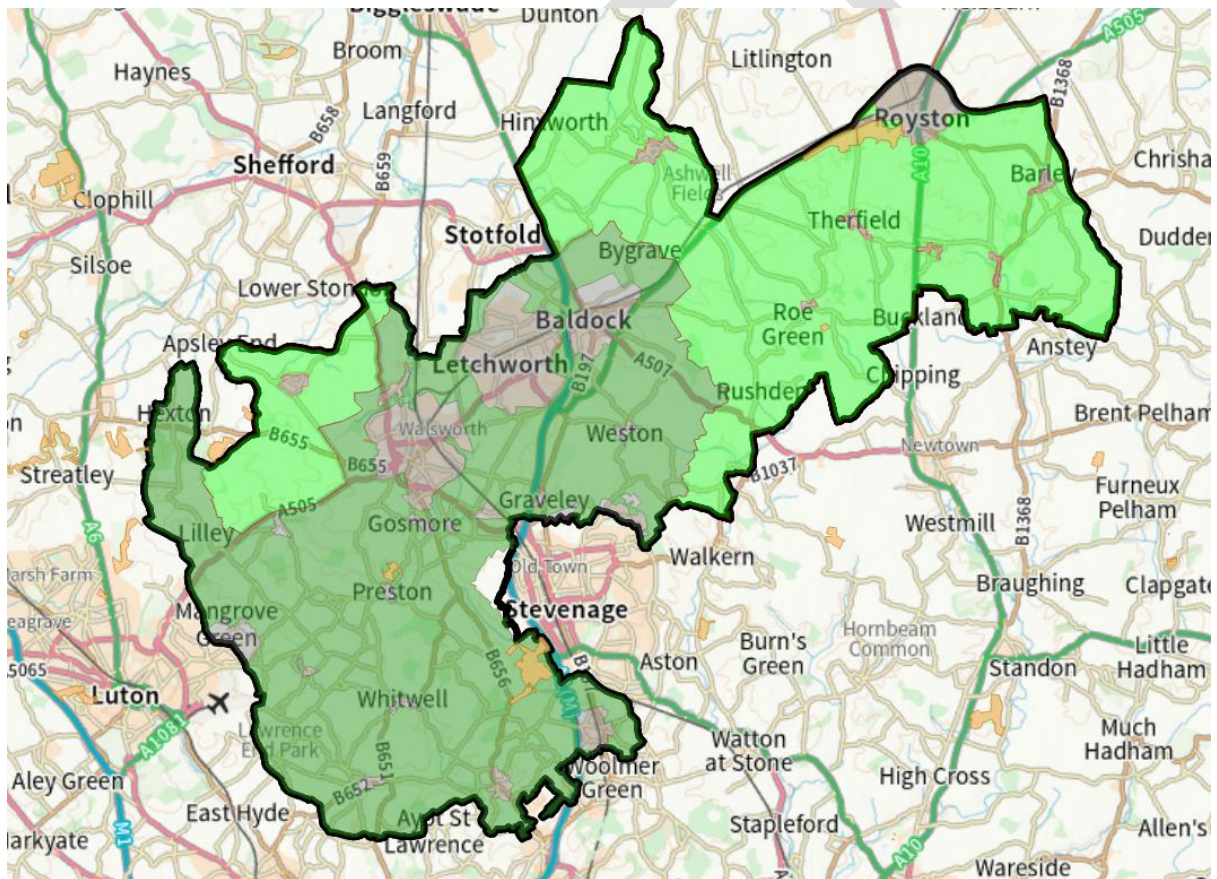




**North
Herts**
Council

Review of the North Herts Local Plan

2011 - 2031



December 2023

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Local planning authorities are required to undertake a review of their local plans within five years of adoption. This requirement is set out in legislation¹. The review is to establish whether the plan needs updating. If the plan does require updating, those updates need to be undertaken through the relevant local plan process set out in legislation.

1.2 The North Herts Local Plan (NHLP) was adopted on 8th November 2022. The Inspector concluded in his Report² that the NHLP was only found sound on the basis of the inclusion of a Policy to undertake an early review of the Plan.

1.3 Policy IMR2 of the Local Plan states that The Council will undertake a whole plan review of the Local Plan 2011-2031 by the end of 2023 at the latest and sets out a range of issues identified through the examination that led to the early review requirement. This will determine whether this Plan needs to be updated either in whole or in part. It is clear a two-stage process is envisaged:

- 1) A review of existing policies to determine whether they require updating;
- 2) Subject to (1), a subsequent updating of the Plan either in whole or in part.

1.4 This means that step 1 must be completed by the end of the year. It does not mean that an updated plan needs to have been progressed or adopted by that time.

1.5 The purpose of this document is therefore to assess whether an update of the NHLP is required. An update could involve an update of the entire plan, or a partial update of one or more policies. This document therefore considers each individual policy in terms of the need for an update, as well as the vision, objectives and overall strategy.



¹ Regulation 10A of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended)

² [North Herts Inspectors Report - Final.pdf \(north-herts.gov.uk\)](https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/inspector-report)

Policy IMR2: Local plan early review

The Council will undertake a whole plan review of the Local Plan 2011-2031 by the end of 2023 at the latest. This will determine whether this Plan needs to be updated either in whole or in part. All policies will be reviewed but with particular regard paid to the following matters that were specifically identified during the preparation and examination of this plan:

- Housing requirements for the District and wider housing market areas;
- Housing delivery having regard to the progress and implementation of the Strategic Housing Sites and Local Housing Allocations identified in this plan and the rates of development being achieved measured against the stepped approach and housing trajectory set out in this plan;
- The safeguarded land to the West of Stevenage;
- The outcomes of the process(es) to comprehensively explore new settlement options in the District;
- Gypsy and Traveller provision
- The identification of needs for retail, leisure, office and other main town centre uses;
- Options for long-term secondary education provision in the Stevenage area; and
- Broad alignment with the statutory five-year time limit for reviews of the East Hertfordshire and Stevenage local plans (required by November 2023 and May 2024 respectively) to allow co-ordinated consideration of the above matters.

The review will have regard to up-to-date information and be conducted in line with Government policy and statutory requirements. Subject to the outcomes of that review, a new plan or policies will be prepared to a new time horizon of at least 2041.

The review will also serve to build upon existing strong, working relationships with adjoining and nearby authorities and may result in the preparation of a joint plan or policies based upon wider functional geographies.

1.6 There are a number of reasons that an update of all or part of the plan may be necessary, and these will be considered in overall terms and in relation to each individual policy. These can be summarised as follows:

- **Legislative changes:** Changes to the law may result in the need to amend policies. For instance, the Environment Act introduces statutory requirements in relation to Biodiversity Net Gain and Nature Recovery Strategies. The Levelling Up & Regeneration Act will result in changes to the scope of policies contained in Local Plans.
- **National policy changes:** The NHLP 2022 was examined against the 2012 version of the National Planning Policy Framework. Since that time, there have been four further versions of the NPPF, with the most recent being that published on 5 September 2023. Planning Practice Guidance has also changed in that time, most particularly in relation to the approach to housing need. A new iteration of the NPPF is expected in December 2023 introducing new approaches to various elements of planning including:
 - The test of 'soundness' for local plans to be softened;
 - Duty to co-operate to be replaced with an as-yet-unformulated 'alignment policy';
 - Authorities with an up-to-date local plan will no longer need to continually show a deliverable five-year housing land supply.
- **Local policy changes:** Other policy changes include the publication of new local policies such as the Council's Climate Change Strategy updated in 2022, and progress made on local plans in adjoining areas, including issues of unmet needs.

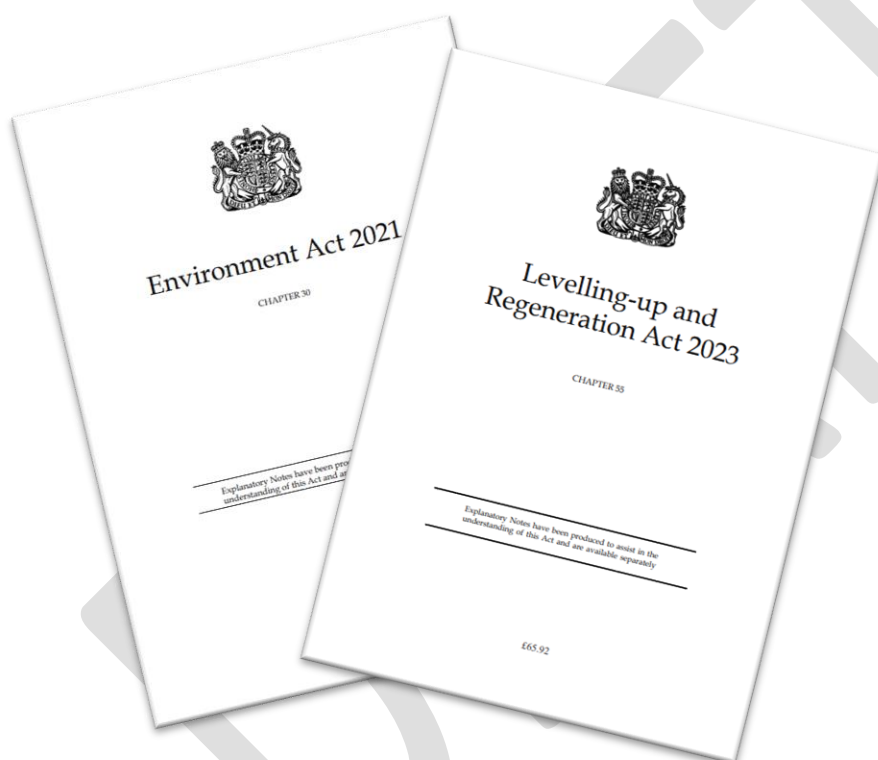
1.7 Any conclusion that the Plan requires updating (in whole or in part) for plan-making purposes does not mean the existing NHLP stops being used or is 'out of date' for decision-making purposes. The planning system is plan-led and the existing NHLP would continue to form a key part of the statutory Development Plan for determining planning applications while any replacement plan or policies are developed.

2 REVIEW OF OVERALL STRATEGY

2.1 The overall strategy of the document, including the Spatial Vision and Strategic Objectives set the overall framework for the plan, and it may be that updates to this overall strategy are required.

Legislative changes

2.2 There have been legislative changes, including the Environment Act 2021³ and the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act 2023⁴ that call the overall strategy of the plan into question.



2.3 The Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act makes transformations to the planning system, including the proposed production of a set of National Development Management Policies, the repeal and replacement of Duty to Cooperate with a more flexible alignment test, and the introduction of a new Infrastructure Levy that would principally replace the

current system of developer contributions (Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 Planning Obligations), and a proposed further update to the NPPF. However, many of these transformations require secondary legislation to come forward before they can be enacted.

National policy changes

2.4 The foremost national policy implication is that the NHLP only had a nine-year period, upon adoption in November 2022, of a 20-year Plan which is in conflict with

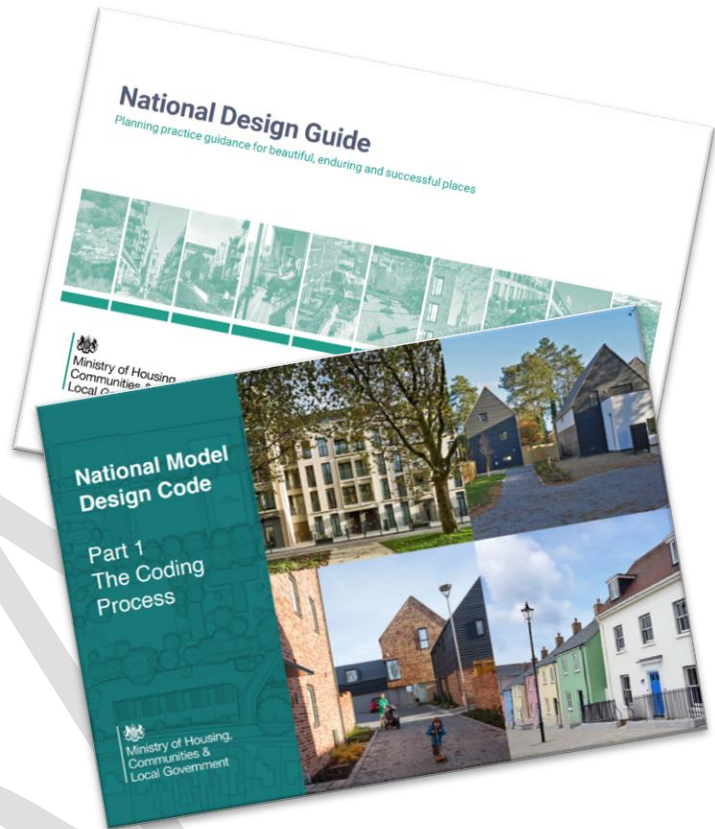
³ [Environment Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)

⁴ [Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)

the requirement for a minimum 15-year period from adoption (para 22, NPPF 2021). Little more than a year on from adoption, and the NHLP only has seven years left of its plan period against the 15-year requirement.

2.5 There have been a number of other changes, notably around design, including:

- The National Design Guide⁵ – which sets out ten characteristics for a well-designed place; and
- The National Model Design Code⁶ – which provides guidance on the production of design codes, guides and policies to promote successful design.



2.6 The Environment Act, 2021 introduced a mandatory requirement for biodiversity net gain which will apply from January 2024. Whilst the Climate Change Act, 2008⁷ was amended in 2019 to commit the UK to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

2.7 In more general terms, society has experienced fundamental changes since the Plan was written – Covid-19 pandemic, climate change crisis, a greater awareness of mental health, all issues that have changed, and need to change, our relationship with the built and natural environment in which we live.

⁵ [National design guide.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/101422/national-design-guide.pdf)

⁶ [National Model Design Code: Part 1 - The Coding Process \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/101422/national-model-design-code-part-1-the-coding-process.pdf)

⁷ [Climate Change Act 2008 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/section/1)

Local policy changes

- 2.8 A new version of the North Herts Council Plan⁸ covering the period 2022-27 has been published. Its vision is to “put people first and deliver sustainable services, to enable a brighter future together”. There are four themes to achieving this vision, three of which are relevant here.



Our environment

2.9 In terms of healthy environment, the plan highlights the work being undertaken to work towards a carbon neutral North Herts by 2040, ten years ahead of the current statutory target for the country as a whole. It highlights the need for adaptation to climate change in line with our Climate Change Strategy and declared Climate Change Emergency and the unique richness of the environment in which we live identifying the vital chalk streams and grasslands, ancient

hedgerow and woodlands and the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty that influences the District.

Our local economy

- 2.10 The theme relating to our local economy notes the importance of our towns and villages and our commitment to support them to grow and thrive. This includes better understanding of the issues facing our rural economies as well as the more industrial employment areas. The plan identifies the need to reinvest into the local economy for the benefit of local communities.

Our places

- 2.11 In relation to our places, the plan highlights matters including the importance of access to good quality affordable housing and our continued support for Neighbourhood Plans. It also highlights the importance of addressing the need to ensure these places are well designed and connected across and beyond the District by means of sustainable transport and a network of green infrastructure

⁸ [Council Plan 2022-2027.pdf \(north-herts.gov.uk\)](https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/council-plan-2022-2027.pdf)

corridors which will support carbon capture, biodiversity, flood and surface water management as well as the health and wellbeing of residents.

- 2.12 The North Herts Climate Change Strategy⁹, published in 2022, identifies a number of actions across a number of partners to address the climate emergency including working with the Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP) across all the Local Authorities in Hertfordshire.

- 2.13 The HCCSP identifies a number of different priorities all of which are central matters to the Local Plan process and will continue to be throughout the update.

- 2.14 The Hertfordshire County Council Local Transport Plan, 2018 – 2031¹⁰, sets out how transport can deliver a positive future vision for Hertfordshire by having a major input into wider policies such as economic growth, meeting housing needs, improving public health and reducing environmental damage whilst also providing for safe and efficient travel.



Conclusion

- 2.15 Bearing in mind the changes outlined above, updates to the vision and objectives of the Local Plan are required. In addition, the spatial strategy requires an update, particularly to accommodate any changes to the level of development needed in North Herts, including to an extended end date of at least 2041¹¹.

⁹ [NHDC-811 NHDC Climate change Strategy 2022-27_V3.pdf \(north-herts.gov.uk\)](#)

¹⁰ [LTP4 Transport Plan 2018 \(hertfordshire.gov.uk\)](#)

¹¹ The most appropriate plan period will be established as any new Local Plan is progressed.

3 REVIEW OF POLICIES

- 3.1 This section takes each policy in the Local Plan in turn and considers whether there are any reasons that it should be updated. It considers legislative changes, national policy changes, local policy changes and any other changes in circumstances. This allows the scope of the Local Plan update to be identified.
- 3.2 It should be noted that the below assessment identifies the need for an update to be considered. It does not necessarily represent a firm commitment that a policy will be amended, if further work reveals that such an amendment is not necessary. Nor does it exclude policies being brought within the scope of the update further into the process where circumstances change or where the update process reveals a further need for amendments.
- 3.3 A number of policies refer to the current Plan period to 2031 and associated targets, quantities of development etc. It is necessary to review these as part of an overall consideration of whether to extend the time horizon of the Local Plan in line with national guidance. To avoid repetition, this is not necessarily identified in the table below in each instance.
- 3.4 Similarly, all detailed policies will need to be reviewed against National Development Management Policies once these are published to avoid repetition while all unimplemented site allocations will need review to ensure they remain necessary, deliverable or developable.
- 3.5 Policies that require reviewing are highlighted in green, those that do not require reviewing are highlighted in red. Those policies that are highlighted amber do not readily require reviewing but may need to be revisited based on the outcome of the review of other policies highlighted in green.

Requires review
May require reviewing based on <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the outcome of another policy's review;• for site allocations, progression of the site through the development management process; or• doesn't require reviewing as a standalone policy but in combination with others, we should/could review for completeness

Does not require review / site allocation has been implemented and can be deleted

- 3.6 In addition, if spatial policies are updated and the spatial boundary of the policy alters, there will be a requirement to update the policies map as a consequence of these changes.

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Policy	Review required?
Vision	Yes
Strategic Objectives	Yes
SP1 Sustainable development in North Hertfordshire	No
SP2 Settlement Hierarchy and Spatial Distribution	Yes
SP3 Employment	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
SP4 Town Centres, Local Centres and Community Shops	Yes
SP5 Countryside and Green Belt	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
SP6 Sustainable transport	Yes
SP7 Infrastructure requirements and developer contributions	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
SP8 Housing	Yes
SP9 Design and Sustainability	Yes
SP10 Healthy Communities	Yes

Policy	Review required?
SP11 Natural resources and sustainability	Yes
SP12 Green infrastructure, landscape and biodiversity	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
SP13 Historic environment	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
SP14 Site BA1 – North of Baldock	Yes
SP15 Site LG1 – North of Letchworth Garden City	Yes
SP16 Site NS1 – North of Stevenage	Yes
SP17 Site HT1 – Highover Farm, Hitchin	Yes
SP18 Site GA2 – Land off Mendip Way, Great Ashby	Yes
SP19 Sites EL1, EL2 & EL3 – East of Luton	Yes
ETC1 Appropriate uses in Employment Areas	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
ETC2 Employment development outside Employment Areas and Employment Allocations BA10 and RY9	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews

Policy	Review required?
ETC3 New retail, leisure and other main town centre development	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
ETC4 Primary Shopping Frontages	Yes
ETC5 Secondary Shopping Frontages	Yes
ETC6 Local Centres	Yes
ETC7 Local community shops and services in towns and villages	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
ETC8 Tourism	No
CGB1 Rural Areas beyond the Green Belt	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
CGB2a Exception sites for affordable housing in the Green Belt	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
CGB2b Community facilities, services and affordable housing in the rural area beyond the Green Belt	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
CGB3 Rural workers dwellings	No
CGB4 Existing building in the Rural Area beyond Green Belt	No

Policy	Review required?
CGB5 Urban open land	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
T1 Assessment of transport matters	Yes
T2 Parking	Yes
HS1 Local housing allocations	Yes
HS2 Affordable housing	Yes
HS3 Housing mix	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
HS4 Supported, sheltered and older persons housing	Yes
HS5 Accessible and adaptable housing	Yes
HS6 Relatives and dependent accommodation	No
HS7 Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	Yes
D1 Sustainable design	Yes
D2 House extensions, replacement dwellings and outbuildings	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews

Policy	Review required?
D3 Protecting living conditions	No
D4 Air quality	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
HC1 Community facilities	No
NE1 Strategic green infrastructure	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
NE2 Landscape	Yes
NE3 Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
NE4 Biodiversity and geological sites	Yes
NE5 Protecting open space	Yes
NE6 New and improved open space	No
NE7 Reducing flood risk	Yes
NE8 Sustainable drainage systems	Yes
NE9 Water quality and environment	Yes

Policy	Review required?
NE10 Water conservation and wastewater infrastructure	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
NE11 Contaminated Land	No
NE12 Renewable and low carbon energy development	Yes
HE1 Designated heritage assets	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
HE2 Heritage at risk	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
HE3 Non-designated heritage assets	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
HE4 Archaeology	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
BA2 Land south west of Clothall Road	Yes
BA3 Land south of Clothall Common	Yes
BA4 Land east of Clothall Common	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews

Policy	Review required?
BA5 Land of Yeomanry Drive	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
BA6 Land at Icknield Way	Allocation implemented - delete
BA7 Land rear of Clare Crescent	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
BA10 Royston Road	Yes
BA11 Deans Yard, South Road	Yes
BK2 Land off Windmill Close	Allocation implemented – delete
BK3 Land between Cambridge Road and Royston Road	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
CD1 Land south of Cowards Lane	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
CD2 Codicote Garden Centre, High Street	Allocation implemented – delete
CD3 Land north of The Close	Yes
CD5 Land south of Heath Lane	Allocation implemented – delete

Policy	Review required?
CD6 Land at Woodside Place, Danesbury Park Road	Yes
GR1 Land at Milksey Lane	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
GA1 Land at Roundwood	Yes
HT2 Land north of Pound Farm	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
HT3 Land south of Oughtonhead Lane	Yes
HT5 Land at junction of Grays Lane and Lucus Lane	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
HT6 Land at junction of Grays Lane and Crows Furlong	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
HT8 Industrial Area, Cooks Way	Yes
HT10 Former B&Q site	Yes
HT11 Churchgate and its surrounding area	Yes
HT12 Paynes Park	Yes

Policy	Review required?
IC1 Land at Duncots Close	Yes
IC2 Burford Grange, Bedford Road	Allocation implemented – delete
IC3 Land at Bedford Road	Yes
KM3 Land north of High Street	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
KW1 Land west of The Heath, Breachwood Green	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
KB1 Land at Deards End	Yes
KB2 Land off Gipsy Lane	Yes
KB4 Land east of Knebworth	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
LG3 Land east of Kristiansand Way and Talbot Way	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
LG4 Land north of former Norton School, Norton Road	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
LG5 Land at Birds Hill	Yes

Policy	Review required?
LG6 Land off Radburn Way	Yes
LG8 Pixmore Centre, Pixmore Avenue	Yes
LG9 Former Lannock School	Allocation implemented – delete
LG10 Former playing field, Croft Lane	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
LG13 Glebe Road industrial estate	Yes
LG15 Garages, Ickniel Way	Yes
LG16 Foundation House	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
LG18 Former Depot, Ickniel Way	Yes
LG19 The Wynd, Openshaw Way	Yes
LG20 Gernon Road	Allocation implemented – delete
LG21 Arena Parade	Yes
PR1 Land off Templars Lane	Allocation implemented – delete

Policy	Review required?
RD1 Land at Blacksmiths Lane	Yes
RY4 Land north of Lindsay Close	Yes
RY7 Anglian Business Park, Orchard Road	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
RY9 Land north of York Way	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
RY10 Land south of Newmarket Road	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
RY11 Land at Barkway Road	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
RY12 Town Hall site, Melbourn Street	Yes
SI1 Land south of Waterdell Lane	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
SI2 Land south of Stevenage Road	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
TH1 Land at Police Row	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews

Policy		Review required?
WE1	Land off Hitchin Road	Yes
WY1	Land south of Little Wymondley	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews
IMR1	Five Year Housing Land Supply	Yes
IMR2	Local Plan Early Review	No

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Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
Vision	Sets out the aspirations for North Herts over the Plan period	Update to reflect the priorities of the Council and to cover an appropriate time period.	Yes	Local change
Strategic Objectives	Provides the link between the Vision and the Strategic Policies	Update to reflect the amendments to the Vision.	Yes	Local change
SP1: Sustainable development in North Hertfordshire	Model policy which supports the delivery of growth	Accords with national guidance.	No	
SP2: Settlement Hierarchy and Spatial Distribution	Sets out the approach to development in the context of towns and villages and where, predominantly, housing development will be directed	Needs updating to account for delivery on strategic sites, updated commitments, completions and windfalls and to extend time horizon of the Plan beyond 2031 with appropriate targets and requirements.	Yes	National Policy change and Local change

Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
SP3: Employment	Sets out the approach to development in the context of towns and villages and where employment development will be directed	Needs updating to account for delivery on sites, and to extend time horizon of the Plan beyond 2031 with appropriate targets and requirements.	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews	
SP4: Town Centres, Local Centres and Community Shops	Sets out the provision for appropriate range of retail and services across the District	Town Centre Strategies are being undertaken which are likely to result in updated approaches to retail uses; current retail forecasts pre-date Covid-19. The outcome of these strategies should be reflected in any updated policy and should account for any changes in the settlement hierarchy as set out in Policy SP2.	Yes	National Policy change and Local change

Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
SP5: Countryside and Green Belt	Sets out how unrestrained development will be controlled in areas of Green Belt within the District	The policy generally accords with national policy and has been mostly effective but may require a consequential review based on the outcome of the review of a number of other policies.	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews	

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Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
SP6: Sustainable transport	Sets out how accessibility across the District will be promoted through sustainable transport modes	<p>HCC is updating the Local Transport Plan, Active Travel Strategy and a new <i>Place and Movement Planning and Design Guide</i> (to replace <i>Roads in Hertfordshire</i>)</p> <p>Policy should be strengthened to reflect the national and local priority afforded to active travel, as set out in the Active Travel England Framework document, <i>Gear Change</i>, LTP4, and the North Herts LCWIP</p> <p>Local Plan policy needs to say more about designing in permeability and safety by design to make active travel convenient and attractive</p>	Yes	National Policy change and Local change

Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
SP7: Infrastructure requirements and developer contributions	Sets out infrastructure required to support development	Policy already refers to the appropriate mechanisms for collecting contributions but in light of the other updates required in the Local Plan, it would be opportune to ensure that this policy has regard to relevant national guidance or requirements in relation to planning obligations and any Infrastructure Levy proposed in secondary legislation resulting from the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act.	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews	
SP8: Housing	Sets out minimum housing supply to meet projected need over the Plan period	Needs updating to account for delivery on strategic sites, updated commitments, completions and windfalls and to extend time horizon of the Plan beyond 2031 with appropriate targets and requirements. This includes consideration of the outcomes of Local Plan reviews in surrounding areas. Status of safeguarded land West of Stevenage to be reviewed.	Yes	National Policy change and Local change

Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
SP9: Design and Sustainability	Sets out the expectations for the sustainability of developments, in particular meeting high Masterplanning standards for residential developments	National policy on climate change has evolved over time while North Herts have declared a Climate Emergency. Examination decisions on local authorities setting their own sustainability standards have, to date, been inconsistent. However, this issue should be comprehensively explored.	Yes	National Policy change and Local change
SP10: Healthy Communities	Sets out requirements for developments to contribute towards inclusive communities	Policy generally accords with national guidance. However long-term secondary education requirements around Stevenage are specifically identified in Policy IMR2 as an issue for the review to consider.	Yes	
SP11: Natural resources and sustainability	Sets out how the challenges of climate change and flooding will be met	National policy in this area has evolved over time and this needs to be reflected in an update to this policy and to take account of the North Herts Climate Emergency declaration	Yes	National Policy change and Local change

Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
SP12: Green infrastructure, landscape, and biodiversity	Sets out how development will ensure that the natural environment is protected and enhanced	<p>The Environment Act 2021 introduces significant new provisions which affect the relationship between biodiversity and development.</p> <p>The general principles and aspirations of the policy are sound, but the policy may require a consequential review following any other updates to associated policies as set out below.</p>	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews	
SP13: Historic environment	Sets out requirement for the protection and enhancement of historic features	<p>Policy generally accords with national guidance.</p> <p>However, keep under review in line with revisions to local and / or national Development Management Policies</p>	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews	

Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
SP14: Site BA1 – North of Baldock	Strategic site allocation policy	<p>Masterplanning in progress</p> <p>The policy should be retained until the final phase of the site has been implemented but reviewed to reflect any more up-to-date information on site capacity, delivery, constraints, infrastructure requirements etc.</p>	Yes	Local change
SP15: Site LG1 – North of Letchworth Garden City	Strategic site allocation policy	<p>Masterplanning in progress</p> <p>The policy should be retained until the final phase of the site has been implemented but reviewed to reflect any more up-to-date information on site capacity, delivery, constraints, infrastructure requirements etc.</p>	Yes	Local change
SP16: Site NS1 – North of Stevenage	Strategic site allocation policy	<p>Masterplanning in progress</p> <p>The policy should be retained until the final phase of the site has been implemented but reviewed to reflect any more up-to-date information on site capacity, delivery, constraints, infrastructure requirements etc.</p>	Yes	Local change

Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
SP17: Site HT1 – Highover Farm, Hitchin	Strategic site allocation policy	Resolution to grant outline permission (18/01154/OP) The policy should be retained until the final phase of the site has been implemented	Yes	Local change
SP18: Site GA2 – Land off Mendip Way, Great Ashby	Strategic site allocation policy	Masterplanning in progress The policy should be retained until the final phase of the site has been implemented but reviewed to reflect any more up-to-date information on site capacity, delivery, constraints, infrastructure requirements etc.	Yes	Local change
SP19: Sites EL1, EL2 & EL3 – East of Luton	Strategic site allocation policy	Applications under consideration The policy should be retained until the final phase of the site has been implemented. Site is predominantly to meet unmet needs from Luton's Local Plan which is due to be reviewed.	Yes	Local change

Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
ETC1: Appropriate uses in Employment Areas	Sets out a criteria-based approach to proposals for maintaining employment land and controlling loss of employment land in other locations	The policy may require consequential updates to the boundary of the employment areas only.	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews	
ETC2: Employment development outside Employment Areas and Employment Allocations BA10 and RY9	Sets out the main locations for major office and industrial or warehouse development outside of the designated areas	The policy may require updates that are consequential to SP2 and any changes in the hierarchy of settlements.	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews	

Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
ETC3: New retail, leisure, and other main town centre development	Supports town centre uses as defined in the NPPF with the town centre boundaries and requires proposals to be assessed in line with the sequential approach	<p>Policy generally accords with national guidance.</p> <p>Town Centre Strategies are being undertaken which are likely to result in updated approaches to retail uses.</p> <p>Whilst the Policy is unlikely to need updating, it should be re-assessed following updates (if appropriate) to other policies in the Economy and Town Centres chapter to ensure consistency</p>	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews	
ETC4: Primary Shopping Frontages	Identifies Town Centre boundaries and Primary Shopping Frontages in Hitchin, Letchworth Garden City and Royston	Town Centre Strategies are being undertaken which may result in updated approaches to primary shopping frontages to account for post-Covid 19 requirements. The outcome of these strategies should be reflected in any updated policy	Yes	National Policy change and Local change

Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
ETC5: Secondary Shopping Frontages	Identifies Secondary Shopping Frontages in Baldock, Hitchin, Letchworth Garden City and Royston	Town Centre Strategies are being undertaken which may result in updated approaches to secondary shopping frontages to account for post-Covid 19 requirements. The outcome of these strategies should be reflected in any updated policy	Yes	National Policy change and local change
ETC6: Local Centres	Sets out the uses that will be accepted in identified local centres	Policy should be reviewed in light of the recommendations made for post-Covid 19 requirements that come out of the Town Centre Strategies to ensure that the Council takes a consistent approach across Town Centres and Local Centres in the District and accounting for local need within the local area	Yes	National Policy change

Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
ETC7: Local community shops and services in towns and villages	Sets out the uses that will be accepted in identified local community shops in towns and villages	Policy generally accords with national guidance. Any update should only occur as a consequence of any updates to SP2 or CB2b and to ensure consistency.	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews	
ETC8: Tourism	Supports provision of further leisure, culture and tourism uses in North Herts	Policy generally accords with national guidance	No	
CGB1: Rural Areas beyond the Green Belt	Sets out the types of development that will be permitted in the Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt	Policy generally accords with national guidance. Any update should only occur as a consequence of updates to SP2 to ensure consistency.	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews	

Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
CGB2a: Exception sites for affordable housing in the Green Belt	Sets out areas that would be suitable for affordable housing in the Green Belt	Policy generally accords with national guidance. Any update should only occur as a consequence of updates to SP2 and HS2 to ensure consistency.	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews	
CGB2b: Community facilities, services, and affordable housing in the Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt	Sets out areas that would be suitable for community facilities, services and affordable housing in the Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt	Policy generally accords with national guidance. Any update should only occur as a consequence of updates to SP2 and HS2 to ensure consistency.	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews	
CGB3: Rural workers' dwellings	Sets out the criteria for which Rural workers dwelling are assessed against	The policy generally accords with national policy	No	

Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
CGB4: Existing buildings in the Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt	Sets out the criteria for which the re-use, replacement or extension of existing building are assessed against	The policy generally accords with national policy	No	
CGB5: Urban Open Land	Sets out the criteria for which the use of urban open land is assessed against	The policy generally accords with national policy. However, this may need to be updated in light of the review of other policies relating to housing need, open space requirements and Biodiversity Net Gain.	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews	

Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
T1: Assessment of transport matters	Sets out requirements for developments to contribute to meeting the objectives of the sustainable transport measures	To reflect national and local changes in affording priority to active travel and public transport over private cars, the policy requires updating to require a vision-and-validate or decide-and-provide approach, where a target mode share is agreed first, and then supportive interventions, on- and off-site, are agreed subsequently. This is a departure from the traditional predict-and-provide approach, which assumes a new development will have the same modal shares as similar existing sites and focuses on providing sufficient highway and junction capacity to accommodate the forecast peak flows of motor traffic	Yes	National Policy change and Local change

<p>T2: Parking</p>	<p>Ensures that car and cycle parking appropriate to the level of accessibility of the site is provided as part of new developments.</p>	<p>The policy needs to be updated to reference Document S of the Building Regulations, which requires one EV chargepoint to be installed per parking space or per dwelling (as a minimum) and set some design and accessibility standards for EV chargepoints.</p> <p>The NPPF now talks about the importance of providing adequate overnight lorry parking facilities, which is something not currently addressed in the Local Plan</p> <p>LTP4 and LTN1/20 prioritise safety and convenience of active travel over private cars. This requires car parking provision to be arranged so as to make driving no more convenient than walking or cycling.</p> <p>Cycle parking standards need to be revised upwards to one per occupier (since people generally do not share cycles, unlike cars)</p> <p>Policy needs to include explicit provision for car clubs, which can help deliver on various local and national policy objectives (see DfT toolkit)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Nation Policy change and Local change</p>
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Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
HS1: Local Housing Allocations	This policy aims to set out the amount of housing that would be provided in North Herts over the plan period	Will need updating to account for delivery on strategic sites, updated commitments, completions and windfalls. Policies map will need updating to reflect any new/removed allocations.	Yes	National Policy change
HS2: Affordable housing	This policy aims to ensure that housing development makes an appropriate contribution to the delivery of affordable housing, either through delivery on site for larger developments, or through a financial contribution for smaller developments	Policy will need to reflect the latest affordable housing definition in the most up to date evidence and NPPF 2023	Yes	National Policy change
HS3: Housing mix	Sets out the type and mix of housing required appropriate to local character, taking account of the latest evidence.	Policy generally signposts readers to other relevant policies but also provides a link to the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) which sets out the appropriate type and mix of housing. Consequential update may be necessary from other associated policies.	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews	

Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
HS4: Supported, sheltered and older persons housing	Sets out proposals for specialist residential accommodation for vulnerable people, including older people and people with disabilities.	Additional guidance in the PPG was published on Housing for Older and Disabled People. This includes setting out categories of the different types of specialist housing for older people and also identifying the need to provide housing for older people as critical	Yes	National Policy change
HS5: Accessible and adaptable housing	Ensures the delivery of accessible and adaptable homes to meet the changing needs of occupant	<p>The PPG and NPPF allows plan-making authorities to set out the proportion of new housing that will be delivered to technical housing standards – Policy HS5 currently does this.</p> <p>However, the proportion will need to be reassessed in light of any up-to-date evidence and viability considerations. As such the Policy will likely need to be updated</p>	Yes	Local change

Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
HS6: Relatives' and dependents' accommodation	Sets out expectations for proposals for house extensions or for other householder development, including ancillary accommodation such as granny annexes	Policy generally accords with national guidance	No	
HS7: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	Aims to identify levels of need for sites for gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople accommodation, as well as set out criteria for consideration of proposals for new development for this use	Updates required to Gypsy, Traveller and Showperson Accommodation Assessment work to reflect updated need	Yes	Local change
D1: Sustainable design	Sets out requirements for all development proposals to be of high standard of design and layout to reflect and promote local distinctiveness	Policy needs to be updated to better incorporate sustainability measures and ensure that it captures all key principles for good urban design. Policy should also incorporate the Design Code requirements set out in the LURA and any other secondary legislation.	Yes	National Policy change and Local change

Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
D2: House extensions, replacement dwellings and outbuildings	Sets out the criteria against which proposals for extensions and alterations to dwellings, residential outbuildings, and work within residential curtilages, will be considered.	Policy generally accords with national guidance. However, this policy may be replaced by Design Code/NDMP's and may need updating or removing accordingly.	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews	
D3: Protecting living conditions	Sets out how existing living conditions should not be harmed by development proposals	Policy generally accords with national guidance	No	
D4: Air quality	Ensures new development includes measures to minimise the impact on air quality	Policy needs to be strengthened to reflect latest national and local position on improving air quality	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews	

Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
HC1: Community facilities	Requires the provision of adequate and appropriately located community facilities in conjunction with new development	Policy generally accords with national guidance	No	
NE1: Strategic green infrastructure	To ensure the delivery, protection and enhancement of multi-functional green infrastructure across the district	Policy generally accords with national guidance. Policy could be strengthened to reflect the lessons learnt from the delivery of strategic sites, such as stewardship arrangements. Opportunity to update to include reference to most up to date local strategies	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews	
NE2: Landscape	Sets out how developments will respect the existing landscapes within the area	Change in national policy in that the NPPF that protection and enhancement of valued landscapes should be in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan. These elements may require mapping on the Policies Map also.	Yes	National Policy change

Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
NE3: The Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	This policy identifies a major landscape feature, the character of which should be maintained	<p>Change in national policy in that the NPPF that protection and enhancement of valued landscapes should be in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan.</p> <p>Work is underway on a potential extension to the Chilterns AONB, and it is currently expected that an Order to amend the boundary will be made by October 2024. At this stage, it is not known whether any land within North Herts or on the boundary would be affected. However, this element of change is not within the control of NHC.</p>	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews	
NE4: Biodiversity and geological sites	Aims to ensure that biodiversity in North Herts is protected and enhanced wherever possible	The Environment Act 2021 introduces significant new provisions which affect the relationship between biodiversity and development including BNG and its strategic significance.	Yes	National Policy change and Local change

Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
NE5: Protecting open space	Sets out defined areas as either Local Green Space or Public Open Space, which will be protected from development	The general principles of the policy are sound, but the policy relies on general protections rather than allocating land which is at odds with more up to date legislation and sustainable aspirations.	Yes	Local change
NE6: New and improved open space	Sets out expectations for the amount, type, and quality of new open space to be provided as part of a development	Policy generally accords with national guidance	No	

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Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
NE7: Reducing flood risk	Sets out expectations in terms of flood risk, by following the relevant national policy tests and ensuring that the capacity of the flood plain to store floodwater is not reduced, the flow of floodwater is not impeded and the risks to life and property are not increased	Paragraph 160 of the NPPF 2021 has been amended to clarify the sequential test should take into account “all sources of flood risk”, and new Annex 3 now sets out the Flood Risk Vulnerability Classification which was previously included in national planning guidance. The flood risk and coastal change section of the Planning Practice Guidance was updated in 2022 to strengthen guidance on the how to apply the sequential test, surface water flood risks and sustainable drainage	Yes	National Policy change






Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
NE8: Sustainable drainage systems	Ensures new development utilises effective sustainable drainage	The flood risk and coastal change section of the Planning Practice Guidance was updated in 2022 to strengthen guidance on surface water flood risk, the role and multi-functional use of sustainable drainage (SuDS) and to encourage the use of local policies to steer the type of SuDs preferred in different locations.	Yes	National Policy change and Local change
NE9: Water quality and environment	Requires proposals to preserve and enhance water quality	Policy generally accords with national guidance. However, the importance of Chalk Stream corridors etc and their presence in the District could and should be enhanced. In addition, further guidance is set out in our Draft Sustainability SPD and should be incorporated into Local Plan	Yes	Local change





Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
NE10: Water conservation and wastewater infrastructure	Sets out the aims to deal with water conservation and wastewater infrastructure	Policy generally accords with national guidance. Further guidance is set out in our Draft Sustainability SPD and should be incorporated into Local Plan	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews	
NE11: Contaminated land	Sets out requirements for new development to demonstrate that unacceptable risks from contamination and land instability can be addressed	Policy generally accords with national guidance	No	
NE12: Renewable and low carbon energy development	Identifies criteria to inform the appropriate location of sources of renewable energy generation.	Policy generally accords with national guidance however requires much more emphasis. Further guidance is set out in our Draft Sustainability SPD and should be incorporated into Local Plan	Yes	Local change




Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
HE1: Designated heritage assets	Sets out how development proposals should preserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment	Policy generally accords with national guidance. Could be expanded to make clear that great weight should be given to less than substantial harm	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews	
HE2: Heritage at risk	Sets out the requirements for development that affects designated heritage assets that are identified as 'at risk'	Policy generally accords with national guidance. Could be expanded to make clear that great weight should be given to less than substantial harm	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews	





Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
HE3: Non-designated heritage assets	Sets out the requirements for development that affects non-designated heritage assets	Policy generally accords with national guidance. Could be expanded to refer to a future local list, which would be appended to the District Plan	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews	
HE4: Archaeology	Sets the requirement to submit a desk-based assessment and a field evaluation where sites have the potential include heritage assets with archaeological interest.	Policy generally accords with national guidance. NDMPs and/or updates to guidance may deal with these aspects and the policy may need amending or removing.	Review decision to be confirmed based on outcome of associated policy reviews	







Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
BA2 – Land south west of Clothall Road	Local housing site allocation policy	<p>Masterplanning in progress with no application.</p> <p>The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented</p>	Yes	
BA3 - Land south of Clothall Common	Local housing site allocation policy	<p>Masterplanning in progress with no application.</p> <p>The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented.</p>	Yes	
BA4 - Land east of Clothall Common	Local housing site allocation policy	<p>Application under consideration (21/01882/FP)</p> <p>The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented</p>		
BA5 - Land of Yeomanry Drive	Local housing site allocation policy	<p>Site has a resolution to grant permission subject to the signing of a Section 106 Agreement (20/02046/OP)</p> <p>The policy should be retained until the whole site has been implemented</p>		





Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
BA6 - Land at Icknield Way	Local housing site allocation policy	Site complete – Policy will be deleted	No	
BA7 - Land rear of Clare Crescent	Local housing site allocation policy	The site benefits from planning permission (20/02507/FP) The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented		
BA10 - Royston Road	Employment site allocation policy	In masterplanning with no application. The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented	Yes	
BA11 - Deans Yard, South Road	Local housing site allocation policy	No application. The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented	Yes	
BK2 - Land off Windmill Close	Local housing site allocation policy	Site complete – Policy will be deleted	No	




Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
BK3 - Land between Cambridge Road and Royston Road	Local housing site allocation policy	The site benefits from planning permission (18/01502/OP). The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented		
CD1 - Land south of Cowards Lane	Local housing site allocation policy	The site benefits from outline planning permission (17/01464/1) The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented		
CD2 - Codicote Garden Centre, High Street	Local housing site allocation policy	The site benefits from planning permission and development has commenced (19/01448/FP) Policy will be deleted	No	
CD3 - Land north of The Close	Local housing site allocation policy	No application. The policy should be retained until the whole site has been implemented	Yes	






Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
CD5 - Land south of Heath Lane	Local housing site allocation policy	The site benefits from planning permission and development has commenced (18/02722/FP) Policy will be deleted	No	
CD6 - Land at Woodside Place, Danesbury Park Road	Gypsy and traveller site allocation	The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented	Yes	
GR1 - Land at Milksey Lane	Local housing site allocation policy	Site has a resolution to grant permission subject to the signing of a Section 106 Agreement (17/04017/FP) The policy should be retained until the whole site has been implemented		
GA1 - Land at Roundwood	Local housing site allocation policy	Masterplanning in progress. The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented	Yes	






Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
HT2 - Land north of Pound Farm	Local housing site allocation policy	<p>Site has a resolution to grant permission subject to the signing of a Section 106 Agreement (21/00434/HYA)</p> <p>The policy should be retained until the whole site has been implemented</p>		
HT3 - Land south of Oughtonhead Lane	Local housing site allocation policy	No application. The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented	Yes	
HT5 - Land at junction of Grays Lane and Lucus Lane	Local housing site allocation policy	<p>Application under consideration (22/00516/FP)</p> <p>The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented</p>		
HT6 - Land at junction of Grays Lane and Crows Furlong	Local housing site allocation policy	<p>Site has a resolution to grant permission subject to the signing of a Section 106 Agreement (22/03092/FP)</p> <p>The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented</p>		







Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
HT8 - Industrial Area, Cooks Way	Local housing site allocation policy	No application. The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented	Yes	
HT10 - Former B&Q site	Local housing site allocation policy	No application. The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented	Yes	
HT11 - Churchgate and its surrounding area	Town Centre Uses site allocation policy	No application. The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented	Yes	
HT12 - Paynes Park	Town Centre Uses site allocation policy	No application. The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented	Yes	
IC1 - Land at Duncots Close	Local housing site allocation policy	No application. The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented	Yes	
IC2 - Burford Grange, Bedford Road	Local housing site allocation policy	The site benefits from planning permission and development has commenced (19/01106/FP) Policy will be deleted	No	





Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
IC3 - Land at Bedford Road	Local housing site allocation policy	No application. The policy should be retained until the whole site has been implemented	Yes	
KM3 - Land north of High Street	Local housing site allocation policy	Application under consideration (21/00541/OP) The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented		
KW1 - Land west of The Heath, Breachwood Green	Local housing site allocation policy	Site has a resolution to grant permission subject to the signing of a Section 106 Agreement (22/01942/OP) The policy should be retained until the whole site has been implemented		
KB1 - Land at Deards End	Local housing site allocation policy	Masterplanning in progress with no application. The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented	Yes	





Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
KB2 - Land off Gipsy Lane	Local housing site allocation policy	Masterplanning in progress with no application. The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented	Yes	
KB4 - Land east of Knebworth	Local housing site allocation policy	Application under consideration (23/01552/OP) The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented		
LG3 - Land east of Kristiansand Way and Talbot Way	Local housing site allocation policy	Site has a resolution to grant permission subject to the signing of a Section 106 Agreement (21/00504/OP) The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented		



Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
LG4 - Land north of former Norton School, Norton Road	Local housing site allocation policy	<p>Site has a resolution to grant permission subject to the signing of a Section 106 Agreement (18/02913/OP)</p> <p>The policy should be retained until the whole site has been implemented</p>		
LG5 - Land at Birds Hill	Local housing site allocation policy	No application. The policy should be retained until the whole site has been implemented	Yes	
LG6 - Land off Radburn Way	Local housing site allocation policy	<p>Site partially implemented.</p> <p>Part of the site has permission, and the boundary is now incorrect</p>	Yes	
LG8 - Pixmore Centre, Pixmore Avenue	Local housing site allocation policy	No application. The policy should be retained until the whole site has been implemented	Yes	
LG9 - Former Lannock School	Local housing site allocation policy	Site complete – Policy will be deleted	No	

Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
LG10 - Former playing field, Croft Lane	Local housing site allocation policy	<p>Site has a resolution to grant permission subject to the signing of a Section 106 Agreement (22/01464/OP)</p> <p>The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented</p>		
LG13 - Glebe Road industrial estate	Local housing site allocation policy	No application. The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented	Yes	
LG15 - Garages, Icknield Way	Local housing site allocation policy	No application. The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented	Yes	
LG16 - Foundation House	Local housing site allocation policy	<p>The site benefits from planning permission (20/01714/FP)</p> <p>The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented</p>		
LG18 - Former Depot, Icknield Way	Local housing site allocation policy	No application. The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented	Yes	

Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
LG19 - The Wynd, Openshaw Way	Town Centre Uses site allocation policy	No application. The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented	Yes	
LG20 - Gernon Road	Town Centre Uses site allocation policy	Site complete – Policy will be deleted	No	
LG21 - Arena Parade	Town Centre Uses site allocation policy	The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented	Yes	
PR1 - Land off Templars Lane	Local housing site allocation policy	The site benefits from planning permission and development has commenced (21/02076/FP)	No	
RD1 - Land at Blacksmiths Lane	Local housing site allocation policy	No application. The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented	Yes	
RY4 - Land north of Lindsay Close	Local housing site allocation policy	No application. The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented	Yes	

Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
RY7 - Anglian Business Park, Orchard Road	Local housing site allocation policy	<p>The site benefits from planning permission (19/01172/HYA)</p> <p>The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented</p>		
RY9 - Land north of York Way	Employment site allocation policy	Site benefits from various permissions some of which have been implemented		
RY10 - Land south of Newmarket Road	Local housing site allocation policy	<p>The site benefits from planning permission (20/01138/RM)</p> <p>The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented</p>		
RY11 - Land at Barkway Road	Local housing site allocation policy	<p>Development complete on part of the site</p> <p>Remainder of the site benefits from planning permission (21/02957/FP)</p> <p>The policy should be retained until the whole site has been implemented.</p>		

Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
RY12 - Town Hall site, Melbourn Street	Retail site allocation policy	No application. The policy should be retained until the whole site has been implemented	Yes	
SI1 - Land south of Waterdell Lane	Local housing site allocation policy	Site has a resolution to grant permission subject to the signing of a Section 106 Agreement (20/02412/FP) The policy should be retained until the whole site has been implemented		
SI2 - Land south of Stevenage Road	Local housing site allocation policy	Application under consideration (19/01669/FP) The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented		
TH1 - Land at Police Row	Local housing site allocation policy	Application under consideration (23/01885/FP) The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented		

Local Plan Policy	Purpose	Comments (e.g., compliance with NPPF/NPPG and other legislation, monitoring, delivery etc)	Does the policy need reviewing? (yes/no)	Reason (National Policy change/Local change)
WE1 - Land off Hitchin Road	Local housing site allocation policy	No application. The policy should be retained until the whole site has been implemented	Yes	
WY1 - Land south of Little Wymondley	Local housing site allocation policy	Application under consideration (22/00956/OP) The policy should be retained until the site has been implemented		
IMR1 - Five Year Housing Land Supply	Sets out the housing delivery targets over the Plan period to meet projected need to 2031	Will need updating to account for delivery of strategic sites and updated commitment, completions and windfall. Will need updating to reflect the standard method	Yes	National Policy change and local change
IMR2 - Local Plan Early Review	Sets out the requirement to undertake an early review by the end of 2023 to determine whether the Plan needs updating either in part or in full	This work has been undertaken and is being presented to Cabinet at the end of 2023	No	Policy sets framework for the review.

4 Other matters for update

- 4.1.1 This section considers whether there are other aspects of the Local Plan in addition to the overall spatial strategy and the individual policies that need to be incorporated within any update. This consideration has emerged from the same process as already described for the individual policies.

Policy gaps

- 4.1.2 In examining the headings used for the assessment of the individual policies a number of areas have been identified where there is a potential gap in Local Plan policy that would need to be addressed.
- 4.1.3 One such area is digital infrastructure. It has already been identified that there is a need to update policy to ensure that digital infrastructure is appropriately prioritised within the general infrastructure list. The latest version of the NPPF (paragraph 114) also specifically highlights the importance of policies addressing digital infrastructure, which was not present in the 2012 version against which the existing plan was examined:

“Policies should set out how high quality digital infrastructure, providing access to services from a range of providers, is expected to be delivered and upgraded over time; and should prioritise full fibre connections to existing and new developments (as these connections will, in almost all cases, provide the optimum solution).”

- 4.1.4 Another possible matter for further policy coverage is walking. There is an existing policy T1 which deals with the assessment of transport matters, but this is directed at road transportation. NHC have since adopted a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), and this needs to be incorporated into the Local Plan.

Infrastructure delivery plan

- 4.1.5 The Local Plan is supported by a background document which sets out the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, including a summary Infrastructure Delivery Schedule, which identifies the key infrastructure requirements to support the level of growth identified and how they will be secured. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan should be part of any update of the Local Plan.

Monitoring framework

- 4.1.6 The Monitoring Framework in section 14 of the Local Plan will require an update, particularly where it refers to specific targets for levels of development that are expected to be superseded. Updates of relevant monitoring indicators and targets

would be included within the wider update of those respective policies, and the Monitoring Framework would simply be updated as a consequence of those changes rather than consideration in its own right.

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5 Conclusions and next steps

- 5.1.1 In conclusion, a need has been identified to update the vast majority of the policies in the Local Plan. Therefore, a full update of the Local Plan is required, to cover those policies identified. In addition to updating the policies identified above, there is potentially a need to address identified policy gaps in terms of digital infrastructure and walking provision, amongst other policy areas, either as new policies or by amending existing policies.
- 5.1.2 Furthermore, the overall spatial strategy will also need to be updated in particular to amend references to possible developments in neighbouring authorities to reflect the latest position in those authorities' plans.
- 5.1.3 Finally, the potential changes in needs for development, in particular for housing development, will place demands on the need for infrastructure. There will need to be a significant enhancement to the Infrastructure Delivery Plan to ensure that the level of development proposed is supported by the essential infrastructure, delivered at the right time.