity as a thriving Garden City.

#### Information Report for Noting by Community Forum

### LETCHWORTH COMMUNITY FORUM 17 DECEMBER 2025

#### PROPOSED PARKING TARIFF INCREASES FOR 2026/27 INITIAL OPTION

SERVICE DIRECTORATE: PLACE

#### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Community Forum of the proposed tariff increases for 2026/27 to be presented to Cabinet in February 2026.
- 1.2 For the Community Forum to provide any views on the initial proposed car parking tariff increases as set out at Appendix A

#### 2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council's approved Medium-Term Financial Strategy sets an annual budget assumption that the Council would increase parking fees and charges annually by 2%. The last tariff increases were approved by Cabinet in March 2025 and were implemented on 30 June in the 4 towns and 11 July 2025 in Knebworth.
- 2.2 The Executive Member for Place, Cllr Donna Wright, has requested that the Community Forums and key organisations (i.e. the Knebworth Parish Council, the Hitchin, Letchworth and Royston BIDs and the Royston Town Council), are informed and invited to provide any views if they wish on the proposed tariff increases in advance of a report being taken to Cabinet in February 2026 for their decision on the final proposed tariff increases for 2026/27. These changes are part of the Council's efforts to ensure fair and sustainable parking fees across the district.

#### 3.0 TARIFF PROPOSALS FOR 2026/27

- 3.1 The approach adopted by the Council is to be consistent across all car parks and harmonize tariffs where possible within each town whilst respecting their separate identities.
- 3.2 The aim is to set car parking tariffs that support the achievement of modal shift away from private car use in seeking to reduce carbon emissions and supporting more sustainable initiatives as set out in the Council's Climate Change Strategy (2022-2027).
- 3.3 The Executive Member and the Executive Member for Finance have been involved in discussions and considered various options for the selection of the proposed tariff increases for 2025/26. The following rationale has been applied when considering the proposed tariff increases for next financial year:
  - To apply a 2% inflationary increase to all tariffs across all Council operated car parks in Baldock, Hitchin, Letchworth, Royston and Knebworth rounded up to the

nearest 10p except for the free 0-2 hour tariff at the Norton Common car parks in Letchworth to facilitate users of the common and being out of centre car parks. This 2% increase is below the general level of inflation, as the Council is conscious of the increase in the cost of living and seeks to support local businesses and visitors to its town centres and to Knebworth where possible.

- To retain the off-peak (after 3pm) incentives in Hitchin, Letchworth, and Royston to support the vitality of the town centers, with a flat rate tariff whereby people can choose to stay for 1,2 or 3 hours.
- 3.4 This means that the 2, 3 and 4hour + tariffs in some car parks across the district will increase by 10p and the 1-hour tariffs and post 3pm flat rate tariffs in Hitchin and Letchworth will remain unaltered. Included in this option is a proposal to increase the flat rate tariff in Royston from 50p to £1.00.
- 3.5 The proposals for Letchworth are shown at *Table 2* in <u>Appendix A</u> attached to this note.
- 3.6 At present, the Royston BID and Royston Town Council (RTC) subsidies the post 3pm 50p tariff as free parking, and we (officers and the Exec Member) are in on-going discussion with Royston BID and RTC regarding this initial proposed 'post 3pm' increase in considering other possible options in Royston car parks which will seek to achieve the Council's overall 2% inflationary increase and the any further subsidy options for 2026/27. This could result in other tariff bands increasing by 10p in the Royston car parks as a means of reducing the proposed 'post 3pm' £1.00 flat rate tariff.
- 3.7 It is also proposed to increase Season Tickets in the long stay car parks in Hitchin, Letchworth and Royston and Business permits in Knebworth car park for 2026/27 by 2%.
- 3.8 These proposals are shown in the <u>Tables 1 8 at Appendix A</u> (see copy attached)

#### 4.0 YOUR VIEWS

4.1 We are inviting the Community Forums to share their thoughts and submit their views before the Council's Cabinet makes a final decision in February 2026. All views will be summarised in the Officers' report presented to Cabinet. Any views need to be submitted by 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

#### 5.0 ATTACHMENTS

5.1 Appendix A - Proposed Parking Tariff Increases for 2026/27 (Initial Option 4 Nov 2025)

#### CONTACT OFFICERS

Louise Symes, Strategic Infrastructure & Projects Manager (Tel) 01462 474359 <a href="mailto:louise.symes@north-herts.gov.uk">louise.symes@north-herts.gov.uk</a>

### Appendix A: Proposed Parking Tariff Increases for 2026/27 (Initial Option 4 Nov 2025)

NOTE: Proposed Tariff band increases highlighted and shown in bold italics.

**TABLE 1: HITCHIN CAR PARKS** 

Car Park		Duration / hours	Current Tariff	Proposed Tariff
2 3.1 2 3.1 1			2025/26	2026/27
		1	£1.40	£1.40
	Standard	2	£2.50	£2.60
Bancroft (long stay)	Tariff	3	£3.20	£3.30
		All Day	£5.30	£5.40
(long stay)	Doot 2nm	1	£1.50	£1.50
	Post 3pm Tariff	2	£1.50	£1.50
	Tarm	3	£1.50	£1.50
		1	£1.60	£1.60
	Standard	2	£2.70	£2.80
Discoin Lone	Tariff	3	£4.30	£4.40
Biggin Lane (short stay)		4	£5.80	£5.90
(Griori diay)	Post 3pm Tariff	1	£1.70	£1.70
		2	£1.70	£1.70
		3	£1.70	£1.70
		1	£1.60	£1.60
	Standard	2	£2.70	£2.80
	Tariff	3	£4.30	£4.40
Christchurch (short stay)		4	£5.80	£5.90
(Griort Stay)	Doot 2::	1	£1.70	£1.70
	Post 3pm Tariff	2	£1.70	£1.70
	Tallii	3	£1.70	£1.70
		1	£1.40	£1.40
	Standard	2	£1.40	£1.40
Leirens MCCD	Tariff	3	£2.40	£2.40
Lairage MSCP (long stay)		All Day	£4.70	£4.80
(iong stay)	Doot 2:	1	£1.50	£1.50
	Post 3pm Tariff	2	£1.50	£1.50
		3	£1.50	£1.50

		Duration /		
Car Park		hours	Current Tariff 2025/26	Proposed Tariff 2026/27
		1	£1.60	£1.60
	Standard	2	£2.70	£2.80
Portmill East	Tariff	3	£4.30	£4.40
(short stay)		4	£5.80	£5.90
(0.1011 0.101)	Post 3pm	1	£1.70	£1.70
	Tariff	2	£1.70	£1.70
		3	£1.70	£1.70
		1	£1.60	£1.60
	Standard	2	£2.70	£2.80
Portmill West	Tariff	3	£4.30	£4.40
(short stay)		4	£5.80	£5.90
(	Post 3pm Tariff	1	£1.70	£1.70
		2	£1.70	£1.70
		3	£1.70	£1.70
	Standard Tariff	1	£1.60	£1.60
		2	£2.70	£2.80
St Mary's		3	£4.30	£4.40
Square		4	£5.80	£5.90
(short stay)	Doot 2nm	1	£1.70	£1.70
	Post 3pm Tariff	2	£1.70	£1.70
		3	£1.70	£1.70
		1	£1.40	£1.40
	Standard	2	£2.50	£2.60
Woodside	Tariff	3	£3.20	£3.30
(long stay)		All Day	£5.30	£5.40
	Post 3pm	1	£1.50	£1.50
	Tariff	2	£1.50	£1.50
		3	£1.50	£1.50

**TABLE 2: LETCHWORTH CAR PARKS** 

		Duration /	Current Tariff	Proposed Tariff
Car Park		hours	2025/26	2026/27
		1	£1.00	£1.00
	Standard	2	£1.70	£1.70
Hillshott	Tariff	3	£2.60	£2.70
(long stay)		All Day	£5.10	£5.20
(long stay)	Post 3pm	1	£1.10	£1.10
		2	£1.10	£1.10
	Tariii	3	£1.10	£1.10
		1	£1.00	£1.00
	Standard	2	£1.70	£1.70
	Tariff	3	£2.60	£2.70
LMSCP Short		4	£4.70	£4.80
Stay		1	£1.10	£1.10
	Post 3pm Tariff	2	£1.10	£1.10
		3	£1.10	£1.10
		4	£1.10	£1.10
		1	£1.00	£1.00
	Standard	2	£1.70	£1.70
LMCCDLong	Tariff	3	£2.60	£2.70
LMSCP Long Stay		All Day	£5.10	£5.20
July	Doot 200	1	£1.10	£1.10
	Post 3pm Tariff	2	£1.10	£1.10
		3	£1.10	£1.10
		1	£1.40	£1.40
	Standard	2	£2.10	£2.10
	Tariff	3	£3.40	£3.50
Letchworth Town Hall		4	£5.10	£5.20
(short stay)		1	£1.50	£1.50
(3)	Post 3pm	2	£1.50	£1.50
	Tariff	3	£1.50	£1.50
		4	£1.50	£1.50

Car Park		Duration / hours	Current Tariff 2025/26	Proposed Tariff 2026/27
Norton	Ctondord	2	£0.00	£0.00
Common	Common Standard Bowling Club	4	£1.90	£1.90
Bowling Club		Max stay 5	£5.00	£5.10
Norton		2	£0.00	£0.00
Common	Standard	4	£1.90	£1.90
Swimming Pool	Tariff	Max stay 5	£5.00	£5.10

#### **TABLE 3: BALDOCK CAR PARK**

Car Park		Duration / hours	Current Tariff 2025/26	Proposed Tariff 2026/27
The Twitchell	Standard	3	£1.40	£1.40
(long stay)	Tariff	All Day	£1.80	£1.80

**TABLE 4: KNEBWORTH CAR PARK** 

Car Park		Duration / hours	Current Tariff 2025/26	Proposed Tariff 2026/27
St Martin's		30 Mins	£0.50	£0.50
Road	Standard Tariff	1	£0.80	£0.80
(short stay except		2	£1.60	£1.60
business		3	£2.20	£2.20
permit holders)		Max Stay 4	£4.40	£4.50

**TABLE 5: ROYSTON CAR PARKS** 

dard riff  3pm riff  dard riff  3pm riff	1 2 3 All Day 1 2 3	£0.90 £1.70 £4.00 £0.50 £0.50 £0.50 £1.30 £1.30 £3.60 £0.50 £0.50	£0.90 £1.70 £4.10 £1.00 £1.00 £1.00 £1.00 £1.30 £1.30 £1.00 £1.00 £1.00
3pm Fiff dard Fiff 3pm Fiff	3 1 2 3 1 2 3 All Day 1 2 3	£4.00 £0.50 £0.50 £0.50 £0.90 £1.00 £1.30 £3.60 £0.50	£4.10 £1.00 £1.00 £1.00 £0.90 £1.00 £1.30 £3.70 £1.00
3pm iff dard iff 3pm	1 2 3 All Day 1 2 3	£0.50 £0.50 £0.50 £1.00 £1.30 £3.60 £0.50	£1.00 £1.00 £1.00 £1.00 £1.30 £3.70 £1.00
dard eiff 3pm	2 3 1 2 3 All Day 1 2 3	£0.50 £0.50 £0.90 £1.00 £1.30 £3.60 £0.50	£1.00 £1.00 £0.90 £1.00 £1.30 £3.70 £1.00
dard eiff 3pm	3  1 2 3 All Day 1 2 3	£0.50 £0.90 £1.00 £1.30 £3.60 £0.50	£1.00 £0.90 £1.00 £1.30 £3.70 £1.00
dard riff 3pm riff	1 2 3 All Day 1 2 3	£0.90 £1.00 £1.30 £3.60 £0.50	£0.90 £1.00 £1.30 £3.70 £1.00
3pm iff	2 3 All Day 1 2 3	£1.00 £1.30 £3.60 £0.50 £0.50	£1.00 £1.30 £3.70 £1.00
3pm iff	2 3 All Day 1 2 3	£1.00 £1.30 £3.60 £0.50 £0.50	£1.00 £1.30 £3.70 £1.00
3pm iff	3 All Day 1 2 3	£1.30 £3.60 £0.50 £0.50	£1.30 £3.70 £1.00 £1.00
3pm iff	All Day  1 2 3	£3.60 £0.50 £0.50	£3.70 £1.00 £1.00
iff	1 2 3	£0.50 £0.50	£1.00 £1.00
iff	1 2 3	£0.50	£1.00
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		£0.50	£1.00
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12rc	1	£0.90	£0.90
Standard Tariff	2	£1.70	£1.70
	3	£4.00	£4.10
	1	£0.50	£1.00
Post 3pm Tariff	2	£0.50	£1.00
	3	£0.50	£1.00
ام سما	1	£0.90	£0.90
Standard Tariff	2	£1.70	£1.70
	3	£4.00	£4.10
•	1	£0.50	£1.00
Post 3pm Tariff	2	£0.50	£1.00
	3	£0.50	£1.00
Standard Tariff	1	£0.90	£0.90
	2	£1.50	£1.50
	3	£2.00	£2.00
	All Day	£4.10	£4.20
	1	£0.50	£1.00
		£0.50	£1.00
	2		£1.00
	dard iff	3 dard 2 riff 3 All Day 3pm 2	3 £0.50  dard 2 £1.50  iff 3 £2.00  All Day £4.10  2 £0.50

**TABLE 6: ROYSTON ON-STREET PARKING CHARGES** 

Car Park		Duration / hours	Current Tariff 2025/26	Proposed Tariff 2026/27
	Standard	1	£0.90	£0.90
BA . 1 . 4 1 1 1 1 1	Tariff	2	£1.10	£1.10
Market Hill (short stay)	Post 3pm Tariff	1	£0.50	£1.00
		2	£0.50	£1.00
		3	£0.50	£1.00

TABLE 7: SEASON TICKETS IN LONG STAY CAR PARKS

All Long Stay Car Parks (Hitchin, Letchworth & Royston)	Current Prices 2025/26	Proposed increased Prices 2026/27
1 month	£87.00	£89.00
3 months	£215.00	£219.00
6 months	£399.00	£407.00
12 months	£740.00	£755.00

TABLE 8: BUSINESS PERMITS – ST. MARTINS ROAD CAR PARK

St. Martins Road Car Park, Knebworth	Current Prices 2025/26	Proposed increased Prices 2026/27
Six months	£156.00	£159.00
Twelve months	£260.00	£265.00

#### **Districtwide Community Updates**

- The Community Partnerships Team have launched the North Herts Heroes Awards, in which we aim to celebrate people in the local community. There are five categories for nominations, please nominate anyone who you think deserves to be recognised. Nominations close on Sunday 4 January. The winners will be celebrated at an awards event on Thursday 19 March. Information on how to nominate is available on the North Herts Heroes web page
- The Community Partnerships team worked with the Royal British Legion and Letchworth BID to deliver the Letchworth Remembrance Day parade on 9 November 2025.
- The new Community Grants Application platform launched on 17 November. The
  application form can be found here <u>Community grants | North Herts Council</u>. If
  councillors or organisations would like any guidance on this, please speak to the
  Community Partnerships Officer or get in touch with the team via
  community@north-herts.gov.uk.
- To commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day, a video will be shared via North Herts Council socials on 27 January.
- Co-ordinating various local and district wide Network Groups including Youth Action, Food Provision, Arts and Culture and Green and Growing Group.
- Coordinating voluntary support response to Asylum Seekers based in North Herts.
- Continuing to facilitate NHC Councillors' Community Surgeries.
- Sharing and disseminating information on social media and to mailing lists, keeping in touch with the community, voluntary, statutory, and non-statutory agencies

#### **Area Community Updates**

The Community Partnerships Officer Update

Continuing to build and foster relationships within the community, including meetings with the:

- New Foodbank Director for Letchworth Foodbank who is building relationships across North Herts. <u>Helping Local People in Crisis in Letchworth</u>, <u>Hitchin and Baldock</u>
- Community Investment Coordinator at Settle.
- Head of Charitable Projects and Partnerships at Letchworth Heritage Foundation.

#### Also attended the:

- Citizens Advice North Hertfordshire AGM.
- Letchworth Festival 2026 kick-off planning meeting.
- Settlement 100 year anniversary celebratory event. This is a link to their anniversary film - <u>The Settlement - Past Present and Future</u>

A reminder to Councillors that they are very welcome to arrange any meetings or ward walks with the Community Partnerships Officer.