



Planning Policy
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
The Campus
Welwyn Garden City
AL8 6AE

25 March 2026

Dear Phil

Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan – Regulation 18 Consultation

Thank you for consulting us on your Regulation 18 consultation for your emerging Local Plan. We welcome the opportunity to comment and provide the following observations on matters of cross-boundary relevance.

Housing Delivery

We note that the proposed housing delivery period covers 10 years rather than the standard 15-year timeframe. We understand that this approach reflects the anticipated Local Government Review and the expected restructuring of local authorities, with confirmation anticipated in the summer. Given that a new, larger authority is expected to be operational by April 2028, we recognise that any requirement to extend the housing delivery period beyond 10 years will be addressed through the new authority's plan-making responsibilities.

We also note your intention to fully meet your own housing need. On this basis, we have no further comments to make regarding the housing element of the Plan.

Employment

We acknowledge that the call for sites has resulted in a limited number of employment land submissions, including two proposals for data centres. We support the consideration of data centres at a strategic level across Hertfordshire and agree that this is an issue best addressed through the emerging Spatial Development Strategy (SDS). A coordinated approach will help ensure that the scale, location, and infrastructure requirements of such facilities are planned effectively across the wider area.

Evidence Base

We welcome and support the ongoing collaboration across our district and your borough on joint evidence base work. This shared approach is particularly valuable where cross-boundary issues arise and will help ensure that both our Local Plan processes are supported by consistent, robust, and up-to-date evidence.

I hope you find our comments helpful. Should you wish to discuss any of the points raised or require clarification on any matter, then please do contact me.

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Yours sincerely

RcRooney

Rachael Rooney

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