



**WATFORD
BOROUGH
COUNCIL**

CABINET

2 October 2023

7.00 pm

**Rooms 201/202, Annexe, Town Hall,
Watford**

Contact

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01923 278377

Publication date: 22 September 2023

Cabinet Membership

Mayor	P Taylor	(Chair)
Councillor	A Dychton	(Deputy Mayor)
Councillors	J Pattinson, K Rodrigues, G Saffery, I Stotesbury, M Watkin and T Williams	

Agenda

Part A – Open to the Public

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Disclosure of interests (if any)**
- 3. Minutes of previous meeting**

The [minutes](#) of the meeting held on 4 September 2023 to be submitted and signed.

- 4. Conduct of meeting**

The Cabinet may wish to consider whether there are any items on which there is general agreement which could be considered now, to enable discussion to focus on those items where the Cabinet sees a need for further debate.

- 5. Annual Review of Fees and Charges (Pages 3 - 45)**
- 6. SW Herts Joint Strategic Plan Vision Report (Pages 46 - 409)**

Part A

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: Monday, 2 October 2023

Report author: Head of Finance

Title: Annual Review of Fees and Charges

1.0 Summary

1.1 This report sets out the draft Charging Policy for 2024/25 to be adopted by Council and proposed changes to the Council’s schedule of fees and charges.

2.0 Risks

2.1

Nature of risk	Consequence	Suggested Control Measures	Response (treat, tolerate, terminate or transfer)	Risk Rating (combination of severity and likelihood)
Fees and Charges do not reflect cost of providing services	A subsidy / greater subsidy is created for the end user receiving the service.	Fees and Charges are reviewed at least annually to ensure that they remain at an appropriate level.	Treat	4
Income budgets do not reflect income levels	A variation to budget to budget is reported resulting in a budget pressure which must be met through in year savings or from reserves.	Income budgets are reviewed annually as part of the budget planning process and budgets are amended to reflect expected income levels based on charges and forecast activity / demand.	Treat	4

3.0 **Recommendations**

3.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

3.2 Recommend the draft Charging Policy and proposed Fees and Charges to Council for approval on 17 October.

3.3 In respect of Market licence fees, to delegate authority to set the fees to the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio holder.

Further information:

Hannah Doney

hannah.doney@threerivers.gov.uk

Report approved by: Alison Scott, Shared Director of Finance

4.0 **Detailed proposal**

4.1 The Council agrees an annual Charging Policy which sets out the approach taken for setting fees and charges for Council services. This includes the different charging strategies that can be applied, service manager responsibilities and the approach to concessions. The draft policy for 2024/25 is set out at Appendix 1.

4.2 The Charging Policy requires service managers to review and vary fees and charges at least annually for services under their control, after consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder.

4.3 This review is usually undertaken during the Autumn with fees and charges agreed as part of the budget in January. However, the inflationary environment means that it is prudent for this review to be undertaken sooner to ensure that fees and charges remain aligned to the cost of delivering services. In undertaking the review, service managers have taken into account that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 8.7% in April 2023.

4.4 It is proposed to adopt new fees and charges for the majority of services from 1 January 2024. These are set out in Appendix 2. The exceptions to this are set out in the following paragraphs.

4.5 It is proposed to increase the fees for Allotments from 1 April 2024, in line with provisions set out in tenancy agreements. The charges are set out in Appendix 3.

4.6 The service year for Garden Waste collection service subscription runs from 1 September to 31 August. Therefore, the revised charges for Garden Waste will apply for the period 1 September 2024 to August 2025. These charges are set out in Appendix 4.

- 4.7 The schedule of fees and charges for the Council's leisure services operated by SLM are set by the provider within parameters set out in the leisure services management contract. Updates to these fees and charges will be provided by SLM ahead of the new financial year (1 April 2024).
- 4.8 Fees and charges in relation to hackney carriage and private hire vehicle licencing fall within the remit of the Council's licencing committee. These charges will be reviewed during the autumn and considered by the Committee in January 2024 with any amendments recommended to Council in January alongside the budget.
- 4.9 The setting of licence fees for Market traders sits outside the fees and charges schedule. Cabinet will be recommended to delegate authority to set the licence fees to the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio holder. This will provide greater flexibility to enable the Council to respond to changes in the economic climate.
- 4.10 The Council does not have discretion over all fees and charges as some are set out by central government in legislation to ensure consistency across the country. This includes Planning fees. The government has recently consulted on a range of proposals which would see these statutory fees increase by up to 35% and then be increased annually from 1 April by CPI. The legislation is expected to pass through parliament in the Autumn with fees increasing from 1 April 2024 at the latest. As these fees are prescribed in law, Council is not required to approve the adoption of these fees and they will be implemented in accordance with the legislation.
- 5.0 **Implications**
- 5.1 **Financial**
- 5.1.1 The Shared Director of Finance comments that the proposed increases to fees and charges, combined with estimates of activity, are expected to generate additional income of around £0.240m in 2024/25. This will be factored into the proposed budget for 2024/25 which will be considered by Council in January 2024.
- 5.1.2 The introduction of the revised fees and charges from 1 January 2024 will contribute to reducing the forecast overspend for 2023/24 as set out in the Financial Monitoring Report – Quarter 1.
- 5.2 **Legal Issues (Monitoring Officer)**
- 5.2.1 The Group Head of Democracy and Governance comments that there are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

5.3 **Equalities, Human Rights and Data Protection**

5.3.1 Under s149 (1) of the Equality Act the council must have due regard, in the exercise of its functions, to the need to –

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share them
- foster good relations between persons who share relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share them.

5.3.2 Having had regard to the council's obligations under s149, it is considered there are no relevant issues arising directly from this report.

5.3.3 Having had regard to the council's obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018, it is considered that officers are not required to undertake a Data Processing Impact Assessment (DPIA) for this report.

5.4 **Staffing**

5.4.1 There are no staffing implications arising from this report.

5.5 **Accommodation**

5.5.1 There are no accommodation implications arising from this report.

5.6 **Community Safety/Crime and Disorder**

5.6.1 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the council to give due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of its functions on crime and disorder in its area and to do all it reasonably can to prevent these. There are no issues arising from this report.

5.7 **Sustainability**

5.7.1 There are no sustainability implications arising from this report.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Charging Policy 2024/25

Appendix 2 – Fees and Charges increased from 1 January 2024

Appendix 3 - Fees and Charges increased from 1 April 2024

Appendix 4 – Fees and Charges increased from 1 September 2024

Background papers

No papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Charging Policy

2024/25



Summary

This policy is set against four best practice points of charging in the public sector;

- Councils should undertake regular reviews of their approaches to charging, both within service areas and across the council;
- Managers should ensure that income from charges, and the level of subsidy this provides, are transparent and inform the decision-making process;
- Councillors and managers should better understand the non-financial contribution charging has to strategic and service objectives.
- Councils do not make an effective use of their charging powers, and authorities need to change their approach to charging if they are to achieve their financial and strategic objectives. At a time when pressure on services is increasing in the public sector and revenues decreasing, councils need to understand, address and improve the way they charge for services.

Key Principles for a Charging Policy

In general, a charge will be levied for all discretionary services on the principle “the user pays”. Charges should seek to optimise potential income. The decision of whether to charge for a specific service will be subject to an assessment of the impact of charging on the delivery of the Councils corporate priorities and priority outcomes.

In undertaking an ‘impact assessment’ the following questions will be asked:

- Why are we providing the service?
- Which of the Council’s corporate priorities and priority outcomes are achieved by the service?
- What impact will charging have on the achievement of the Council’s corporate priorities and priority outcomes?
- Do other similar or neighbouring Councils charge for the service and what is the impact of any such change?
- Are alternate service providers operating in the market and if so what is their level of charging?
- What is the estimated net additional income that is likely to be generated by the charge (i.e. impact on our financial position)?
- There are different levels, or basis, for the charging of service. The actual level, or basis of the charge, will be influenced by the impact assessments.

The objectives for differing charging strategies are shown in the table below.

Charging Strategy	Objective
Commercial Charges	The Council aims to cover the cost of providing the service and make a surplus used to fund other priority services. Full cost recovery will be the starting point for calculating charges.
Full Cost Recovery	The council aims to recover the costs of providing this service from those who use it. The full cost of the service, including an element for capital financing costs, support services and corporate overheads, will be the starting point for calculating charges.
Subsidised	Users of the service to make a contribution to the costs of providing it. This might be to meet a service objective or allow competition with other providers.
Free	The Council chooses to make the service available at no charge to meet a service objective - cost of service met by all Council Tax payers.
Statutory	Charges are set by Central Government through legislation.

Service Responsibilities

Service Managers should initially assess current chargeable services and allocate these to one of the categories above.

To maximise income from fees and charges in accordance with this Income policy, Service Managers are responsible for –

- Annually reviewing their services to identify any aspects that could be charged for and to introduce such charges unless Cabinet considers it would be inappropriate.
- Reviewing and varying fees and charges at least annually for services under their control, after consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder and, in doing so, they shall –
 - ensure that relevant legislation is complied with,
 - have regard to the charges of any alternative service providers with whom the Council is competing, seek to maximise income, net of applicable costs, unless it will have a clearly detrimental impact on the achievement of the Council objectives.
 - introduce differential pricing to particular client groups where these are expected to stimulate demand and generate additional net income which would otherwise not be obtained.
 - set prices lower than could be reasonably achieved if this is the most cost effective way of achieving Council objectives and the necessary funding is available. Use of this option requires approval of Cabinet,
 - set fees and charges that allow an element of discretion if it can be demonstrated that this will lead to an overall benefit to the Council. It is important that any use of discretion is recorded so that it can be clearly shown that decisions have been made fairly and consistently.

Concessions

Concessions will be available to residents on identified income related benefits and discounts. These benefits and discounts include;

- Housing Benefit, in the form of Rent Allowance or Local Housing Allowance for people living in rented accommodation.
- Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme discount
- Income Support
- Job Seekers Allowance (income based)
- Working Tax credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Guaranteed Pension Credit (not Savings Pension Credit)
- Employment and Support Allowance (income based)
- Universal Credit

This list will change as changes are made to the names of the benefits or benefits themselves.

No concession is applied on the grounds of age or disability unless the resident is in receipt of benefits.

Proof of Benefits and Discounts

Residents will need to confirm the type of the benefit or discount they are claiming and to give permission for a check to be made with the Councils' Revenues & Benefits section that this is the case.

Variations

The Council's externally managed Leisure Centres operate specific concessions for particular activities.

Environment

Parks, Sports Pitches and Woods

Description	Current Charge £	Pricing Strategy					Proposed Charge £	Increase %
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE	STATUTORY		
Standard rated & inclusive of VAT								
PARKS & SPORTS PITCHES								
CRICKET								
Other wickets - per match (adults)	£62.54	*	*	✓	*	*	£68.00	8.73 %
Other wickets - per match (Juniors)	£32.86	*	*	✓	*	*	£35.80	8.95 %
FOOTBALL								
Seniors with changing facilities & showers	£68.90	*	*	✓	*	*	£75.00	8.85 %
Juniors with changing facilities & showers	£31.80	*	*	✓	*	*	£34.60	8.81 %
HURLING/RUGBY								
Per match including corner flags	£62.54	*	*	✓	*	*	£68.00	8.73 %
Exempt from VAT								
FOOTBALL								
Seniors with changing facilities & showers (15 games)	£901.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£980.00	8.77 %
Juniors with changing facilities & showers (12 games)	£289.38	*	*	✓	*	*	£315.00	8.85 %
Seniors with no changing facilities & showers (15 games)	£535.30	*	*	✓	*	*	£582.00	8.72 %
Juniors with no changing facilities & showers (12 games)	£218.36	*	*	✓	*	*	£237.50	8.77 %
Under 11s (small size pitch per season)	£121.90	*	*	✓	*	*	£132.50	8.70 %
FOOTBALL TRAINING								
KGVPF, Oxhey Park (per hour)	£18.55	*	*	✓	*	*	£20.20	8.89 %
Changing accommodation / showers (per event)	£25.44	*	*	✓	*	*	£27.70	8.88 %
PARKS & SPORTS PITCHES								
BOWLS								
Club hire of rinks (per season)	£1,367.40	*	*	✓	*	*	£1,487.00	8.75 %
CRICKET								
Enclosed wicket (per season)	£3,683.50	*	*	✓	*	*	£4,004.00	8.70 %
CROQUET								
Seasonal charges :-								
Adults	£62.54	*	*	✓	*	*	£68.00	8.73 %
OAPs	£31.27	*	*	✓	*	*	£34.00	8.73 %
TENNIS - club charges								
Hire of court per season (May-Sept inc)	£1,420.40	*	*	✓	*	*	£1,544.00	8.70 %
Individual on-court Coaching Session (hourly rate)	£4.24	*	*	✓	*	*	£4.60	8.49 %
Personal Trainer/Boot Camp/Group Exercise license to operate								
Admin fee for all applications	NEW	*	✓	*	*	*	£40.00	
Single event - under 10 people	NEW	*	✓	*	*	*	£10.00	
Single event - over 10 people	NEW	*	✓	*	*	*	£20.00	
3 month license - under 10 people	NEW	*	✓	*	*	*	£120.00	
3 month license - over 10 people	NEW	*	✓	*	*	*	£180.00	
6 month license - under 10 people	NEW	*	✓	*	*	*	£240.00	
6 month license - over 10 people	NEW	*	✓	*	*	*	£360.00	
12 month license - under 10 people	NEW	*	✓	*	*	*	£450.00	
12 month license - over 10 people	NEW	*	✓	*	*	*	£690.00	
CASSIOBURY PARK Education Service Fees								
Forest School (per child per session)	£8.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£6.00	-25.00 %
Explorers (per child per session)	£3.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£3.50	16.67 %
Led School visits (per class per half day, inc preparation)	£112.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£115.00	2.68 %
Led School visits (per class per half day, inc preparation, discounted for groups less than 20 or specific hardship/need)	£95.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£100.00	5.26 %
Zero Rated								
Orienteering maps up to 5 copies	free	*	*	*	✓	*	free	
Subsequent copies each	£2.65	*	✓	*	*	*	£2.90	9.43 %

Environment

Events and Hire of Cheslyn Gardens

Description	Current Charge £	Pricing Strategy					Proposed Charge £ From 1 January 2024	Increase %
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE	STATUTORY		
Standard rated & inclusive of VAT								
CHESLYN GARDENS								
Hire of garden for wedding photos	£53.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£58.00	9.43 %
Exempt from VAT								
CHESLYN HOUSE								
Hire of 2 meeting rooms & kitchen per hour	£42.40	*	*	✓	*	*	£46.00	8.49 %
Reduced charge for recognised voluntary groups per hour	£21.20	*	*	✓	*	*	£23.00	8.49 %
PARKS - GENERAL								
HIRE OF FACILITIES								
Commercial rate per day up to 1500 people	£1,855.00	*	*	*	*	*	£2,020.00	8.89 %
Commercial rate per day up to 1500-5000 people	Price on application	*	*	*	*	*	Price on application	
Commercial rate per day 5000 +	Price on application	*	*	*	*	*	Price on application	
Non commercial rate per day	£821.50	*	*	*	*	*	£893.00	8.70 %
Local charities and community groups	£87.98	*	*	✓	*	*	£96.00	9.12 %
Bandstand Hire (community organisations)	Free	*	*	*	✓	*	Free	
Bandstand Hire (private party)	£106.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£115.00	8.49 %
Cassiobury Hub Education Room Hire per hour (community)	£21.20	*	*	✓	*	*	£23.00	8.49 %
Cassiobury Hub Education Room Hire per hour (corporate)	£42.40	*	*	✓	*	*	£46.00	8.49 %
Events and activities	depends on event	*	*	*	✓	*	depends on event	

Environment

Cemeteries

Resident

Description	Current Charge £	Pricing Strategy					Proposed Charge £ From 1 January 2024	Increase %
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE	STATUTORY		
Outside Scope for VAT purposes								
If the deceased has lived away from the Watford area for less than 60 months the Resident charge will be made								
TABLE OF FEES								
PART 1								
Exclusive rights of burial in earthen grave								
Exclusive right of burial for 50 yrs in an earthen grave on all sections including Muslim section	£1,605.90	*	*	✓	*	*	£1,745.00	8.66 %
Walled graves & vaults:								
For the right to construct & build a walled grave or vault & for the exclusive right of burial for 50 yrs on all sections 8ftx4ft	£2,978.60	*	*	✓	*	*	£3,237.00	8.68 %
The Garden of Rest								
For the exclusive right of burial for 50 yrs of cremated remains in the Garden of Rest at North Watford 4ft X 2ft	£773.80	*	*	✓	*	*	£841.00	8.68 %
The Garden of Remembrance								
For the exclusive rights of burial for 50 yrs of cremated remains in the Garden of Remembrance at North Watford Cemetery size 2ft X 1ft	£689.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£748.00	8.56 %
CHILDREN'S SECTION								
For the exclusive right of burial for 50 years 4ft x 2ft	£0.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£0.00	
For the exclusive right of burial for 50 years of a single depth grave for a child aged 5 years or over but not an adult	£0.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£0.00	
PART 2								
Interments - the fees indicated for various heads :-								
a) include the digging of the grave and b) Apply only where the interment is made between the hours of 9.30 am & 3.30 pm, or on the Certificate of a Coroner or Registered Medical Practitioner that immediate interment necessary. In any other case, an additional sum is payable	£297.86	*	*	✓	*	*	£323.00	8.44 %
For an interment in a grave in respect of which an exclusive right of burial HAS been granted :-								
a) All sections	£837.40	*	*	✓	*	*	£910.00	8.67 %
b) The children's section. All graves for 1 interment at a depth of 4ft size of grave spaces 4ft x 2ft	£0.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£0.00	
c) Casket	£1,086.50	*	*	✓	*	*	£1,181.00	8.70 %
d) For the interment / scattering of cremated remains in / on any ' grave on any section including Garden of Rest/Remembrance	£280.90	*	*	✓	*	*	£305.00	8.58 %
e) For a stillborn child, or child whose age at the time of death did not exceed 1 month	£0.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£0.00	
f) Non viable foetus burial	£0.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£0.00	
g) Shrouded burial fee	£121.90	*	*	✓	*	*	£132.00	8.29 %
For an interment in a grave in respect of which an exclusive right of burial HAS NOT been granted :-								
a) For a stillborn child, or child whose age at the time of death did not exceed 1 month	£0.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£0.00	
b) For a child whose age at the time of death exceeded 1 month but did not exceed 5 years	£0.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£0.00	
c) For a child over 5 years or an adult	£0.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£0.00	
PART 3								
Fees for memorial work and monumental work for the right to erect or place on a grave or vault in respect of which the exclusive right of burial has been granted Headstones, or any other type of monument								
a) Not exceeding 3ft 6ins in height	£245.92	*	*	✓	*	*	£267.00	8.57 %
b) Not exceeding 2ft 6inc in the Garden of Rest and in the children's section	£121.90	*	*	✓	*	*	£132.00	8.29 %
c) Garden of Remembrance-as approved-sole design allowed	£112.36	*	*	✓	*	*	£122.00	8.58 %

Environment

Cemeteries (continued)

Resident (continued)

Description	Current Charge £	Pricing Strategy					Proposed Charge £	Increase %
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE	STATUTORY		
Outside Scope for VAT purposes								
Kerbs								
* a) Enclosing a space not exceeding 7ft x 3ft	£125.08	*	*	✓	*	*	£136.00	8.73 %
* b) Enclosing a space not exceeding 4ft x 2ft in the Garden of Rest and Children's Section	£60.42	*	*	✓	*	*	£66.00	9.24 %
Vases								
* For each vase, maximum size 12"x12"x12"	£41.34	*	*	✓	*	*	£45.00	8.85 %
a) Separate, or as an addition to a headstone, not exceeding 18" x 12"	£65.72	*	*	✓	*	*	£71.00	8.03 %
b) Where an inscription table or plate takes the place of a memorial	£125.08	*	*	✓	*	*	£136.00	8.73 %
* Complete memorial, consisting of headstone & Kerbs	£424.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£461.00	8.73 %
THE FEES INDICATED FOR THE VARIOUS HEADS OF THIS PART INCLUDE THE ORIGINAL INSCRIPTION(S) WHEN THE MEMORIAL IS APPROVED								
Fees for each subsequent inscription to an existing memorial. * Any other replacement works not covered by above	£77.38	*	*	✓	*	*	£84.00	8.56 %
PART 4								
Miscellaneous								
The Burial Register - fee for transfer of grave grant for the exclusive right of burial	£49.82	*	*	✓	*	*	£54.00	8.39 %
Fee for the searches of Burial Register and for copies of extract to be taken there from	£69.96	*	*	✓	*	*	£76.00	8.63 %
Fee for the use of the Chapel	£159.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£173.00	8.81 %
PART 5								
Maintenance of Grave spaces								
Turfing a grave	£125.08	*	*	✓	*	*	£136.00	8.73 %
Partial burying of headstone following failure of safety test	£153.70	*	*	✓	*	*	£167.00	8.65 %
Supply soil for memorial inset * Any other replacement works not covered by above	£125.08	*	*	✓	*	*	£136.00	8.73 %
NOTE: Memorials can now be placed on graves of stillborn children FREE OF CHARGE Size: 12" x 12" x 2". To be laid flat on grave surface								
PART6								
Sanctum 2000								
Above ground vault which can hold up to two caskets which must be no larger than H.14cm: W26cm: D16.5cm								
10 Year Lease	£1,200.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£1,200.00	NO CHANGE
15 Year Lease	£1,750.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£1,750.00	NO CHANGE
30 Year Lease	£2,400.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£2,400.00	NO CHANGE
10 Year Lease	£1,200.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£1,200.00	NO CHANGE
Options for Sanctum 2000								
Photo plaque small	£150.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£150.00	NO CHANGE
Photo plaque large	£170.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£170.00	NO CHANGE
Additional inscriptions per letter	£4.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£4.00	NO CHANGE
Additional artwork prices from	£70.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£70.00	NO CHANGE
Additional Interment	£350.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£350.00	NO CHANGE
Additional Lease Term								
10 Years	£800.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£800.00	NO CHANGE
Part 7								
Pet Columbaria								
Panoramic pet ashes columbaria can hold small pet ashes. Price includes Interment of ashes, initial lease term, initial inscription								
5 year lease	£550.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£550.00	NO CHANGE
10 year lease	£675.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£675.00	NO CHANGE
15 year lease	£750.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£750.00	NO CHANGE
Options for Pet Columbaria								
Additional artwork prices from	£70.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£70.00	NO CHANGE
Additional Lease Term								
5 years	£450.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£450.00	NO CHANGE
Part 8								
Mulberry Tree								
Memory tree with stone leaves that can be engraved in memory of someone. Price includes heart shape leaf, inscription. If term is not renewed the family can take the leaf away.								
5 year lease	£365.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£365.00	NO CHANGE
10 year lease	£550.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£550.00	NO CHANGE
Options for Pet Columbaria								
Additional artwork / motif	£48.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£48.00	NO CHANGE
Additional lease term								
5 years	£275.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£275.00	NO CHANGE

Environment

Cemeteries (continued)

Non Resident

Description	Current Charge £	Pricing Strategy					Proposed Charge £ From 1 January 2024	Increase %
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE	STATUTORY		
Outside Scope for VAT purposes								
If the deceased has lived away from the Watford area for less than 60 months the Resident charge will be made								
PART 1								
Exclusive rights of burial in earthen grave								
Exclusive right of burial for 50 yrs in an earthen grave on all sections including Muslim section	£6,000.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£6,522.00	8.70 %
Walled graves & vaults:								
For the right to construct & build a walled grave or vault & for the exclusive right of burial for 50 yrs on all sections 8ftx4ft	£8,957.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£9,736.00	8.70 %
The Garden of Rest								
For the exclusive right of burial for 50 yrs of cremated remains in the Garden of Rest at North Watford 4ft X 2ft	£2,332.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£2,535.00	8.70 %
The Garden of Remembrance								
For the exclusive rights of burial for 50 yrs of cremated remains in the Garden of Remembrance at North Watford Cemetery size 2ft X 1ft	£2,056.40	*	*	✓	*	*	£2,235.00	8.69 %
CHILDREN'S SECTION								
For the exclusive right of burial for 50 years 4ft x 2ft	£0.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£0.00	
For the exclusive right of burial for 50 years of a single depth grave for a child aged 5 years or over but not an adult	£0.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£0.00	
PART 2								
Interments - the fees indicated for various heads :-								
a) Include the digging of the grave and b) Apply only where the interment is made between the hours of 9.30 am & 3.30 pm, or on the Certificate of a Coroner or Registered Medical Practitioner that immediate interment necessary. In any other case, an additional sum is payable and c) Apply provided that the interment is made within 15 minutes of the time arranged with the "superintendent". If not an additional sum is payable	£297.86	*	*	✓	*	*	£324.00	8.78 %
For an interment in a grave in respect of which an exclusive right of burial HAS been granted :-								
a) All sections	£2,502.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£2,720.00	8.71 %
b) The children's section. All graves for 1 interment at a depth of 4ft size of grave spaces 4ft X2ft	£0.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£0.00	
c) caskets including extra digging required	£3,264.80	*	*	✓	*	*	£3,549.00	8.70 %
d) For the interment / scattering of cremated remains in / on any grave on any section including Garden in/on any grave on any section including Garden of Rest/Remembrance	£845.88	*	*	✓	*	*	£919.00	8.64 %
e) For a stillborn child, or child whose age at the time of death did not exceed 1 month of death did not exceed 1 month	£0.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£0.00	
f) Non viable foetus burial	£0.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£0.00	
g) Shrouded burial fee	£121.90	*	*	✓	*	*	£132.00	8.29 %
For an interment in a grave in respect of which an exclusive right of burial HAS NOT been granted :-								
a) For a stillborn child, or child whose age at the time of death did not exceed 1 month	£0.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£0.00	
b) For a child whose age at the time of death exceeded 1 month but did not exceed 5 yrs.	£0.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£0.00	
c) For a child over 5 years or an adult	£0.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£0.00	
Outside Scope for VAT purposes								
PART 3								
Fees for memorial work & monumental work for the right to erect or place on a grave or vault in respect of which the exclusive right of burial has been granted Headstone, or any other type of monument								
a) Not exceeding 3ft 6inc in height	£736.70	*	*	✓	*	*	£800.00	8.59 %
b) Not exceeding 2ft 6inc in the Garden of rest and in the children's section	£376.30	*	*	✓	*	*	£410.00	8.96 %
c) Garden of Remembrance - as approved-sole design allowed	£332.84	*	*	✓	*	*	£362.00	8.76 %
LEDGERS								
* A ledger not exceeding 7ft x 3ft	£371.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£403.00	8.63 %
KERBS								
* a) Enclosing a space not exceeding 7ft x 3ft	£371.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£403.00	8.63 %
* b) Enclosing a space not exceeding 4ft x 2ft in the Garden of Rest and children's Section	£185.50	*	*	✓	*	*	£202.00	8.89 %
Vases								
* For each vase, maximum size 12" x 12" x 12"	£117.66	*	*	✓	*	*	£128.00	8.79 %
a) separate, or as an addition to a headstone, not exceeding 18" x 12"	£189.74	*	*	✓	*	*	£206.00	8.57 %
b) Where an inscription table or plate takes the place of a headstone, either at the foot or head of a memorial	£371.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£403.00	8.63 %
* Complete memorial, consisting of headstone and kerbs	£1,303.80	*	*	✓	*	*	£1,417.00	8.68 %

Environment

Cemeteries (continued)

Non Resident (continued)

Description	Current Charge £	Pricing Strategy					Proposed Charge £	Increase %
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE	STATUTORY		
MEMORIAL BENCHES								
Supply and install with plaque	£2,363.80	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	£2,570.00	8.72 %
MEMORIAL TREES								
Supply and plant standard tree with 3 years watering	£1,187.20	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	£1,000.00	-15.77 %
THE FEES INDICATED FOR THE VARIOUS HEADS OF THIS PART INCLUDED THE ORIGINAL INSCRIPTION(S) WHEN THE MEMORIAL IS APPROVED								
Fees for each subsequent inscription to an existing memorial * Any other replacement works not covered by above	£77.38	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	£84.00	8.56 %
* GRAVE SPACES PURCHASED PRIOR TO 1ST APRIL 1981 ONLY								
PART 4								
Standard rated & exclusive of VAT								
* Any other replacement works not covered by above								
* GRAVE SPACES PURCHASED PRIOR TO 1ST APRIL 1981 ONLY								
Miscellaneous								
The Burial Register - fee for transfer of grave grant for the exclusive right of burial	£49.82	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	£54.00	8.39 %
Fee for the searches of Burial Register and for copies of extract to be taken there from	£77.38	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	£84.00	8.56 %
Fee for the use of the Chapel	£478.06	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	£520.00	8.77 %
PART 5								
Outside Scope for VAT purposes								
Maintenance of Grave spaces								
Turfing a grave	£131.44	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	£143.00	8.79 %
Partial burying of headstone following failure of safety test	£154.76	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	£168.00	8.56 %
Supply soil for memorial inset * Any other replacement works not covered by above	£130.38	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	£142.00	8.91 %
NOTE: Memorials can now be placed on graves of stillborn children FREE of CHARGE Size: 12" x 12" x 2". To be laid flat on grave surface								
PART6								
Weekend Burials								
Metal liner requirement	£570.00	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	£570.00	NO CHANGE
Weekend Contractor charge	£500.00	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	£500.00	NO CHANGE
PART7								
Sanctum 2000								
10 Year Lease	£3,600.00	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	£3,913.00	8.69 %
15 Year Lease	£5,250.00	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	£5,706.00	8.69 %
30 Year Lease	£7,200.00	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	£7,826.00	8.69 %

Environment

Waste Services Including Trade Waste

Description	Current Charge £	Pricing Strategy					Proposed Charge £	Increase %
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE	STATUTORY		
Outside Scope & exclusive of VAT								
TRADE WASTE (schedule)								
1100L Euro bin								
Container per empty (Schools/Charities)	£12.93	x	x	✓	x	x	£14.00	8.26 %
1100L Euro bin hire	£2.54	x	x	✓	x	x	£2.75	8.10 %
Container per empty (recycling) (schools) 940L Chamberlain bin Container	£11.66	x	x	✓	x	x	£12.75	9.35 %
Container per empty (Schools/Charities) 660L Euro bin container	£11.66	x	x	✓	x	x	£12.75	9.35 %
Container per empty (Schools/Charities) 360L wheeled bins	£10.49	x	x	✓	x	x	£11.50	9.59 %
Container per empty (Schools/Charities) 240L Wheeled bins	£8.85	x	x	✓	x	x	£9.75	10.16 %
Container per empty (Schools/Charities) 240L / 140 L wheeled bin (Schools/Charities)	£7.37	x	x	✓	x	x	£8.00	8.59 %
Container per empty (food waste) (Schools/Charities) 140L wheeled bin	£0.00	x	x	x	✓	x	£0.00	
Container per empty (food waste) (Schools/Charities) 23L food caddy	£0.00	x	x	x	✓	x	£0.00	
ADDITIONAL DOMESTIC COLLECTION SCENARIO								
1100L Euro bin Container per empty	£15.58	x	x	✓	x	x	£17.00	9.10 %
660L Euro bin container Container per empty	£12.72	x	x	✓	x	x	£13.75	8.10 %
240L Wheeled bins Container per empty	£8.96	x	x	✓	x	x	£9.75	8.85 %
DOMESTIC WASTE								
Delivery of recycling boxes and wheeled bins	£6.78	x	x	✓	x	x	£6.78	NO CHANGE
Collection of recycling boxes, wheeled bins, food caddy, kitchen caddy	£6.78	x	x	✓	x	x	£6.78	NO CHANGE
Delivery of container bin (660's and 1100's)	£21.20						£21.20	NO CHANGE
DOMESTIC SACKS								
Excess Waste Sack	£3.02	x	✓	x	x	x	£3.02	NO CHANGE
Nappy Sack	£0.58	x	✓	x	x	x	£0.58	NO CHANGE
Postage of 5 sacks	£1.65						£1.65	NO CHANGE
CHARGES TO DEVELOPERS FOR WASTE CONTAINERS								
WASTE BINS FOR NEW DEVELOPMENTS								
Euro 660 litre residual bin	£340.00	x	✓	x	x	x	£370.00	8.82 %
Euro 1100 litre residual bin	£370.00	x	✓	x	x	x	£402.50	8.78 %
Euro 1100 litre recycling bin	£424.00	x	✓	x	x	x	£462.00	8.96 %
240 litre bins	£36.00	x	✓	x	x	x	£40.00	11.11 %
140 litre bins	£36.00	x	✓	x	x	x	£40.00	11.11 %
Food bins (external) 23 litre	£12.00	x	✓	x	x	x	£13.00	8.33 %
Food caddies (internal)	£9.60	x	✓	x	x	x	£10.50	9.38 %
Delivery of container bin (660's and 1100's)	£21.00	x	✓	x	x	x	£23.00	9.52 %
CHARGES TO EMPTY CONTAMINATED BINS								
Euro 660 and 1100 litre bins	£101.50	x	x	✓	x	x	£110.00	8.37 %
240 litre bin	£76.50	x	x	✓	x	x	£84.00	9.80 %
*New lines for charging								
BIN STORE CLEARANCES								
Minimum charge	£160.00	x	x	✓	x	x	£174.00	8.75 %

Environment

Special Collections and Street Cleansing

Prices quoted below are exclusive of VAT

Description	Current Charge £	Pricing Strategy					Proposed Charge £ From 1 January 2024	Increase %
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE	STATUTORY		
Where Commercial Special Collections are made, the charge would be subject to VAT at the Standard rate. Where Household Special Collections are made, the charge would be Outside Scope for VAT purposes.								
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS								
Up to 3 bulky items	£45.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£50.00	11.11 %
Upholstered bulky items excluding mattresses, per item	£45.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£50.00	11.11 %
White Goods	£45.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£50.00	11.11 %
Other bulky/garden clearance collections and disposal minimum charge	£87.34	*	*	✓	*	*	£95.00	8.77 %
TV/electrical	£45.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£50.00	11.11 %
American fridge freezer	£60.45	*	*	✓	*	*	£65.00	7.53 %
ABANDONED SHOPPING TROLLEY (Non prescribed statutory charges) (Outside Scope for VAT)								
Seizure								
From highway & open spaces - per trolley	£38.35	✓	*	*	*	*	£41.80	9.00 %
From river/riverside areas - per trolley	£52.55	✓	*	*	*	*	£57.20	8.85 %
From private land - per trolley	£60.25	✓	*	*	*	*	£65.50	8.71 %
Storage								
Trolleys not collected within the statutory 6 week disposal notice period - per trolley	£8.35	✓	*	*	*	*	£9.10	8.98 %
ABANDONED SHOPPING TROLLEY (Non statutory charges) (Standard Rated for VAT)								
Requested return delivery charge - per trolley	Quotation	✓	*	*	*	*	Quotation	
GRAFFITI & FLY POSTER REMOVAL (Statutory Duty - Outside Scope for VAT) (Non Statutory Duty - Standard Rated for VAT)								
GRAFFITI REMOVAL								
Removal from private Property up to 2 sqm	£39.65	✓	*	*	*	*	£43.10	8.70 %
Removal from private Property additional sqm's	£19.70	✓	*	*	*	*	£21.50	9.14 %
Removal - any type affixed 2.4 m above ground level	Quotation	✓	*	*	*	*	Quotation	
FLYPOSTER REMOVAL								
Removal - minimum each - tied or clamped on	£25.55	✓	*	*	*	*	£27.80	8.81 %
Removal - minimum each - glued on/self adhering	£45.55	✓	*	*	*	*	£49.60	8.89 %
Removal - any type affixed 2.4 m above ground level	Quotation	✓	*	*	*	*	Quotation	

Environment

Arts, Events and Heritage

Description	Current Charge £	Pricing Strategy					Proposed Charge £	Increase %
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE	STATUTORY		
Exempt from VAT								
Workshops	£9.65	*	✓	*	*	*	£12.50	29.59 %
Ghost walks	£9.65	*	✓	*	*	*	£12.50	29.59 %
High street trail	£5.30	*	✓	*	*	*	£6.00	13.21 %
Study day	£22.90	*	✓	*	*	*	£25.00	9.19 %
Group talk or trail	£5.30	*	✓	*	*	*	£6.00	13.21 %
Community use of one space (per hour) days	£21.20	*	✓	*	*	*	£25.00	17.92 %
Community use of one space (per hour) eve *	£39.22	*	✓	*	*	*	£45.00	14.74 %
Community use of one space (per hour) Sun *	£51.94	*	✓	*	*	*	£60.00	15.52 %
Private/commercial (per hour) days	£51.94	✓	*	*	*	*	£60.00	15.52 %
Private/commercial (per hour) eve *	£62.54	✓	*	*	*	*	£70.00	11.93 %
Private/commercial (per hour) Sun *	£96.46	✓	*	*	*	*	£105.00	8.85 %
* Additional charge for staff time applicable (charged @ £30 per hour x 2 staff)								
Standard rated & inclusive of VAT								
Percentage share to Museum on artist sales	35%	✓	*	*	*	*	35%	NO CHANGE
Percentage share to Museum on foyer sales	13%	✓	*	*	*	*	13%	NO CHANGE
Photocopying per sheet	£0.21	*	✓	*	*	*	£0.25	17.92 %
Museum digitised images (per image)	£7.42	*	✓	*	*	*	£8.00	7.82 %
Museum digitised images CD charge	£6.36	*	✓	*	*	*	£7.00	10.06 %
Museum un digitised images incurring an hourly scanning rate	£21.73	*	✓	*	*	*	£25.00	15.05 %
Reproduction image one country one language (non commercial)	£43.46	✓	*	*	*	*	£47.50	9.30 %
Reproduction Image world right inc web (non commercial)	£54.59	✓	*	*	*	*	£60.00	9.91 %
Reproduction image one country one language (commercial)	£76.32	✓	*	*	*	*	£83.00	8.75 %
Reproduction image world right inc web (commercial)	£109.18	✓	*	*	*	*	£115.00	5.33 %
<p>Where the filming company is given exclusive rights to a defined area and they can exclude others from access, the income is 'Exempt' from VAT. This is subject to an 'option to tax' not being in force. Admin fees for VAT purposes would follow the same treatment as the main supply.</p> <p>Where the filming company is given no exclusivity and cannot exclude others from access, the income is treated as 'Standard rated'. Admin fees for VAT purposes would follow the same treatment as the main supply.</p>								
On street and non-council land	£202.46	✓	*	*	*	*	£220.10	8.71 %
Town Hall (per hour)	£256.52	✓	*	*	*	*	£278.90	8.72 %
Town Hall over (7+hrs)	£1,802.00	✓	*	*	*	*	£1,958.80	8.70 %
Parks and other council land/property (per hour)	£197.16	✓	*	*	*	*	£214.40	8.74 %
Parks and other council land/property (7+hrs)	£1,802.00	✓	*	*	*	*	£1,958.80	8.70 %
Students	£0.00	*	*	*	✓	*	£0.00	
Use of KGV Car Park	£572.40	✓	*	*	*	*	£622.20	8.70 %

Community Protection

Licensing

Description	Current Charge £	Pricing Strategy					Proposed Charge £ From 1 January 2024	Increase %
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE	STATUTORY		
Outside Scope for VAT purposes								
Taxi & Private Hire Vehicle Licences								
Annual Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence - Initial Application	£254.52	*	✓	*	*	*	£254.52	NO CHANGE
Annual Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence - Initial Application(wholly electric vehicles)	£127.26	*	*	✓	*	*	£127.26	NO CHANGE
Annual Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence - Initial Application (Courtesy vehicles)	£254.52	*	✓	*	*	*	£254.52	NO CHANGE
Annual Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence - Renewal	£243.01	*	✓	*	*	*	£243.01	NO CHANGE
Annual Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence - Renewal (wholly electric vehicles)	£121.51	*	*	✓	*	*	£121.51	NO CHANGE
Annual Private Hire Vehicle Licence - Initial Application	£231.85	*	✓	*	*	*	£231.85	NO CHANGE
Annual Private Hire Vehicle Licence - Initial Application(wholly electric vehicles)	£115.93	*	*	✓	*	*	£115.93	NO CHANGE
Annual Private Hire Vehicle Licence - Initial Application (Limousines)	£231.85	*	✓	*	*	*	£231.85	NO CHANGE
Annual Private Hire Vehicle Licence - Initial Application (Courtesy vehicles)	£231.85	*	✓	*	*	*	£231.85	NO CHANGE
Annual Private Hire Vehicle Licence - Renewal	£220.34	*	✓	*	*	*	£220.34	NO CHANGE
Annual Private Hire Vehicle Licence - Renewal (wholly electric vehicles)	£110.17	*	*	✓	*	*	£110.17	NO CHANGE
Transfer of vehicle ownership (payable by buyer)	£19.61	*	✓	*	*	*	£19.61	NO CHANGE
Taximeter tests	£19.61	*	✓	*	*	*	£19.61	NO CHANGE
Replacement vehicle plates	£6.80	*	✓	*	*	*	£6.80	NO CHANGE
Optional plate fitting brackets	£6.74	*	✓	*	*	*	£6.74	NO CHANGE
Optional pack of magnets used for attaching plate to vehicle	£23.44	*	✓	*	*	*	£23.44	NO CHANGE
Compulsory door signs for hackney carriages (vinyl, per pair)	£18.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£18.00	NO CHANGE
Compulsory door signs for hackney carriages (magnetic, per pair)	£24.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£24.00	NO CHANGE
Compulsory hi-viz jackets for all vehicles (per jacket)	£2.16	*	✓	*	*	*	£2.16	NO CHANGE
Advertising approval on hackney carriages (agency)	£168.54	*	✓	*	*	*	£168.54	NO CHANGE
Advertising approval per hackney carriage	£56.18	*	✓	*	*	*	£56.18	NO CHANGE
Advertising approval (Licensing Committee referral)	£280.90	*	✓	*	*	*	£280.90	NO CHANGE
Private Hire Operators - initial application (5 yrs)	£757.98	*	✓	*	*	*	£757.98	NO CHANGE
Private Hire Operators - renewal (5 yrs)	£744.86	*	✓	*	*	*	£744.86	NO CHANGE
Driver Licences - initial application (3 yrs)	£343.50	*	✓	*	*	*	£343.50	NO CHANGE
Driver Licences - renewal application (3 yrs)	£338.88	*	✓	*	*	*	£338.88	NO CHANGE
Theory Knowledge Test	£114.48	*	✓	*	*	*	£114.48	NO CHANGE
Repeat Knowledge Test with Training	£78.44	*	✓	*	*	*	£78.44	NO CHANGE
Repeat Knowledge Test (Test Only)	£35.51	*	✓	*	*	*	£35.51	NO CHANGE
Replacement drivers badges	£20.14	*	✓	*	*	*	£20.14	NO CHANGE
Duplicate documents	£20.14	*	✓	*	*	*	£20.14	NO CHANGE
Driver change of address	£7.84	*	✓	*	*	*	£7.84	NO CHANGE
Street Trading								
Street Trading Consent (per annum)	£561.80	*	✓	*	*	*	£610.68	8.70 %
Street Trading Consent (per annum) - Vicarage Road	£561.80	*	✓	*	*	*	£610.68	8.70 %
Street Trading Consent daily rate (if less than one year)	£25.44	*	✓	*	*	*	£27.65	8.70 %
Street Trading Consent (Town Centre Markets per stall per day, waived for charitable etc stalls)	£25.44	*	✓	*	*	*	£27.65	8.70 %
Permit for Tables & Chairs on the Highway								
Initial application (1 year permit)	£446.26	*	✓	*	*	*	£485.08	8.70 %
Renewal of annual permit	£120.84	*	✓	*	*	*	£131.35	8.70 %
Limited duration pavement licence	£100.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£100.00	NO CHANGE
Free Printed Matter Distribution								
First distributor	£60.42	*	✓	*	*	*	£65.68	8.70 %
Each additional distributor	£36.57	*	✓	*	*	*	£39.75	8.70 %
Additional fee for each distributor between 1700 and 0900	£23.85	*	✓	*	*	*	£25.92	8.70 %

Community Protection

Licensing

Prices quoted below are exclusive of VAT

Description	Current Charge £	Pricing Strategy					Proposed Charge £	Increase %
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE	STATUTORY		
Outside Scope for VAT purposes								
Sex Establishment Licence								
Grant of Licence	£612.15	*	✓	*	*	*	£665.41	8.70 %
Annual renewal fee	£152.64	*	✓	*	*	*	£165.92	8.70 %
Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence								
Application for grant of licence	£728.22	*	✓	*	*	*	£791.58	8.70 %
Renewal of licence	£268.18	*	✓	*	*	*	£291.51	8.70 %
Major variations (at officer's discretion)	£588.30	*	✓	*	*	*	£639.48	8.70 %
Minor variations (at officer's discretion)	£129.85	*	✓	*	*	*	£141.15	8.70 %
Skin Piercing								
Operator (each)	£61.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£61.00	NO CHANGE
Premises	£194.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£194.00	NO CHANGE
Animal Welfare Licensing (New applications excl. veterinary fees)								
<i>Note that premises licensed under this legislation are subject to chargeable mid licence inspections</i>								
Day care residential	£186.56	*	✓	*	*	*	£202.79	8.70 %
Day care commercial	£240.62	*	✓	*	*	*	£261.55	8.70 %
Breeding residential	£208.82	*	✓	*	*	*	£226.99	8.70 %
Breeding commercial	£240.62	*	✓	*	*	*	£261.55	8.70 %
Home boarding	£186.56	*	✓	*	*	*	£202.79	8.70 %
Kennels	£256.52	*	✓	*	*	*	£278.84	8.70 %
Cattery	£256.52	*	✓	*	*	*	£278.84	8.70 %
Hiring Horses	£278.78	*	✓	*	*	*	£303.03	8.70 %
Pet Vending Commercial	£256.52	*	✓	*	*	*	£278.84	8.70 %
Pet Vending Small / domestic	£186.56	*	✓	*	*	*	£202.79	8.70 %
Exhibiting of Animals Commercial	£256.52	*	✓	*	*	*	£278.84	8.70 %
Exhibiting of Animals Domestic	£186.56	*	✓	*	*	*	£202.79	8.70 %
Dangerous Wild Animal	£218.36	*	✓	*	*	*	£237.36	8.70 %
Dangerous Wild Animal licence amendment	£79.50	*	✓	*	*	*	£86.42	8.70 %
Animal Welfare Licensing (renewals excl. veterinary fees)								
<i>Note that premises licensed under this legislation are subject to chargeable mid licence inspections</i>								
Day care residential	£143.63	*	✓	*	*	*	£156.13	8.70 %
Day care commercial	£197.69	*	✓	*	*	*	£214.89	8.70 %
Breeding residential	£166.95	*	✓	*	*	*	£181.47	8.70 %
Breeding commercial	£197.69	*	✓	*	*	*	£214.89	8.70 %
Home boarding	£143.63	*	✓	*	*	*	£156.13	8.70 %
Kennels	£213.06	*	✓	*	*	*	£231.60	8.70 %
Cattery	£213.06	*	✓	*	*	*	£231.60	8.70 %
Hiring Horses	£236.38	*	✓	*	*	*	£256.95	8.70 %
Pet Vending Commercial	£213.06	*	✓	*	*	*	£231.60	8.70 %
Pet Vending Small / domestic	£143.63	*	✓	*	*	*	£156.13	8.70 %
Exhibiting of Animals Commercial	£213.06	*	✓	*	*	*	£231.60	8.70 %
Exhibiting of Animals Domestic	£143.63	*	✓	*	*	*	£156.13	8.70 %
Dangerous Wild Animal	£164.30	*	✓	*	*	*	£178.59	8.70 %
Scrap metal Dealers								
Grant of Licence	£292.56	*	✓	*	*	*	£318.01	8.70 %
Renewal of Licence	£226.84	*	✓	*	*	*	£246.58	8.70 %
Variation of Licence	£59.89	*	✓	*	*	*	£65.10	8.70 %
Change of Name	£59.89	*	✓	*	*	*	£65.10	8.70 %
Change of Site	£59.89	*	✓	*	*	*	£65.10	8.70 %
A request for a DBS check would be subject to VAT at the Standard rate.								
A request for a DBS check which forms part of a Licence application would be Outside Scope for VAT purposes.								
DBS checks								
Disclosure & Barring Service check for selected licences	£38.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£38.00	NO CHANGE
Fee charged by processing company.	£12.02	*	✓	*	*	*	£12.02	NO CHANGE

Community Protection

Licensing

Description	Current Charge £	Pricing Strategy					Proposed Charge £	Increase %
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE	STATUTORY		
Outside Scope for VAT purposes								
GAMBLING ACT 2005								
New applications								
Bingo	£1,026.08	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,115.35	8.70 %
Betting (off-course)	£1,026.08	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,115.35	8.70 %
Betting (off-course) - where provisional statement exists	£950.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£950.00	Statutory Maximum
Betting (track)	£1,026.08	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,115.35	8.70 %
Betting (track) - where provisional statement exists	£950.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£950.00	Statutory Maximum
Adult Gaming Centre	£1,026.08	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,115.35	8.70 %
Family Entertainment Centre	£1,026.08	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,115.35	6.00 %
Family Entertainment Centre with permit	£300.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£300.00	Statutory Fee
Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Notification	£50.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£50.00	Statutory Fee
Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permit	£150.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£150.00	Statutory Fee
Club Gaming Permit	£100.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£100.00	Statutory Fee
Club Gaming Machine Permit (Fast track application)	£100.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£100.00	Statutory Fee
Club Gaming Machine Permit (not a fast track application)	£200.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£200.00	Statutory Fee
Small society lottery	£40.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£40.00	Statutory Fee
Prize Gaming Permit	£300.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£300.00	Statutory Fee
Provisional statements	£954.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,037.00	8.70 %
Transfer and re-instatement applications								
Bingo	£1,007.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,094.61	8.70 %
Betting (off-course)	£1,007.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,094.61	8.70 %
Betting (track)	£950.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£950.00	Statutory Maximum
Adult Gaming Centre	£1,007.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,094.61	8.70 %
Family Entertainment Centre	£950.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£950.00	Statutory Maximum
Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permit	£25.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£25.00	Statutory Fee
Variation applications								
Bingo	£1,026.08	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,115.35	8.70 %
Betting (off-course)	£1,026.08	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,115.35	8.70 %
Betting (track)	£1,026.08	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,115.35	8.70 %
Adult Gaming Centre	£1,000.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,000.00	Statutory Maximum
Family Entertainment Centre	£1,000.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,000.00	Statutory Maximum
Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permit	£100.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£100.00	Statutory Fee
Club Gaming Machine Permit	£100.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£100.00	Statutory Fee
Miscellaneous fees								
Duplicate premises licence	£25.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£25.00	Statutory Maximum
Change of circumstances on premises licence	£50.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£50.00	Statutory Maximum
Duplicate machine, FEC, or prize gaming permit	£15.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£15.00	Statutory Fee
Change of name on machine, FEC, or prize gaming permit	£25.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£25.00	Statutory Fee

Community Protection

Licensing

Description	Current Charge £	Pricing Strategy					Proposed Charge £ From 1 January 2024	Increase %
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE	STATUTORY		
Outside Scope for VAT purposes								
GAMBLING ACT 2005								
Annual Fee								
Bingo	£1,000.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,000.00	Statutory Maximum
Betting (off-course)	£503.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£546.76	8.70 %
Betting (track)	£1,000.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,000.00	Statutory Maximum
Adult Gaming Centre	£1,000.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,000.00	Statutory Maximum
Family Entertainment Centre	£750.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£750.00	Statutory Maximum
Family Entertainment Centre with permit	£300.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£300.00	Statutory Fee
Licensed Premises Gaming Machine permit	£50.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£50.00	Statutory Fee
Club Gaming Permit	£50.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£50.00	Statutory Fee
Club Gaming Machine Permit	£50.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£50.00	Statutory Fee
Small society lottery	£20.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£20.00	Statutory Fee
Prize Gaming Permit	£300.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£300.00	Statutory Fee
Licensing Act 2003 (Statutory fees)								
Premises Licence/Club Premises Application fees								
Rateable value £0-4300	£100.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£100.00	Statutory Fee
Rateable value £ 4301 - £33,000	£190.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£190.00	Statutory Fee
Rateable value £ 33,001 - £ 87,000	£315.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£315.00	Statutory Fee
Rateable value £87001 - £125,000	£450.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£450.00	Statutory Fee
Rateable value £125,001 and above	£635.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£635.00	Statutory Fee
Premises Licence/Club Premises Annual Fees								
Rateable value £0- £4300	£70.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£70.00	Statutory Fee
Rateable value £ 4301 - £33,000	£180.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£180.00	Statutory Fee
Rateable value £ 33,001 - £ 87,000	£295.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£295.00	Statutory Fee
Rateable value £87001 - £125,000	£320.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£320.00	Statutory Fee
Rateable value £125,001 and above	£350.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£350.00	Statutory Fee
Replacement licence	£10.50	*	*	*	*	✓	£10.50	Statutory Fee
Application for provisional licence	£315.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£315.00	Statutory Fee
Change of licence details (name or address)	£10.50	*	*	*	*	✓	£10.50	Statutory Fee
Variation of designated premises supervisor	£23.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£23.00	Statutory Fee
Transfer of premises licence	£23.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£23.00	Statutory Fee
Interim authority notice	£23.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£23.00	Statutory Fee
Variation of designated premises supervisor	£23.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£23.00	Statutory Fee
Variation of premises	£315.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£315.00	Statutory Fee
Minor variation of premises	£89.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£89.00	Statutory Fee
Notification of change of name or club rules	£10.50	*	*	*	*	✓	£10.50	Statutory Fee
Change of relevant registered address of club	£10.50	*	*	*	*	✓	£10.50	Statutory Fee
Temporary event notice	£21.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£21.00	Statutory Fee
Replacement temporary event notice	£10.50	*	*	*	*	✓	£10.50	Statutory Fee
Application for personal licence	£37.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£37.00	Statutory Fee
Replacement personal licence	£10.50	*	*	*	*	✓	£10.50	Statutory Fee
Notification of change of name etc for personal licence	£10.50	*	*	*	*	✓	£10.50	Statutory Fee
Entry on freeholder register	£21.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£21.00	Statutory Fee

Community Protection

Pest Control

Description	Current Charge £	Pricing Strategy					Proposed Charge £	Increase %
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE	STATUTORY		
Standard rated & inclusive of VAT								
Pest Control - Note commercial treatments quoted individually on request								
Pest control treatment for residential properties :- NOTE : Fees are inclusive of VAT								
Rats & Mice								
Rats (max 3 visits)	£73.14	*	*	✓	*	*	£80.00	9.38 %
Rats Concession (max 3 visits)	£18.55	*	*	✓	*	*	£20.16	8.70 %
Rats (repeat visits - not following advice) (max 3 visits)	£120.84	*	*	✓	*	*	£131.40	8.74 %
Rats (repeat visits, not following advice)(Concession) (max 3 visits)	£37.10	*	*	✓	*	*	£40.40	8.89 %
Rats HMO (max 3 visits)	£183.38	*	*	✓	*	*	£199.40	8.74 %
Mice(inside) (max 3 visits)	£73.14	*	*	✓	*	*	£79.60	8.83 %
Mice(inside) Concession (max 3 visits)	£18.55	*	*	✓	*	*	£20.20	8.89 %
Mice(inside) (repeat visits - not following advice) (max 3 visits)	£120.84	*	*	✓	*	*	£131.40	8.74 %
Mice(inside) (repeat visits, not following advice)(Concession) (max 3 visits)	£37.10	*	*	✓	*	*	£40.40	8.89 %
Mice(inside) HMO (max 3 visits)	£183.38	*	*	✓	*	*	£199.40	8.74 %
Wasps/Honets Nests								
Single nest	£54.59	*	✓	*	*	*	£59.40	8.81 %
Single nest concession	£27.30	*	*	✓	*	*	£29.70	8.81 %
Each additional nest treated at the same time	£17.49	*	✓	*	*	*	£19.10	9.21 %
Each additional nest treated at the same time concession	£8.75	*	*	✓	*	*	£9.60	9.78 %
Fleas								
Fleas - Upto and inc 3 bed house (per visit)								
>3 bed house	£103.88	*	*	✓	*	*	£113.00	8.78 %
Concessionary Rate	£115.54	*	*	✓	*	*	£125.60	8.71 %
>3 bed house	£26.77	*	*	✓	*	*	£29.10	8.72 %
Fleas - per visit HMO	£40.81	*	*	✓	*	*	£44.40	8.80 %
Fleas - per visit HMO	£242.74	*	✓	*	*	*	£263.90	8.72 %
Cockroaches								
Cockroaches	£96.46	*	✓	*	*	*	£104.90	8.75 %
Cockroaches Concession	£48.23	*	*	✓	*	*	£52.50	8.85 %
Cockroaches HMO	£219.42	*	✓	*	*	*	£238.60	8.74 %
Bedbugs								
Bed bugs- - Upto and inc 3 bed house (per visit)	£134.62	*	✓	*	*	*	£146.40	8.75 %
>3 beds	£162.71	*	*	✓	*	*	£176.90	8.72 %
Bed Bugs Concession	£52.47	*	*	✓	*	*	£57.10	8.82 %
>3 beds	£65.72	*	✓	*	*	*	£71.50	8.79 %
Bed bugs HMO	£269.24	*	✓	*	*	*	£292.70	8.71 %
Squirrels(internal only, 3 visits)	£180.20	*	✓	*	*	*	£180.20	NO CHANGE
Glis Glis								
Annual charge	£475	*	*	✓	*	*	£516.20	8.70 %
Annual charge concession	£90.10	*	*	✓	*	*	£98.00	8.77 %
Weekly treatment - Daily (mon- Fri)	150.52	*	*	✓	*	*	£163.70	8.76 %
Ants (pharaoh only)								
Ants	£114.48	*	✓	*	*	*	£124.50	8.75 %
Ants concession	£57.24	*	✓	*	*	*	£62.30	8.84 %
Other insects (Inside)								
Other insects (Inside)	£114.48	*	✓	*	*	*	£114.48	NO CHANGE
Other insects (Inside) Concession	£57.24	*	✓	*	*	*	£57.24	NO CHANGE
Advice visit to identify pest.	£32.86	*	✓	*	*	*	£35.80	8.95 %
Advice visit to identify pest (Concession).	£16.43	*	✓	*	*	*	£17.90	8.95 %

Community Protection

Dogs

Prices quoted below are exclusive of VAT

Description	Current Charge £	Pricing Strategy					Proposed Charge £ From 1 January 2024	Increase %
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE	STATUTORY		
Where an <u>agreement is in place</u> , the charge would be subject to VAT at the Standard rate. Where an agreement is NOT in place, the charge would be Outside Scope for VAT purposes.								
STRAY DOGS								
Stray dogs fine (set by statute)	£25.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£25.00	NO CHANGE
1st Day Kennelling charge & administration	£92.75	*	✓	*	*	*	£101.00	8.89 %
Concessionary rate	£46.38	*	✓	*	*	*	£50.50	8.89 %
Additional daily Kennel Charges	£14.05	*	✓	*	*	*	£20.00	42.40 %
Concessionary rate	£7.16	*	✓	*	*	*	£10.00	39.76 %

Community Protection

Abandoned Vehicles

Prices quoted below are exclusive of VAT

Description	Current Charge £	Pricing Strategy					Proposed Charge £	Increase %
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE	STATUTORY		
ABANDONED VEHICLES (Statutory Charges) (On Road - Outside Scope for VAT) (Off Road E.G. Private Land - Standard Rated)								
Removal of vehicle on road not substantially damaged, or 2 wheeled vehicle on or off road								
equal to or less than 3.5 tonnes	£150.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£150.00	Statutory Fee
exceeding 3.5 tonne but less than 7.5 tonnes	£200.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£200.00	Statutory Fee
exceeding 7.5 tonnes	£350.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£350.00	Statutory Fee
Removal of vehicle on road substantially damaged excluding 2 wheeled vehicle								
equal to or less than 3.5 tonnes	£250.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£250.00	Statutory Fee
exceeding 3.5 tonnes but less than 7.5 tonnes	£650.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£650.00	Statutory Fee
exceeding 7.5 tonnes *	£2,000.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£2,000.00	Statutory Fee
Removal of vehicle off road not substantially damaged excluding 2 wheeled vehicle								
equal to or less than 3.5 tonnes	£200.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£200.00	Statutory Fee
exceeding 3.5 tonnes but less than 7.5 tonnes	£400.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£400.00	Statutory Fee
exceeding 7.5 tonnes*	£1,000.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£1,000.00	Statutory Fee
Removal of vehicle off road substantially damaged excluding 2 wheeled vehicle								
equal to or less than 3.5 tonnes	£300.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£300.00	Statutory Fee
exceeding 3.5 tonnes but less than 7.5 tonnes	£850.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£850.00	Statutory Fee
exceeding 7.5 tonnes *	£3,000.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£3,000.00	Statutory Fee
Storage charge per day								
equal to or less than 3.5 tonnes	£20.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£20.00	Statutory Fee
exceeding 3.5 tonnes but less than 7.5 tonnes	£25.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£25.00	Statutory Fee
exceeding 7.5 tonnes	£30.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£30.00	Statutory Fee
Destruction / disposal								
equal to or less than 3.5 tonnes	£75.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£75.00	Statutory Fee
exceeding 3.5 tonnes but less than 7.5 tonnes	£100.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£100.00	Statutory Fee
exceeding 7.5 tonnes unladen	£125.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£125.00	Statutory Fee
Note: Additional removal charges apply where non standard measures are required to seize and transport vehicles from and across private land to the nearest highway *unladen weight only								
ABANDONED VEHICLES (Non Statutory Charges)								
(On Road - Outside Scope for VAT)								
(Off Road E.G. Private Land - Standard Rated)								
Return of seized vehicle - cost per mile								
equal or less than 3.5 tonnes	£2.54	✓	*	*	*	*	£2.80	10.06 %
exceeding 3.5 tonnes less than 7.5 tonnes	£4.72	✓	*	*	*	*	£5.20	10.24 %
equal to or exceeding 7.5 tonnes	£4.72	✓	*	*	*	*	£5.20	10.24 %
Private Land								
Administration Cost to organise AV removal on Private Land.	£116.60	*	✓	*	*	*	£126.80	8.75 %
Per additional vehicle on same land	£36	*	✓	*	*	*	£39.20	8.77 %

Community Protection

Environmental Services

Prices quoted below are exclusive of VAT

Description	Current Charge £	Pricing Strategy					Proposed Charge £	Increase %
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE	STATUTORY		
Standard rated & exclusive of VAT								
All commercial, non statutory work not listed will be undertaken after provision of a quote and agreeing of a contract. Officer charges per hour for carrying out Works in default (no VAT)								
Business Compliance Officer	£59.63	*	✓	*	*	*	£64.90	8.85 %
Business development Officer	£59.63	*	✓	*	*	*	£64.90	8.85 %
Strategic Project Manager	£59.63	*	✓	*	*	*	£64.90	8.85 %
Energy and Renewal Officer	£59.63	*	✓	*	*	*	£64.90	8.85 %
Community Safety Coordinator	£59.63	*	✓	*	*	*	£64.90	8.85 %
Assistant Licensing Officer	£49.37	*	✓	*	*	*	£53.70	8.76 %
Licensing Officer	£54.37	*	✓	*	*	*	£59.10	8.70 %
Support Officer	£49.37	*	✓	*	*	*	£53.70	8.76 %
Support Team Co-ordinator	£49.37	*	✓	*	*	*	£53.70	8.76 %
Environmental Health Technical Officer	£49.37	*	✓	*	*	*	£53.70	8.76 %
Senior Environmental Crime Officer	£59.63	*	✓	*	*	*	£64.90	8.85 %
Environmental Crime Officer	£54.37	*	✓	*	*	*	£59.10	8.70 %
Town Enforcement Officer	£49.37	*	✓	*	*	*	£53.70	8.76 %
Environmental Health Officer	£59.63	*	✓	*	*	*	£64.90	8.85 %
Senior Environmental Health Officer	£63.87	*	✓	*	*	*	£69.50	8.82 %
Environmental Health Manager	£70.30	*	✓	*	*	*	£76.50	8.82 %
Section Head	£75.83	*	✓	*	*	*	£82.50	8.79 %
Report for solicitor / victim for use in legal action / claim (such as health & safety reports, noise nuisance, reports etc). Work as above Amount to be submitted with request								
List of authorised processes and other pollution registers								
Hard copy of Food Premises Register	£0.11	*	✓	*	*	*	£0.12	8.70 %
Hard copy of Licensed HMO Public Register	£0.11	*	✓	*	*	*	£0.12	8.70 %
(Where allowed by law) per single sheet of A4 paper	£0.11	*	✓	*	*	*	£0.12	8.70 %
More complex work								
Probably including active data gathering, site visits, interviews etc. Minimum charge first two hours where additional time charged in 15 minute blocks - only where not covered by FOI Act. Amount to be submitted with request	upon request	*	✓	*	*	*	upon request	
Environmental Information Requests								
EIR Request (Per hour)	£76.32	*	✓	*	*	*	£83.00	8.75 %
Housing standards inspection for immigration purposes (customer has the choice to use either the local authority or the private sector)								
Standard Service (within 10 days)	£177.02	*	✓	*	*	*	£192.50	8.74 %
Priority Service (within 3 days)	£286.20	✓	*	*	*	*	£311.10	8.70 %
Exempt for VAT purposes								
Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering Candidate Fee	£53.00	✓	*	*	*	*	£57.70	8.87 %

Community Protection

Environmental Services

Prices quoted below are exclusive of VAT

Description	Current Charge £	Pricing Strategy					Proposed Charge £	Increase %
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE	STATUTORY		
Outside Scope for VAT purposes								
Food Export Certificate Electronic	£51.41	*	✓	*	*	*	£55.90	8.73 %
Food Export Certificate Hard Copy	£63.60	*	✓	*	*	*	£69.20	8.81 %
Food Hygiene Rating Scheme re-assessment charge	£180.20	*	✓	*	*	*	£195.90	8.71 %
Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO)								
Fast track process licensing application for new or renewals (within 5 days)	£349.80	✓	*	*	*	*	£380.30	8.72 %
HMO Licensing New Application Fee	£1,356.80	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,474.90	8.70 %
Concessionary rate for Charities (20% discount)	£1,081.20	*	*	✓	*	*	£1,175.30	8.70 %
HMO Licensing Renewal Application Fee	£1,128.90	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,227.20	8.71 %
Concessionary rate for Charities (20% discount)	£903.12	*	*	✓	*	*	£981.70	8.70 %
HMO Assisted Licence Application Fee	£314.82	*	*	✓	*	*	£342.30	8.73 %
(where release agreed/requested by landlord)	£30.74	*	✓	*	*	*	£33.50	8.98 %
HMO Survey - 2 storey or less	£429.30	✓	*	*	*	*	£466.70	8.71 %
HMO Survey - 3 storey	£636.00	✓	*	*	*	*	£691.40	8.71 %
	£371.00	✓	*	*	*	*	£403.30	8.71 %
Housing Enforcement Charges								
Charge to cover expenses if an enforcement notice is served under the Housing Act 2004	£303.16	*	✓	*	*	*	£329.60	8.72 %

Corporate Strategy and Customer Services

Information Unit and Customer Services

Description	Current Charge £	Pricing Strategy					Proposed Charge £	Increase %
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE	STATUTORY		
Outside Scope for VAT purposes								
Street Naming and Numbering :- Change to existing property	£132.50	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	£144.10	8.75 %
New Build								
1 Plot	£132.50	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	£144.10	8.75 %
For each additional plot/unit	£42.40						£46.10	8.73 %
New street name and postal numbers for a new development	£583.00 fee for	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	£633.80	8.71 %
Existing property - registration of property details with Royal Mail and / or utility companies	£132.50 per	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	£144.10	8.75 %
Renaming a street at the request of residents	£1,060.00 plus						£1,152.30	8.71 %
Per property	£42.40	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	£46.10	8.73 %

Housing and Wellbeing

Housing

Description	Current Charge £	Pricing Strategy					Proposed Charge £	Increase %
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE	STATUTORY		
Outside Scope for VAT purposes								
Average weekly hostel rents and service charges	£177.55	✘	✓	✘	✘	✘	£193.00	8.70 %
Managed dwelling rents	£222.67	✘	✓	✘	✘	✘	£242.10	8.72 %
Bed & Breakfast/Nightly let weekly Charge	£159.00	✘	✓	✘	✘	✘	£172.90	8.74 %

Environment

Parking

Prices quoted below are exclusive of VAT except for car parking at The Avenue, Town Hall and Longspring

Description	Current Charge £	Pricing Strategy					Proposed Charge From 1 January 2024	Increase %
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE	STATUTORY		
Outside Scope for VAT purposes								
On Street pay and display								
Inner CPZ P&D charge per hour	£1.60	*	✓	*	*	*	£2.00	25.00 %
Outer CPZ P&D charge per hour	£1.10	*	✓	*	*	*	£1.60	45.45 %
Eastbury Road (on-st P&D)								
12 mins	£0.30	*	*	✓	*	*	£0.30	NO CHANGE
24 mins	£0.50	*	*	✓	*	*	£0.50	NO CHANGE
36 mins	£0.70	*	*	✓	*	*	£0.70	NO CHANGE
48 mins	£0.90	*	*	✓	*	*	£0.90	NO CHANGE
1 hour	£1.10	*	*	✓	*	*	£1.10	NO CHANGE
2 hours	£2.20	*	*	✓	*	*	£2.20	NO CHANGE
3 hours	£3.30	*	*	✓	*	*	£3.30	NO CHANGE
All day (New)	£5.00						£5.00	
Standard rated & inclusive of VAT								
The Avenue Car Park: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. - 80p per hour								
1 Hour	£0.80	*	*	✓	*	*	£1.00	25.00 %
2 Hours	£1.60	*	*	✓	*	*	£2.00	25.00 %
3 Hours	£2.40	*	*	✓	*	*	£3.00	25.00 %
4 Hours	£3.20	*	*	✓	*	*	£4.00	25.00 %
All day till midnight	£6.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£6.00	NO CHANGE
5 p.m. to midnight	£2.50	*	*	✓	*	*	£3.00	20.00 %
Season tickets per annum	£800.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£870.00	8.75 %
Town Hall Car Park								
Monday - Friday 5 p.m. to midnight and Saturday & Sunday 5 p.m. to midnight								
1 Hour	£0.80	*	*	✓	*	*	£0.90	12.50 %
2 Hours	£1.60	*	*	✓	*	*	£1.80	12.50 %
3 Hours	£2.40	*	*	✓	*	*	£2.70	12.50 %
4 Hours	£3.20	*	*	✓	*	*	£3.60	12.50 %
All day till midnight	£6.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£6.00	NO CHANGE
5 p.m. to midnight	£2.50	*	*	✓	*	*	£2.70	8.00 %
Cassiobury Car Park								
Monday - Sunday (8am - 10pm)								
Up to 2 hours - Free								
3 hours	£2.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£3.00	50.00 %
4 hours	£3.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£4.00	33.33 %
5 hours	£4.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£5.00	25.00 %
6 hours	£5.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£6.00	20.00 %
Oxhey Activity Park								
Monday - Sunday (7am - 7pm)								
Up to 1 hour - Free								
2 hours	£2.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£2.20	10.00 %
3 hours	£3.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£3.30	10.00 %
4 hours	£4.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£4.40	10.00 %
Longspring Charges								
Monday - Saturday								
1 hour	£0.70	*	*	✓	*	*	£0.70	NO CHANGE
Up to 2 hours	£1.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£1.00	NO CHANGE
2 to 4 hours	£1.60	*	*	✓	*	*	£1.60	NO CHANGE
4+ hours; all day	£3.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£3.00	NO CHANGE
Between 5 pm - 9 pm	£1.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£1.00	NO CHANGE
Outside Scope for VAT purposes								
Harebreaks Car park (8am - 9pm)								
Monday - Saturday								
1 hour	£0.60	*	*	✓	*	*	£0.60	NO CHANGE
Up to 2 hours	£1.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£1.00	NO CHANGE
2 to 4 hours	£1.60	*	*	✓	*	*	£1.60	NO CHANGE
4+ hours; all day	£3.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£3.00	NO CHANGE
Between 5 pm - 9 pm	£1.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£1.00	NO CHANGE

Environment

Parking

Prices quoted below are exclusive of VAT except for car parking at The Avenue, Town Hall and Longspring

Description	Current Charge £	Pricing Strategy					Proposed Charge From 1 January 2024	Increase %
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE	STATUTORY		
Outside Scope for VAT purposes								
Parking Penalties								
Serious Contravention	£50.00	*	✓	*	*	✓	£50.00	Statutory Fee
More Serious Contravention	£70.00	*	✓	*	*	✓	£70.00	Statutory Fee
Permit Charges								
These charges are calculated from their hourly counterparts as these are now the most common forms of permit								
full cpz 1st permit	£28.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£31.00	10.71 %
full cpz 2nd permit	£61.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£66.00	8.20 %
fullcpz V Vouchers 40 1hour (16p / hr)	£6.40	*	✓	*	*	*	£8.00	25.00 %
fullcpz V Vouchers 20 4hour (16p / hr)	£12.80	*	✓	*	*	*	£16.00	25.00 %
fullcpz 1 day vouchers 5	£4.75	*	✓	*	*	*	£7.50	57.89 %
fullcpz 1 week v voucher	£4.50	*	✓	*	*	*	£7.50	66.67 %
fullcpz Business permit inner zone	£300.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£325.00	8.33 %
fullcpz Business permit outer zone	£150.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£165.00	10.00 %
Medical Permits (DHV)	£28.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£31.00	10.71 %
subsequent	£61.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£66.00	8.20 %
Car Park pass cards for disabled residents	£10.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£10.00	NO CHANGE
Parking Dispensations/bay suspensions :-								
Per bay per day	£20.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£20.00	NO CHANGE
Per bay per week first 2 weeks	£120.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£120.00	NO CHANGE
Per bay per week 3 weeks or more	£100.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£100.00	NO CHANGE

Planning, Infrastructure and Economy

Building Control

Description	Current Charge £	Pricing Strategy					Proposed Charge £ From 1 January 2024	Increase %
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE	STATUTORY		
Standard rated & inclusive of VAT								
New Dwellings								
1 new dwelling								
Plan Fee	£440.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£484.00	10.00 %
Inspection Fee	£632.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£695.00	9.97 %
Building Notice	£1,072.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,179.00	9.98 %
Regularisation	£1,340.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,474.00	10.00 %
1 new dwelling over 200m²								
Plan Fee	£440.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£484.00	10.00 %
Inspection Fee	£697.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£767.00	10.04 %
Building Notice	£1,137.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,251.00	10.03 %
Regularisation	£1,421.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,563.00	9.99 %
2 new dwellings								
Plan Fee	£440.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£484.00	10.00 %
Inspection Fee	£858.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£944.00	10.02 %
Building Notice	£1,298.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,428.00	10.02 %
Regularisation	£1,623.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,785.00	9.98 %
3 new dwellings								
Plan Fee	£440.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£484.00	10.00 %
Inspection Fee	£1,086.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,195.00	10.04 %
Building Notice	£1,523.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,675.00	9.98 %
Regularisation	£1,904.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£2,094.00	9.98 %
4 new dwellings								
Plan Fee	£440.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£484.00	10.00 %
Inspection Fee	£1,313.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,444.00	9.98 %
Building Notice	£1,753.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,928.00	9.98 %
Regularisation	£2,191.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£2,410.00	10.00 %
5 new dwellings								
Plan Fee	£440.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£484.00	10.00 %
Inspection Fee	£1,682.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,850.00	9.99 %
Building Notice	£2,122.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£2,334.00	9.99 %
Regularisation	£2,653.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£2,918.00	9.99 %
6 new dwellings								
Plan Fee	£440.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£484.00	10.00 %
Inspection Fee	£1,930.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£2,123.00	10.00 %
Building Notice	£2,370.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£2,607.00	10.00 %
Regularisation	£2,963.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£3,259.00	9.99 %
Conversion of dwelling to form 1 dwelling								
Plan Fee	£330.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£363.00	10.00 %
Inspection Fee	£515.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£567.00	10.10 %
Building Notice	£845.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£930.00	10.06 %
Regularisation	£1,056.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,162.00	10.04 %
Conversion of dwelling to form 1 flat								
Plan Fee	£330.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£363.00	10.00 %
Inspection Fee	£449.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£494.00	10.02 %
Building Notice	£779.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£857.00	10.01 %
Regularisation	£974.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,071.00	9.96 %
Conversion of dwelling into 2 flats								
Plan Fee	£330.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£363.00	10.00 %
Inspection Fee	£515.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£567.00	10.10 %
Building Notice	£845.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£930.00	10.06 %
Regularisation	£1,056.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,162.00	10.04 %
Conversion of dwelling into 3 flats								
Plan Fee	£330.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£363.00	10.00 %
Inspection Fee	£579.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£637.00	10.02 %
Building Notice	£909.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,000.00	10.01 %
Regularisation	£1,136.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,250.00	10.04 %
Conversion of dwelling into 4 flats								
Plan Fee	£330.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£363.00	10.00 %
Inspection Fee	£645.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£710.00	10.08 %
Building Notice	£975.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,073.00	10.05 %
Regularisation	£1,219.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,341.00	10.01 %

Fees for additional dwellings are based on volumes built

Planning, Infrastructure and Economy

Building Control

Description	Current Charge £	Pricing Strategy					Proposed Charge £ From 1 January 2024	Increase %
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE	STATUTORY		
Extensions								
Extension - Internal floor area under 10m²								
Plan Fee	£330.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£363.00	10.00 %
Inspection Fee	£320.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£352.00	10.00 %
Building Notice	£650.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£715.00	10.00 %
Regularisation	£813.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£894.00	9.96 %
Extension - Internal floor area under 10m² plus alterations under £5,000								
Plan Fee	£330.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£363.00	10.00 %
Inspection Fee	£353.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£388.00	9.92 %
Building Notice	£683.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£751.00	9.96 %
Regularisation	£854.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£939.00	9.95 %
Extension - Over 10m² and under 40m²								
Plan Fee	£330.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£363.00	10.00 %
Inspection Fee	£579.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£637.00	10.02 %
Building Notice	£909.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,000.00	10.01 %
Regularisation	£1,136.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,250.00	10.04 %
Extension - Over 10m² and under 40m² plus alterations under £5,000								
Plan Fee	£330.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£363.00	10.00 %
Inspection Fee	£579.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£637.00	10.02 %
Building Notice	£942.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,036.00	9.98 %
Regularisation	£1,178.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,296.00	10.02 %
Extension - Over 40m² and under 100m²								
Plan Fee	£440.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£484.00	10.00 %
Inspection Fee	£730.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£803.00	10.00 %
Building Notice	£1,170.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,287.00	10.00 %
Regularisation	£1,463.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,609.00	9.98 %
Extension - Over 40m² and under 100m² plus alterations under £5,000								
Plan Fee	£440.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£484.00	10.00 %
Inspection Fee	£762.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£838.00	9.97 %
Building Notice	£1,202.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,322.00	9.98 %
Regularisation	£1,505.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,656.00	10.03 %
Extension - Over 10m² and under 40m² plus loft conversion under 40m²								
Plan Fee	£440.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£484.00	10.00 %
Inspection Fee	£803.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£883.00	9.96 %
Building Notice	£1,243.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,367.00	9.98 %
Regularisation	£1,554.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,709.00	9.97 %
Extension - Over 40m² and under 100m² plus loft conversion under 40m²								
Plan Fee	£440.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£484.00	10.00 %
Inspection Fee	£858.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£944.00	10.02 %
Building Notice	£1,298.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,428.00	10.02 %
Regularisation	£1,623.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£1,785.00	9.98 %

Planning, Infrastructure and Economy

Building Control

Description	Current Charge £	Pricing Strategy					Proposed Charge £ From 1 January 2024	Increase %
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE	STATUTORY		
Conversion								
Loft Conversion under 40m²								
Plan Fee	£330.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£363.00	10.00 %
Inspection Fee	£313.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£344.00	9.90 %
Building Notice	£643.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£707.00	9.95 %
Regularisation	£804.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£884.00	9.95 %
Loft Conversion over 40m² under 100m²								
Plan Fee	£330.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£363.00	10.00 %
Inspection Fee	£349.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£384.00	10.03 %
Building Notice	£679.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£747.00	10.01 %
Regularisation	£849.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£934.00	10.01 %
Garage Conversion under 40m²								
Plan Fee	£330.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£363.00	10.00 %
Inspection Fee	£264.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£290.00	9.85 %
Building Notice	£594.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£653.00	9.93 %
Regularisation	£743.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£817.00	9.96 %
Basement Conversion under 40m²								
Plan Fee	£330.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£363.00	10.00 %
Inspection Fee	£264.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£290.00	9.85 %
Building Notice	£594.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£653.00	9.93 %
Regularisation	£743.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£817.00	9.96 %
Building Work								
Garage / Carport between 30m² and 60m²								
Plan Fee	£220.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£242.00	10.00 %
Inspection Fee	£324.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£356.00	9.88 %
Building Notice	£544.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£598.00	9.93 %
Regularisation	£680.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£748.00	10.00 %
Outbuilding between 30m² and 60m²								
Plan Fee	£220.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£242.00	10.00 %
Inspection Fee	£324.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£356.00	9.88 %
Building Notice	£544.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£598.00	9.93 %
Regularisation	£680.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£748.00	10.00 %
Load bearing wall removal								
Plan Fee	£220.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£242.00	10.00 %
Inspection Fee	£125.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£138.00	10.40 %
Building Notice	£345.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£380.00	10.14 %
Regularisation	£431.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£474.00	9.98 %
Chimney Breast Removal								
Plan Fee	£220.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£242.00	10.00 %
Inspection Fee	£125.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£138.00	10.40 %
Building Notice	£345.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£380.00	10.14 %
Regularisation	£431.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£474.00	9.98 %
Upgrading thermal elements (walls, roofs, floors)								
Plan Fee	£165.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£182.00	10.30 %
Inspection Fee	£65.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£72.00	10.77 %
Building Notice	£230.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£253.00	10.00 %
Regularisation	£288.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£317.00	10.07 %
Installation of solar panels under 8 units								
Plan Fee	£165.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£182.00	10.30 %
Inspection Fee	£65.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£72.00	10.77 %
Building Notice	£230.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£253.00	10.00 %
Regularisation	£288.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£317.00	10.07 %
Alterations up to £5,000								
Plan Fee	£220.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£242.00	10.00 %
Inspection Fee	£125.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£138.00	10.40 %
Building Notice	£345.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£380.00	10.14 %
Regularisation	£431.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£474.00	9.98 %
Alterations between £5,000 up to £10,000								
Plan Fee	£220.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£242.00	10.00 %
Inspection Fee	£316.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£348.00	10.13 %
Building Notice	£536.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£590.00	10.07 %
Regularisation	£670.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£737.00	10.00 %

Planning, Infrastructure and Economy

Building Control

Description	Current Charge £	Pricing Strategy					Proposed Charge £ From 1 January 2024	Increase %
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE	STATUTORY		
Alterations between £10,000 up to £15,000								
Plan Fee	£220.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£242.00	10.00 %
Inspection Fee	£353.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£388.00	9.92 %
Building Notice	£573.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£630.00	9.95 %
Regularisation	£716.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£788.00	10.06 %
Installation of replacement windows / doors under 10 units								
Plan Fee	£165.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£182.00	10.30 %
Inspection Fee	£113.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£124.00	9.73 %
Building Notice	£278.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£306.00	10.07 %
Regularisation	£348.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£383.00	10.06 %
Roof Replacment								
Plan Fee	£165.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£182.00	10.30 %
Inspection Fee	£113.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£124.00	9.73 %
Building Notice	£278.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£306.00	10.07 %
Regularisation	£348.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£383.00	10.06 %
Demolition								
Plan Fee	£110.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£121.00	10.00 %
Electrical works up to £10,000 estimated costs of works								
Building Notice	£400.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£440.00	10.00 %
Regularisation	£475.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£523.00	10.11 %

Planning, Infrastructure and Economy

Development Control

Description	Current Charge £	Pricing Strategy				Proposed Charge £	Increase %	
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE			STATUTORY
Outside Scope for VAT purposes								
DEVELOPMENT CONTROL FEES								
OPERATIONS								
Outline applications for development in Categories 1,2 & 3								
a) where the site area does not exceed 2.5 hectares	£462 per 0.1 hectare	*	*	*	*	✓	£462 per 0.1 hectare	NO CHANGE
b) where the site area exceeds 2.5 hectares - □ see below	£11,432.40	*	*	*	*	✓	£11,432.40	NO CHANGE
□ - Indicates a further charge for each additional 0.1 hectare in excess of 2.5 hectares	£138.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£138.00	NO CHANGE
Category 1 - New dwellings								
a) where the no of dwellings created is 50 or fewer	£462 per dwelling	*	*	*	*	✓	£462 per dwelling	NO CHANGE
a) where the no of dwellings created is more than 50 - ●	£22,858.80	*	*	*	*	✓	£22,858.80	NO CHANGE
● - Indicates a further charge for each dwelling in excess of 50	£138.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£138.00	NO CHANGE
Category 2 - Erection of buildings except those in Categories 1,3,4,5 or 7								
a) where no floorspace is to be created	£234.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£234.00	NO CHANGE
b) where the gross floorspace does not exceed 40m ²	£234.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£234.00	NO CHANGE
c) where the gross floorspace exceeds 40m ² but not 75m ²	£462.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£462.00	NO CHANGE
d) where the gross floorspace exceeds 75m ² but not 3750m ²	£462 per 75 sqm	*	*	*	*	✓	£462 per 75 sqm	NO CHANGE
e) where the gross floorspace exceeds 3750m ² - ❖	£22,858.80	*	*	*	*	✓	£22,858.80	NO CHANGE
❖ - Indicates a further charge for each 75m ² in excess of 3750m ²	£138.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£138.00	NO CHANGE
Category 3 - Agricultural buildings except glasshouses								
a) where gross floorspace does not exceed 465 m ²	£96.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£96.00	NO CHANGE
b) where gross floorspace exceeds 465m ² but < 540m ²	£462.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£462.00	NO CHANGE
c) where gross floorspace exceeds 540m ² but < 4215m ²	£462 for first 520 sqm plus plus	*	*	*	*	✓	£462 for first 520 sqm plus	NO CHANGE
d) where gross floorspace exceeds 4215m ² ▶ see below	£462.00 each extra 75 sq m	*	*	*	*	✓	£462.00 each extra 75 sq m	NO CHANGE
▶ - Indicates a further charge for each 75m ² in excess of 4215m ²	£22,858.80	*	*	*	*	✓	£22,858.80	NO CHANGE
	£138.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£138.00	NO CHANGE
Category 4 - Glasshouses								
a) where gross floorspace does not exceed 465 m ²	£96.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£96.00	NO CHANGE
b) where gross floorspace exceeds 465m ²	£2,580.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£2,580.00	NO CHANGE
Category 5 - Erection, alteration or replacement of plant or machinery								
a) where the site area does not exceed 5 hectares	£462.00 per 0.1 hectare	*	*	*	*	✓	£462.00 per 0.1 hectare	NO CHANGE
b) where the site area exceeds 5 hectares - ▲ see below	£22,858.80	*	*	*	*	✓	£22,858.80	NO CHANGE
▲ - Indicates a further charge for each 0.1 hectare in excess of 5 hectares	£138.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£138.00	NO CHANGE
Category 6 - Enlargement, improvement or other alteration of existing dwellings								
a) where the application relates to 1 dwelling	£206.40	*	*	*	*	✓	£206.40	NO CHANGE
b) where the application relates to 2 or more dwellings	£406.80	*	*	*	*	✓	£406.80	NO CHANGE
Category 7 - Operations within the curtilage of an exiting dwelling for purposes ancillary to the enjoyment of the dwelling, including the erection or construction of gates, fences, walls or other means of enclosure along the boundary of the curtilage								
Category 8 - Construction of car parks, service roads and other means of access on land used for the purpose of a single undertaking, where the development is required for a purpose incidental to the existing use of land	£206.40	*	*	*	*	✓	£206.40	NO CHANGE
Category 9 - Operations connected with exploratory drilling for oil or natural gas	£234.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£234.00	NO CHANGE
Category 10 - Other operations not within Categories 1-9								
a) in cases of mining extraction								
i) where the site area does not exceed 15 hectares	£462.00 per 0.1 hectare	*	*	*	*	✓	£462.00 per 0.1 hectare	NO CHANGE
ii) where the site area exceeds 15 hectares - ▼ see below	£34,934.40	*	*	*	*	✓	£34,934.40	NO CHANGE
▼ - Indicates a further charge for each 0.1 hectare in excess of 15 hectares	£138.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£138.00	NO CHANGE
b) in any other case	£234.00 per hectare	*	*	*	*	✓	£234.00 per hectare	NO CHANGE

Planning, Infrastructure and Economy

Development Control

Description	Current Charge £	Pricing Strategy					Proposed Charge £ From 1 January 2024	Increase %
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE	STATUTORY		
Outside Scope for VAT purposes								
DEVELOPMENT CONTROL FEES								
OPERATIONS (Continued)								
Category 11 - Change of use of a building to residential								
a) from an existing dwelling								
i) to 2 to 50 dwellings	£492.00 for each additional	*	*	*	*	✓	£492.00 for each additional	NO CHANGE
ii) to more than 50 dwellings - ♣ see below	£22,858.80	*	*	*	*	✓	£22,858.80	NO CHANGE
♣ - Indicates a further charge for each dwelling in excess of 50	£138.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£138.00	NO CHANGE
b) from a building other than a dwelling								
i) up to 50 dwellings	£462.00 per dwelling	*	*	*	*	✓	£462.00 per dwelling	NO CHANGE
ii) to more than 50 dwellings - • see below	£22,858.80	*	*	*	*	✓	£22,858.80	NO CHANGE
• - Indicates a further charge for each dwelling in excess of 50	£138.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£138.00	NO CHANGE
Category 12 - Use of land for disposal of refuse or waste materials or as open mineral storage								
a) where the site area does not exceed 15 hectares	£234.00 per 0.1 hectare	*	*	*	*	✓	£234.00 per 0.1 hectare	NO CHANGE
b) where the site area exceeds 15 hectares - — see below	£34,934.40	*	*	*	*	✓	£34,934.40	NO CHANGE
— - Indicates a further charge for each 0.1 hectare in excess of 15 hectares	£138.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£138.00	NO CHANGE
Category 13 - Material change of use except one falling within Categories 11 and 12	£462.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£462.00	NO CHANGE
ADVERTISEMENTS								
Category 14 - Advertisement relating to business on the premises								
	£132.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£132.00	NO CHANGE
Category 15 - Advance directional sign								
	£132.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£132.00	NO CHANGE
Category 16 - All other advertisements								
	£462.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£462.00	NO CHANGE
DETERMINATIONS								
Category 17 - Prior approval								
a) agricultural or forestry buildings	£96.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£96.00	NO CHANGE
b) demolition of buildings	£96.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£96.00	NO CHANGE
c) telecommunications installations	£462.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£462.00	NO CHANGE
d) development involving a material change of use	£96.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£96.00	NO CHANGE
e) development involving a material change of use and building operations in connection with that change of use	£206.40	*	*	*	*	✓	£206.40	NO CHANGE
ALTERATION OF PERMISSION								
Category 18 - Variation of condition								
	£234.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£234.00	NO CHANGE
Category 19 - Non material amendment								
a) householder development	£33.60	*	*	*	*	✓	£33.60	NO CHANGE
b) other development	£234.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£234.00	NO CHANGE
COMPLIANCE WITH CONDITIONS								
Category 20 - Confirmation of compliance with conditions								
a) relating to development within Categories 6 and 7	£33.60 per request	*	*	*	*	✓	£33.60 per request	NO CHANGE
b) relating to any other development	£116.40 per request	*	*	*	*	✓	£116.40 per request	NO CHANGE
RENEWAL OF PLANNING PERMISSION								
Category 21 - Renewal of planning permission where the development has not commenced								
a) householder development	£68.40	*	*	*	*	✓	£68.40	NO CHANGE
b) major development	£690.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£690.00	NO CHANGE
c) other development	£234.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£234.00	NO CHANGE
LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT								
Category 22 - Lawful Development Certificate								
a) for an existing use of land or operational development	Same fee for an equivalent	*	*	*	*	✓	Same fee for an equivalent	NO CHANGE
b) for non compliance with a condition	£234.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£234.00	NO CHANGE
c) for a proposed use of land or operational development	Half fee of an equivalent planning	*	*	*	*	✓	Half fee of an equivalent	NO CHANGE
APPROPRIATE ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT								
Category 23 - Certificate of appropriate alternative development								
	£234.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£234.00	NO CHANGE
CONCESSION FEES AND EXEMPTIONS								
a) reserved matters application where the applicant's earlier reserved matters applications have incurred total fees at least equal to the fee payable for a reserved matters application for the entire scheme	£462.00	*	*	✓	*	✓	£462.00	NO CHANGE
b) extensions and alterations to a dwelling or works within its curtilage for the benefit of people with disabilities	Free of charge	*	*	*	✓	✓	Free of charge	NO CHANGE
c) alterations to public buildings in order to provide access for people with disabilities	Free of charge	*	*	*	✓	✓	Free of charge	NO CHANGE
d) applications required by reason of the removal of 'permitted development' rights either by a planning condition or by an Article 4 Direction	Free of charge	*	*	*	✓	✓	Free of charge	NO CHANGE

Planning, Infrastructure and Economy

Development Control

Description	Current Charge	Pricing Strategy					Proposed Charge From 1 January 2024	Increase
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE	STATUTORY		
Outside Scope for VAT purposes								
DEVELOPMENT CONTROL FEES CONCESSION FEES AND EXEMPTIONS (Continued)								
e) a revised or new application for development of the same character or description submitted within 12 months of the refusal or withdrawal of an earlier application or within 12 months of the expiry of the statutory 8 week period where the applicant has appealed on grounds of 'non determination'	Free of charge	*	*	*	✓	✓	Free of charge	
f) a revised or new application for development of the same character or description submitted within 12 months of the grant of permission on an earlier application	Free of charge	*	*	*	✓	✓	Free of charge	
g) application for listed building consent or conservation area consent	Free of charge	*	*	*	✓	✓	Free of charge	
h) application made by or on behalf of a club, society or other organisation which is not established or conducted for profit and whose objects are the provision of facilities for sport or recreation which relates to the change of use of land to playing fields or the carrying out of operations (other than the erection of a building) for purposes ancillary to the use of the land as a playing field	£462.00	*	*	✓	*	✓	£489.72	6.00 %
i) a prior approval application for a material change of use made on the same date and by or on behalf of the same applicant as an application for planning permission for the same development	Free of charge	*	*	*	✓	✓	Free of charge	
j) a planning application which is only for the demolition of an unlisted building in a conservation area	Free of charge	*	*	*	✓	✓	Free of charge	
Standard rated & inclusive of VAT								
DEVELOPMENT CONTROL FEES PRE APPLICATION ADVICE								
CATEGORY 1 covers -								
a) householder proposals	£100.00	*	*	*	✓	*	£150.00	50.00 %
b) proposals involving less than 100 sq m of commercial floorspace	£100.00	*	*	*	✓	*	£150.00	50.00 %
c) lawful development certificates	£100.00	*	*	*	✓	*	£150.00	50.00 %
d) listed building consent	£100.00	*	*	*	✓	*	£150.00	50.00 %
e) conservation area consent	£100.00	*	*	*	✓	*	£150.00	50.00 %
CATEGORY 2 covers -								
a) 1 new residential unit (conversion of house into 2 flats)	£200.00	*	*	*	✓	*	£250.00	25.00 %
B) 2-5 residential units 100sqm to 499sqm of non residential floor space	£500.00	*	*	*	✓	*	£600.00	20.00 %
C) 6-10 residential units 500sqm to 999sqm of non residential floor space	£1,000.00	*	*	*	✓	*	£1,400.00	40.00 %
CATEGORY 3 covers :-								
a) from 10 to 24 residential units or where the site area is 0.5 hectare to 1 hectare	£3,000.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£3,500.00	16.67 %
b) from 1000 sq m to 1999 sq m of commercial floorspace								
c) mixed use developments on a site between 0.5 hectare and 1 hectare								
d) change of use of land or buildings involving 500 sq m or more								
CATEGORY 3 follow up meeting. In order benefit from the reduced fee for a follow-up meeting, the proposal must be (or include) the same site as the initial meeting, be for a similar use (or uses) as the initial meeting and be within three months of the initial pre-application meeting date.		*	*	*	✓	*	£1,750.00	16.67 %
	£1,500.00							
CATEGORY 4 covers :-								
a) 25-49 or residential units	£5,000.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£6,500.00	30.00 %
b) 2,000sqm to 4999sqm of non-residential floorspace	£5,000.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£6,500.00	30.00 %
CATEGORY 4 follow up meeting. In order benefit from the reduced fee for a follow-up meeting, the proposal must be (or include) the same site as the initial meeting, be for a similar use (or uses) as the initial meeting and be within three months of the initial pre-application meeting date.	£2,500.00	*	*	*	✓	*	£3,250.00	30.00 %
CATEGORY 5 covers :-								
a) 50-74 residential units	£7,000.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£8,500.00	21.43 %
b) 5000sqm or more of non-residential floorspace	£7,000.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£8,500.00	21.43 %
CATEGORY 5 follow up meeting. In order benefit from the reduced fee for a follow-up meeting, the proposal must be (or include) the same site as the initial meeting, be for a similar use (or uses) as the initial meeting and be within three months of the initial pre-application meeting date.	£3,500.00	*	*	*	✓	*	£4,250.00	21.43 %
CATEGORY 6 covers :-								
a) 75 or more residential units	£10,000.00	*	*	*	✓	*	£14,000.00	40.00 %
CATEGORY 6 follow up meeting. In order benefit from the reduced fee for a follow-up meeting, the proposal must be (or include) the same site as the initial meeting, be for a similar use (or uses) as the initial meeting and be within three months of the initial pre-application meeting date.	£5,000.00	*	*	*	✓	*	£7,000.00	40.00 %

Planning, Infrastructure and Economy

Land Searches

Description	Current Charge £	Pricing Strategy					Proposed Charge £ From 1 January 2024	Increase %
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE	STATUTORY		
Outside Scope for VAT purposes								
Residential Search	£74.20	x	✓	x	x	x	£80.65 8.69 %	
Commercial Search	£150.52	x	✓	x	x	x	£163.65 8.72 %	
Con 29 optional enquiry	£9.54	x	✓	x	x	x	£10.40 9.01 %	
Additional enquiry (E.G. Solicitor)	£10.60	x	✓	x	x	x	£11.55 8.96 %	
Enquiry by letter	£15.90	x	✓	x	x	x	£17.30 8.81 %	
Additional parcel of land	£14.31	x	✓	x	x	x	£15.55 8.70 %	
Question 22 enquiry	£21.73	x	✓	x	x	x	£23.65 8.84 %	
Question 21 enquiry	£4.00	x	✓	x	x	x	£4.35 8.70 %	
Question 16 enquiry	£4.00	x	✓	x	x	x	£4.35 8.70 %	
Question 4 enquiry	£4.00	x	✓	x	x	x	£4.35 8.70 %	

Legal

Elections Unit

Description	Current Charge £	Pricing Strategy					Proposed Charge £ From 1 January 2024	Increase %
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE	STATUTORY		
Outside Scope for VAT purposes								
Confirmation Letter Fees								
Certification of overseas pension forms	£11.45	*	✓	*	*	*	£12.45 8.70 %	

Revenues and Benefits

Council Tax

Description	Current Charge £	Pricing Strategy					Proposed Charge From 1 January 2024	Increase %
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE	STATUTORY		
Outside Scope & exclusive of VAT								
Penalty Charge (Re : Single Person Discount)	£70.00	*	*	*	*	✓	£70.00	NO CHANGE

Environment

Allotments

Description	Current Charge £	Pricing Strategy					Proposed Charge £ From 1 January 2024	Increase %
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE	STATUTORY		
Outside Scope for VAT purposes								
Allotments Per pole per annum (5 pole plot/half plot = £42.50, 10 pole plot/full size = £85.00) 50% reduction for the disabled and those in receipt of income related benefit	£7.75	*	*	✓	*	*	£8.50 9.68 %	

Environment

Waste Services – Garden Waste

Description	Current Charge £	Pricing Strategy					Proposed Charge £	Increase %
		COMMERCIAL	FULL COST REC	SUBSIDISED	FREE	STATUTORY		
Outside Scope & exclusive of VAT								
GARDEN WASTE BIN CHARGE								
240L / 140 L wheeled bin Standard charge per garden waste bin	£50.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£55.00	10.00 %
240L / 140 L wheeled bin Charge per garden waste bin for customers paying by Direct Debit (DD)	£50.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£55.00	10.00 %
240L / 140 L wheeled bin Concessionary rate per garden waste bin	£35.00	*	✓	✓	*	*	£40.00	14.29 %
240L / 140 L wheeled bin Rate for 2nd garden waste bin	£75.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£75.00	NO CHANGE
Rate for 2nd garden waste bin - Schools, Faith Groups, Charities	£50.00	*	*	✓	*	*	£55.00	10.00 %
Compostable liners (roll of 52)	£3.00	*	✓	*	*	*	£3.00	NO CHANGE
Postage of roll of liners	£1.65	*	✓	*	*	*	£1.65	NO CHANGE

Agenda Item 6

Report to:	<i>Cabinet</i>
Date of meeting:	<i>2 October 2023</i>
Report author:	<i>Jack Green Spatial Planning Manager Laura Wood, South West Hertfordshire Joint Strategic Plan Lead Chris Outtersides, South West Hertfordshire Joint Strategic Plan Director</i>
Report sponsor:	<i>Ben Martin Associate Director Planning, Infrastructure and Economy</i>
Portfolio holder:	<i>Councillor Glen Saffrey</i>
Report title:	<i>South West Hertfordshire Joint Strategic Plan Regulation 18 Consultation Feedback</i>
Nature of report:	<i>Discussion and recommendation for referral to PH/Cabinet or Council for decision</i>

Executive Summary

Consultation on the first formal Regulation 18 stage of the South West Hertfordshire Joint Strategic Plan (JSP) was undertaken in autumn 2022. This consultation sought feedback on a number of themes, a draft vision and objectives for the Plan, and a series of potential growth types that could be considered for the future. Officers have now considered all of the responses received and prepared a draft consultation report. This report provides a high level summary of the number and nature of these responses and seeks the endorsement of a series of changes to the draft vision and objectives to take account of feedback received. It also seeks agreement to a number of changes to the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report which was consulted on in parallel.

Recommendations

1. Note the feedback received on the South West Hertfordshire Joint Strategic Plan Regulation 18 consultation (as summarised in Appendices 1 and 2)
2. Endorse the revised vision and objectives for the South West Hertfordshire Joint Strategic Plan Regulation 18, incorporating changes recommended as a result of the consultation responses (Appendix 5)
3. Agree the recommended changes to the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (Appendix 6)
4. Agree that minor changes can be made to the South West Hertfordshire Joint Strategic Plan Regulation 18 Consultation Feedback report and Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report by the Associate Director of Planning, Infrastructure and Economy in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, prior to publication.

Report pathway

Next review body: *Cabinet*
Indicative date: 2 October 2023
Final review body: *Cabinet*
Indicative date: 2 October 2023

Contact Officer:

For further info contact: Jack Green Spatial Planning Manager
Email: jack.green@watford.gov.uk
Reviewed and signed off by: Ben Martin, Associate Director Planning,
Infrastructure and Economy

Detailed proposal

Role and Scope of the South West Hertfordshire Joint Strategic Plan

- 1.1 The South West Hertfordshire authorities (Watford Borough Council, Dacorum Borough Council, Hertsmere Borough Council, St. Albans City and District Council and Three Rivers District Council, with the support of Hertfordshire County Council) have agreed to work together to produce the South West Hertfordshire Joint Strategic Plan. This will provide an integrated strategic planning framework and supporting evidence base to support sustainable growth in the area to 2050.
- 1.2 The Joint Strategic Plan will be a statutory planning document, prepared under Section 28 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The Plan will identify the overall quantum of housing and economic growth within South West Hertfordshire to be planned for to 2050 and its broad distribution across the area. The Plan will identify strategic allocations and priorities, as well as the strategic infrastructure necessary to deliver the spatial strategy.
- 1.3 The Joint Strategic Plan will focus on climate resilience, infrastructure delivery, strategic housing and employment. However, although a planning document, it will help create a framework for investor confidence, including government, in South West Hertfordshire.
- 1.4 The benefits of a Joint Strategic Plan include:
 - increased potential for unlocking infrastructure investment from Government;
 - creating a bigger canvas to make decisions about future growth;

- allowing an infrastructure-led approach; not ‘planning by numbers’; and
 - enabling a coordinated approach to investment and delivery of infrastructure giving priority to strategic solutions;
 - working collaboratively with other local authorities in South West Hertfordshire to agree and deliver a shared vision.
-
- Historic environment;
 - Both urban and rural employment sectors;
 - Protection of water resources; and
 - Air quality.

<p>Growing opportunities to work locally</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit to net zero carbon • Bring people closer to nature • Create sustainable buildings and infrastructure • Enrich native biodiversity and ecology • Green construction
<p>Living in healthy, thriving local communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create spaces to grow • Target investment • Diversity and increase activity in centres • Retain and develop talent • Strengthen the visitor economy
<p>Moving easily in well connected places</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide healthy places to live • Locate facilities to encourage community interaction • Ensure safe and inclusive places and spaces
<p>Building homes and places that people are proud of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transform travel • Connectivity between towns and villages • Improve delivery solutions • Create walkable neighbourhoods
<p>Living green in a healthy natural environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design attractive places • Celebrate a diverse place • Deliver new homes in the right places • Recognise current and future housing needs
<p>Delivering robust and sustainable infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver key infrastructure • Green energy generation • Promote circular economies • Advance digital infrastructure

Table 3. Growth typologies



SWHERTS
Joint Strategic Plan

South West Hertfordshire 2050

Realising our Potential



Consultation Report

Part 1: What we did

June 2023

Prepared on behalf of:



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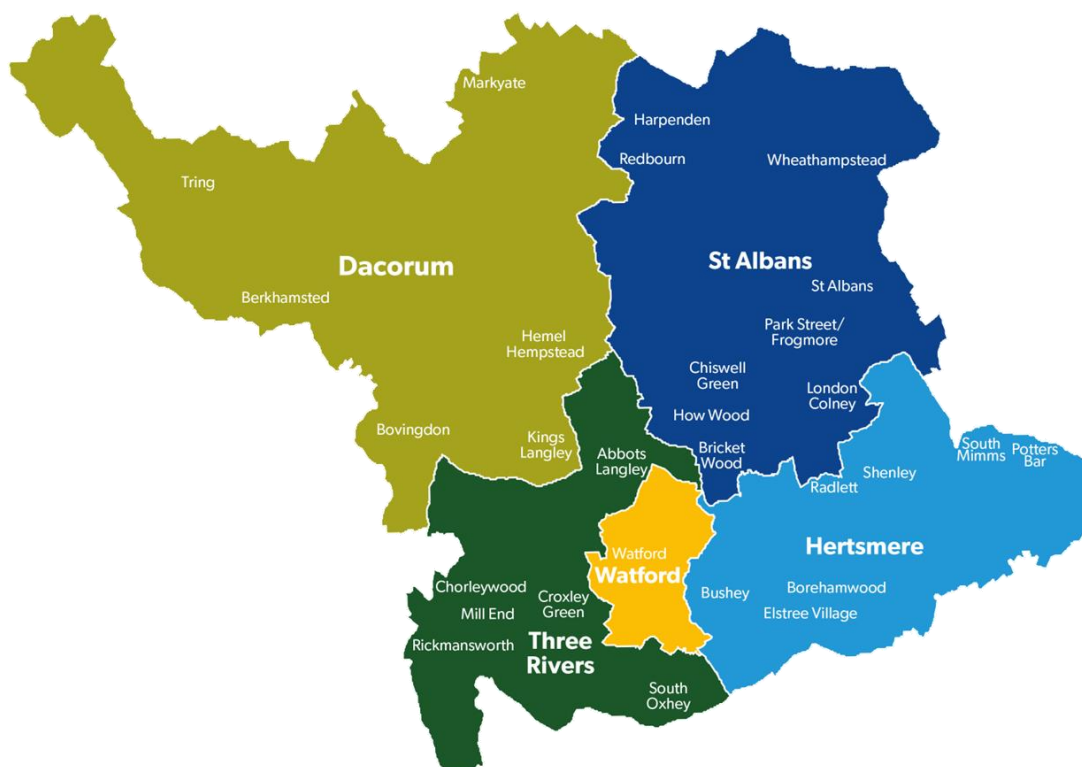
Appendices *(see separate report)*

1. Communications and Engagement Plan
2. Youth Forum terms of reference
3. Youth Forum - example miro boards
4. Schools workshop - list of schools / colleges invited
5. Schools workshop - email marketing material
6. Interactive website - example pages
7. Consultation questionnaire
8. Frequently Asked Questions document
9. Notification emails / letters
10. JSP website extracts
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14. Watford Urban Room invitation
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16. Examples of paper and media coverage
17. Examples of town and parish council website promotion
18. Examples of district / borough social media posts
19. Social media schedule for districts / boroughs and county council
20. Data on council social media reach

1. Introduction

SW Herts 20250 – Realising Our Potential

- 1.1 Launching the ‘SW Herts 20250 – Realising our Potential’ marked the first stage of formal consultation on the SW Herts Joint Strategic Plan (JSP). The plan covers the areas of Dacorum Borough, Hertsmere Borough, St Albans City and District, Three Rivers Districts and Watford Borough Councils.



- 1.2 The JSP will set a collective ambition for the area, and once finalised, set a blueprint for the future of the area to 2050. Eventually it will need to address big issues like the scale and location of new growth, the infrastructure needed to deliver it and the response to the challenges of climate change.
- 1.3 At this early stage in the plan-making process feedback was sought on two documents:
1. the main **Regulation 18 Issues and Options document** – entitled ‘South West Hertfordshire 2050 – Realising our Potential’ prepared by the SW Herts SP team with the support of the south west Herts authorities; and
 2. an associated **Draft Sustainability Scoping Report** prepared by Land Use Consultants (LUC).
- 1.4 The main consultation document included a series of questions about the area as it currently is and then asked for feedback on a draft vision and series of objectives for the future, and the types of growth that are the most appropriate to consider. There was also a separate question relating to the Sustainability (SA) Scoping Report
- 1.5 The consultation ran from 5th September until 4th November 2022.

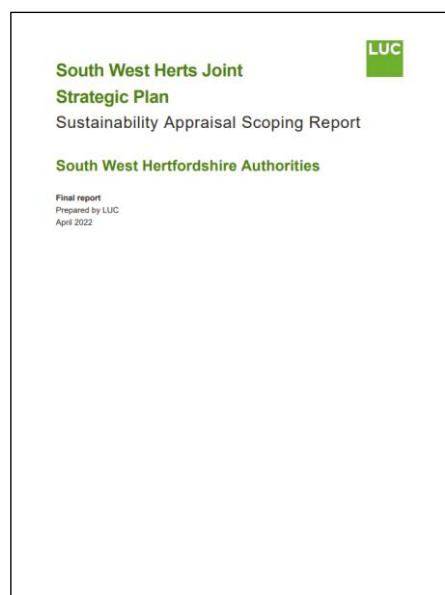


Image: The two documents consulted upon

1.6 Approval to consult on these two documents was given at the following meetings:

Council	Meeting(s)	Date
Dacorum Borough	• Cabinet	12 th July
Hertsmere Borough	•	
St Albans City and District	• Local Plan Advisory Group • Policy Committee	14 th June 24 th June
Three Rivers District	• Local Plan sub-committee • Policy and Resources Committee • Full Council	6 th June 14 th June 12 th July
Watford Borough	• Cabinet	11 th July
Hertfordshire County Council*	• Growth and Planning Panel	28 th July

* As HCC has no statutory responsibility for the JSP, this meeting was asked to support rather than endorse the consultation documents and process

Relationship between JSP and Local Plans

1.7 The JSP will not replace the Local Plans currently being prepared by each of the district councils in SW Herts. Rather it will draw up a longer term strategy to 2050 which seeks to best meet the needs of the area as a whole.



1.8 Many residents and organisations in SW Herts have already given their views on the emerging Local Plans being prepared by their districts / borough councils. This consultation is separate for these Local Plan engagements, but any relevant

lessons learned either in terms of how the consultation was carried out, or the feedback received, will be shared with the individual councils as appropriate.

2. Approach

Consultation requirements

- 2.1 Government regulations¹ set out the formal stages in the preparation process of the JSP i.e. when the documents must be formally published for comment and for how long. How the Joint Strategic Plan (JSP) will comply with these regulations is set out in the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), which has been endorsed by all the SW Herts authorities:
<https://www.swhertsplan.com/13315/widgets/38228/documents/29755>
- 2.2 This SCI states that “*The early stage of plan preparation (under Regulation 18) will involve engagement with stakeholders, prescribed bodies, partners and consultees to inform the identification of issues and options*” (para 2.5). Further detail regarding what this will comprise is set out in Table 1 of the SCI, an extract of which is below.

Stages and methods of consultation and communications

Plan stage	What will we be consulting or communicating on?	How will we consult / communicate?
Issues and Options <i>(Regulation 18)</i>	This stage can comprise one or more public consultations. These can relate to broad issues and options, draft policies and/or potential sites. To include consultation on associated sustainability appraisal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inviting representations through the JSP and signposted from individual council’s websites. • Advertising through social media, press releases and electronic alerts. • Written / email consultation with key consultees / organisations as required by the regulations. • Consultation documents available to view at specified deposit points. • Public consultation events such as targeted workshops and/or exhibitions, if appropriate to the nature of the consultation.

Source: Statement of Community Involvement SW Herts Joint Strategic Plan, July 2022.

- 2.3 In terms of how long a formal consultation should last for, the SCI states that this should be for a minimum of 6 weeks. However, this can be extended where considered appropriate. The SCI states that timescales for more informal consultation that is targeted at specific groups will depend on the nature of that engagement.
- 2.4 It was agreed that the full Regulation 18 (R18) consultation (comprising both the ‘Realising our Potential’ document’ and associated Draft Sustainability Scoping Report) would run for just over eight weeks – from Monday 5th September until 5pm on Friday 4th November. This slightly lengthened period turned out to be a prudent decision, as all active marketing on the consultation was paused for a 10 day period during the official mourning period for the Queen, although all of the consultation material remained available during this time. The ‘quick-fire poll’ element of the consultation (see below), aimed at those using social media, ran for a 3 week period

¹ Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended)

from 5th until 26th September inclusive. Poll providers Built-ID advised that this was the optimum length of time to deploy this type of consultation tool.

- 2.5 In order to provide clarity regarding the full consultation programme, a 'Consultation and Engagement Plan' was drawn up by the JSP's communications consultants, Icen, in collaboration with the JSP Communications Office Appendix 1).
- 2.6 This was reviewed and agreed with the Steering Group and Strategic Planning Members Group who oversee work on the Joint Strategic Plan.
- 2.7 One of the reason for drawing up this communications plan was to set out clear aim and objectives for the consultation. These were as follows:

AIMS

- Build awareness, understanding and generate interest in the process, resulting in greater participation in the future; and
- Inform the technical work, providing information related to priorities, issues and opportunities.

OBJECTIVES

1. Engage with hard to reach groups and demographics, particularly young people and record their views on key issues;
2. Establish and expand a dialogue with key stakeholders to become actively involved in the development of the plan; and
3. Communicate the benefits of working together and the vision and objectives of the JSP to residents and businesses in SW Herts, through our own and paid channels and by enabling and empowering local authorities to promote and share digital resources on their channels

Consultation approach

- 2.8 The approach to the consultation ensured full compliance with both the adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and the more informal Communications and Engagement Plan. It also exceeded the requirements of the relevant national regulations governing Regulation 18 plan engagement.

Digitally-focused engagement

- 2.9 A recent report called 'The Future of Engagement'² prepared by specialist communications consultants Grayling in association with the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) found that only 21% of people want to engage through in-person public exhibitions or meetings, while 49% of the general public surveyed felt that having the ability to respond digitally would make them more likely to get involved. When combined with the recent Ofcom report³ which showed that only 6% of UK households do not have access to the internet, this demonstrates that in terms of meeting the ambition for maximum engagement with limited resources across a very large geographical area, prioritising resources on digital engagement is essential.
- 2.10 This research is also support by the experience of the SW Herts authorities, four of whom – Dacorum, Hertsmere, Three Rivers and Watford - have recently undertaken

² <https://www.rtpi.org.uk/media/7258/the-future-of-engagement.pdf>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/find-digital-market-research/online-nation-report-2021-ofcom> (page 3)

'digital-first' engagements on their Local Plans. The evidence from these local authorities clearly shows that digital engagement is far more effective at generating engagement than in-person activity.

- 2.11 However, as the JSP partnership was keen to ensure that everyone across South West Hertfordshire was able to provide feedback on the consultation documents, it was important to ensure that the digitally excluded could also engage with the plan.

Youth Forum

- 2.12 As part of the drive to engage with as wide an audience as possible, a Youth Forum was established to help inform how the consultation was carried out and to try to increase participation rates amongst hard to reach groups – especially the under 25s who historically do not get involved in planning consultations. Engaging with this age group is particularly important considering the long-term nature of the JSP.
- 2.13 The previous 'Your Future' poll⁴ conducted in early 2020, advertised via social media had been very successful at engaging this particular demographic as a representative sample of all age groups, and the JSP programme was keen to build on this success.
- 2.14 The Youth Forum was established by contacting 18-25 year olds who had participated in the 'Your Future' poll and stated that they wished to be involved with ongoing engagement. It was supplemented by other young people who expressed a willingness to participate after being contacted by district / borough councils.
- 2.15 Two meetings were held to specifically inform the R18 consultation:
- 1) **3rd May 2022** – to discuss the key issues for the consultation for younger demographics, and how to encourage greater levels of engagement with younger people.
 - 2) **13th July 2022** – Feedback on draft 'poll' questions and promotional videos – both in terms of style and content, and how to achieve greater levels of engagement with the wider consultation material.
- 2.16 The agreed terms of reference for the Youth Forum are attached as Appendix 2, together with examples of the 'miro board' notes for some of the topics discussed (Appendix 3).

Schools workshop

- 2.17 The second Youth Forum meeting was also attended by some sixth form students from Kings Langley School who had expressed an interest in being involved. As a result of their participation, the JSP team arranged a specific in-person engagement event for sixth form students / college students from across SW Herts.
- 2.18 Due to lead in times involved, the workshop took place on Wednesday 25 January 2023, after the close of the formal consultation period. More than 40 schools, sixth form and colleges were invited to attend the event which was held at Kings Langley School from 4pm to 6pm. A full list of the schools contacted is attached as Appendix 4 and a copy of the email marketing which was sent to schools is attached as Appendix 5.
- 2.19 Nine other schools and colleges expressed an interest in attending, but unfortunately due to staff shortages and transport issues, were unable to

⁴ <https://www.swhertsplan.com/what-you-have-already-told-us>

participate. A small group of Kings Langley School students were however able to participate in the workshop. They were asked where they live at the moment, their priorities for the area over the next 30 years and what they might want to change or keep the same.

2.20 The workshop was facilitated by Icen Projects and a report on the workshop featured in the school's February newsletter (see section 3 below).

Methods of response

2.21 To make engagement with the consultation as easy as possible there were a number of different ways in which the consultation could be accessed and responses made:

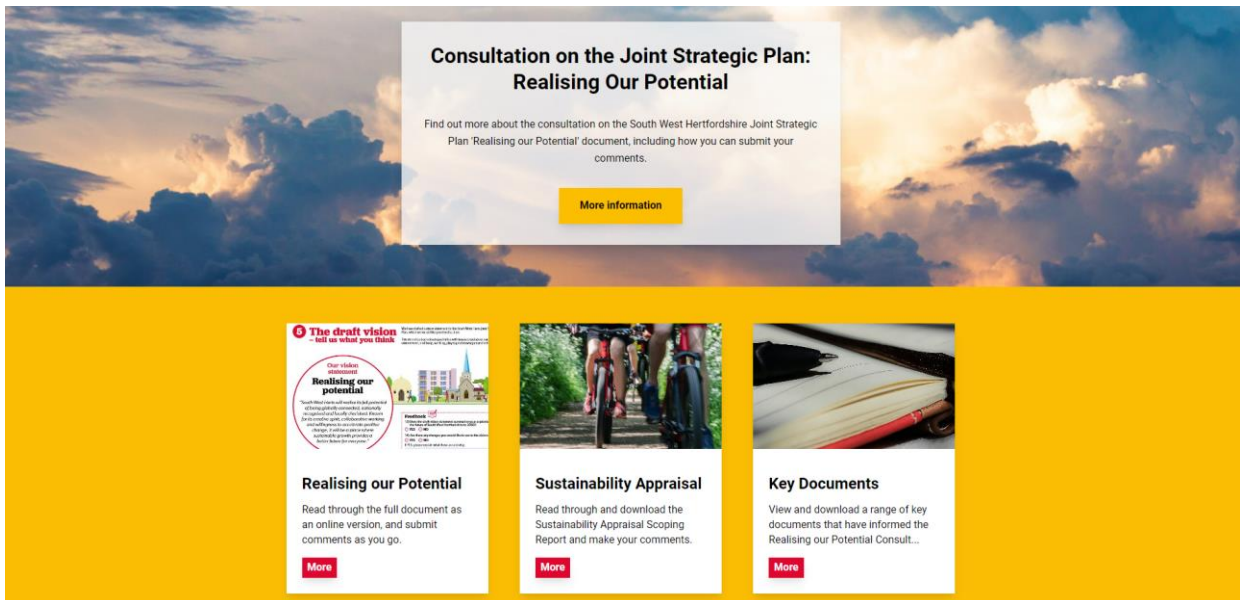
JSP website

2.22 The JSP website – www.swhertsplan.com was the principal portal for all of the consultation material and associated information. From the website homepages (below) visitors could easily access:

- Regulation 18 'Realising Our Potential' document (PDF)
- Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (PDF)
- Questionnaire (Word)
- FAQs (PDF and web-based version)
- Six Topic Papers, which provided further context for key planning issues for the area (PDF)
- Communications and Engagement Plan (PDF)
- Other relevant background material (PDF)

Image: JSP website homepage





2.23 The website also hosted an interactive version of the Realising Our Potential document. Responses could be submitted via a full survey questionnaire, or via the same questions embedded in the interactive version of the R18 document and on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report pages of the website. Examples of the interactive survey pages are attached as Appendix 6.

2.24 Questions related to each section of the consultation document and the Sustainability Scoping Report and allowed a mix of multiple choice, yes/no and free text responses.

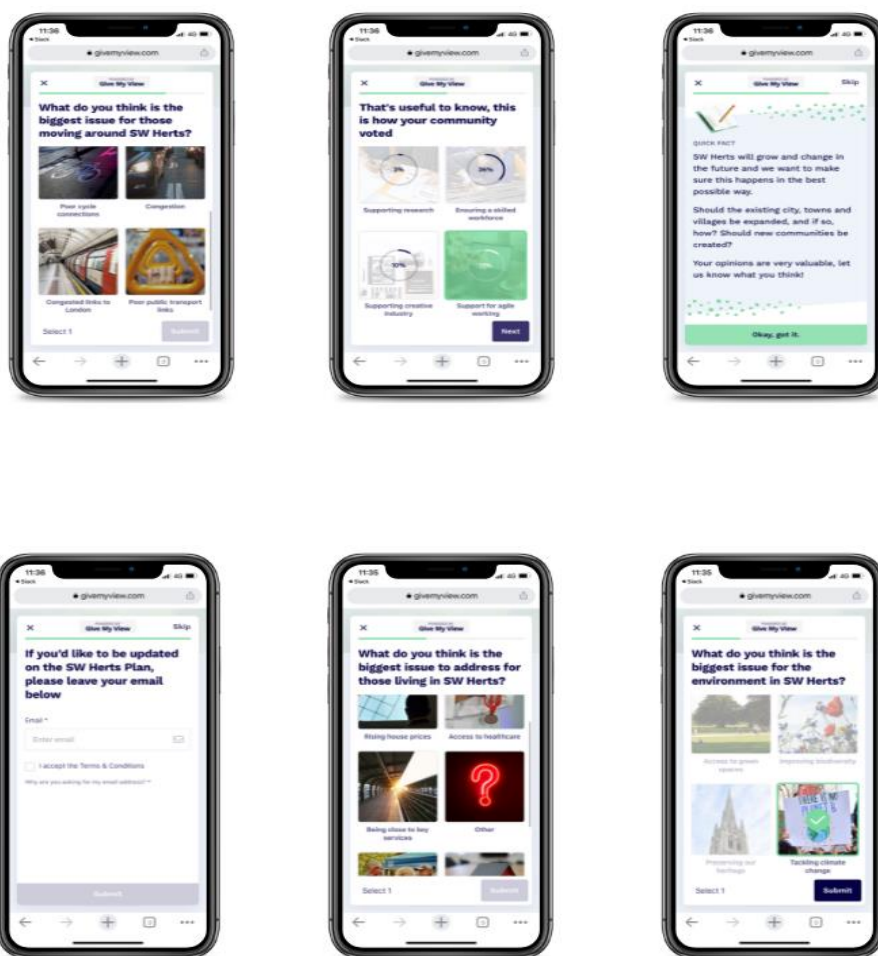
2.25 Responses to the online survey questions could be left by anyone who followed a simple site registration process. The survey could also be downloaded and returned either electronically or by post.

2.26 The survey and all other website material was available for the full duration of the consultation period.

'Quick-fire' poll

2.27 This was hosted on the [Give My View](#) platform and advertised via social media. The poll contained a series of questions based on the R18 survey, but with a reduced number of questions set out in a simplified form using 'slido' style voting and multiple choice questions, based on simple imagery. Examples of these questions and associated imagery are below. The poll ran for a 3 week period at the beginning of the consultation programme – from 5th September until 28th September inclusive.

Image: Examples of poll questions and imagery

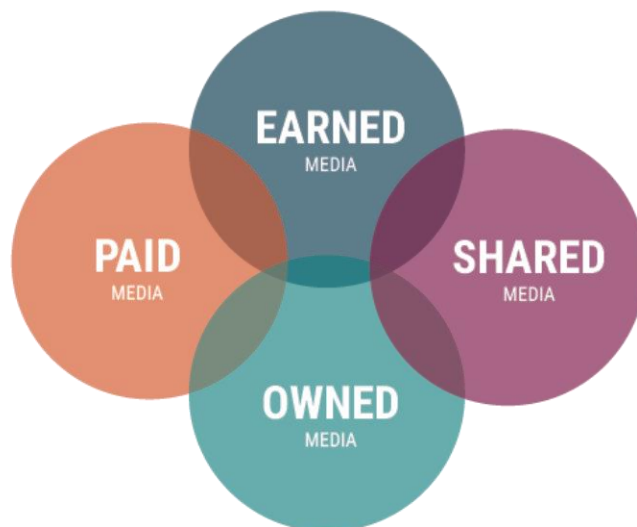


Hard copy documents

- 2.28 In order to ensure those who are digitally excluded were able to participate in the consultation all district / borough council receptions and local libraries (defined as the 'deposit points'), together with all town and parish councils within the SW Herts area were sent a paper copy of the key documents and asked to make these available for reference purposes. These documents included:
- 'Realising Our Potential' Regulation 18 document
 - Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report
 - Questionnaire - a paper version of the full survey questions (on the R18 document and associated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report), which could be completed either in full or part (Appendix 7)
 - 'Frequently Asked Questions' document (Appendix 8).
- 2.29 Responses to the hard copy consultation material could be sent by post to the JSP team c/o Dacorum Borough Council or emailed to haveyoursay@swhertsplan.com.
- 2.30 The number and nature of responses received from each feedback method is summarised in section 3 of this document, with a more detailed summary of response content in Part 2 of the Consultation Report.

3. Promotion

- 3.1 Promotion and awareness raising for the consultation on the 'Realising Our Potential' document involved all four of the recognised communications channels: owned, earned, paid and shared. Each one of these channels serves a specific purpose and helps reach different groups and demographics, although there is some overlap between the categories.



Owned media

Direct notifications

- 3.2 Direct notifications about the consultation on the 'Realising Our Potential' Regulation 18 document and associated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report were sent out on 5th September to over 2,600 contacts. These came from three data sources, and it should be noted there was some duplication between each.
- (a) The **JSP database** comprises contact information for all key consultees – including specific and general consultation bodies and duty to co-operate bodies as defined in national planning regulations and listed in the Statement of Community Involvement. This database also includes details from groups and individuals who the district / borough councils had contacted from their Local Plan databases who requested to also be notified about the JSP. At the start of the consultation this database comprised around 760 groups / individuals, although there was some duplication with other contact lists.
 - (b) Direct notifications were also sent to everyone who had registered directly on the **JSP website** at www.swhertsplan.com (Appendix 9) An initial email was sent to all 1,126 people registered on the first day of the consultation (Monday 5th September), with a reminder email sent on 31st October, just prior to the consultation close. This follow-up email was sent to all original registration contacts, plus those who had registered since the start of the consultation process, reaching a total of 1,357 groups and individuals.
 - (c) Notifications were also sent from Built-ID's '**Give My View**' platform to everyone who had participated in the previous 'Your Future' poll in 2020 and left their email address on the understanding that they would be contacted regarding further related consultations (Appendix 9). This comprised 548 contacts.
- 3.3 In addition to the above, paper copies of all key documents were sent to all district or borough council receptions and local libraries (defined as the 'deposit points'), together with all town and parish councils within the SW Herts area.

Press releases

- 3.4 Press releases were issued at the start of the consultation process and to encourage responses towards the end of the engagement period (see Appendix 11). These were issued by the district council communications teams based on common text, but with the addition of a specific quote from the relevant lead Councillor for planning at each authority.
- 3.5 They were published on the new page of the council websites and helped inform a range of wider print and digital press coverage (see below).

Posters

- 3.6 All local council offices, town and parish councils, leisure centres and principal theatres in the SW Herts area were sent copies of the posters and promotional business cards and asked to display these in a prominent location in their foyers.
- 3.7 Electronic versions of the posters were also displayed on the e-boards in Watford High Street for the duration of the consultation.



Image: Digital posters on Watford High Street

Business cards

- 3.8 Following the success of using business cards to promote the 'Your Future' engagement in 2020, over 4,000 were distributed to town and parish councils, district / borough councils, libraries, leisure centres and theatres within SW Herts, with a request that they were left in reception areas for visitors to take away. As shown below, they included a simple message encouraging people to 'Join the conversation about the long term future of South West Hertfordshire,' specified the closing date for the consultation and provided a web link and QR code to enable easy access to the consultation material.

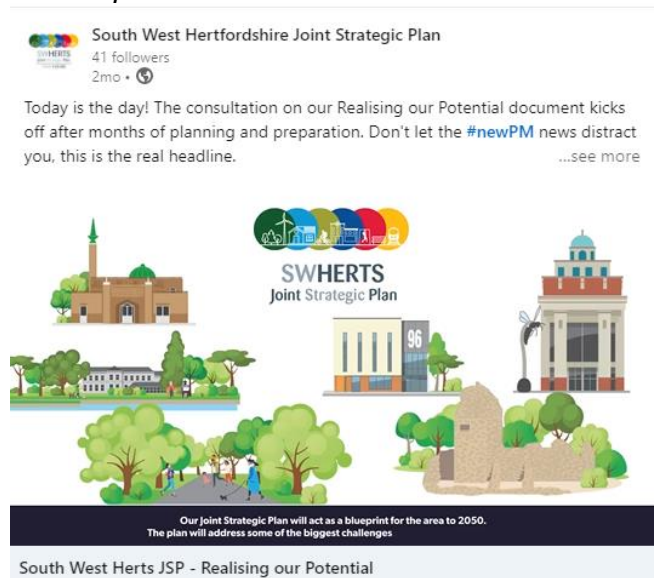
Image: Business card (front and back)



LinkedIn

- 3.9 A number of posts aimed at promoting the Realising Our Potential document were made on the JSP's LinkedIn page (see example below), alongside the explainer video and static graphics.

Image: Example of LinkedIn promotion



District / Borough council websites, newsletters and press releases

- 3.10 Individual district / borough websites also promoted the engagement on their homepages and signposted how to access the consultation material and respond (see Appendix 12).
- 3.11 Those councils with e-newsletters also included articles promoting the consultation (see examples in Appendix 13)
- 3.12 Agreed press releases was also issued by each council at the start of the consultation and a week before close of the engagement period (see Appendix 11)

Watford Urban Room

- 3.13 An invitation to an 'in-person' event at Watford's urban room on the afternoon of 21st September was also circulated to all contacts that the JSP team had for Watford-based residents and was also advertised via Watford Borough Council's social

media channels (see Appendix 14). However due to a low level of interest the event was unfortunately cancelled.

Paid media

Explainer videos

3.14 A video to promote the consultation and explain in simple terms why a JSP was being prepared was available to support promotion of the consultation. This used images from the Realising Our Potential document in animated form, supported by sub title and a voiceover. The video was hosted on YouTube and available in three different versions (full length and two half length) in order to be usable to as many web and social media platforms as possible.

- Full video: <https://youtu.be/m6yvEkDIT0>
- Issues video: <https://youtu.be/QWQwOdpju4Y>
- Overview video: <https://youtu.be/-3hLp07oY-g>

3.15 The video was embedded in the interactive consultation document on the JSP website, used in social media promotion and also played at various briefings given by the JSP team to help explain and promote the consultation.

Image: Static image from explainer video



Railway Station Posters

3.16 In order to raise the profile of the consultation with commuters and leisure travellers, a poster campaign was rolled at key train and tube stations within the area. This included posters of varying sizes from large poster to billboard size the following locations for the following periods:

Locations)	Duration	Size
Watford	26/09/2022 - 09/10/2022	Poster (4 sheet)
	26/09/2022 - 09/10/2022	Poster (4 sheet)
	10/10/2022 - 23/10/2022	Billboard (28 sheet)
Hemel Hempstead	26/09/2022 - 09/10/2022	Poster (4 sheet)
St Albans	10/10/2022 - 23/10/2022	Billboard (28 sheet)
Moor Park	26/09/22 – 06/11/22	Poster (4 sheet)
Carpenders Park	26/09/22 – 06/11/22	Poster (6 sheet)



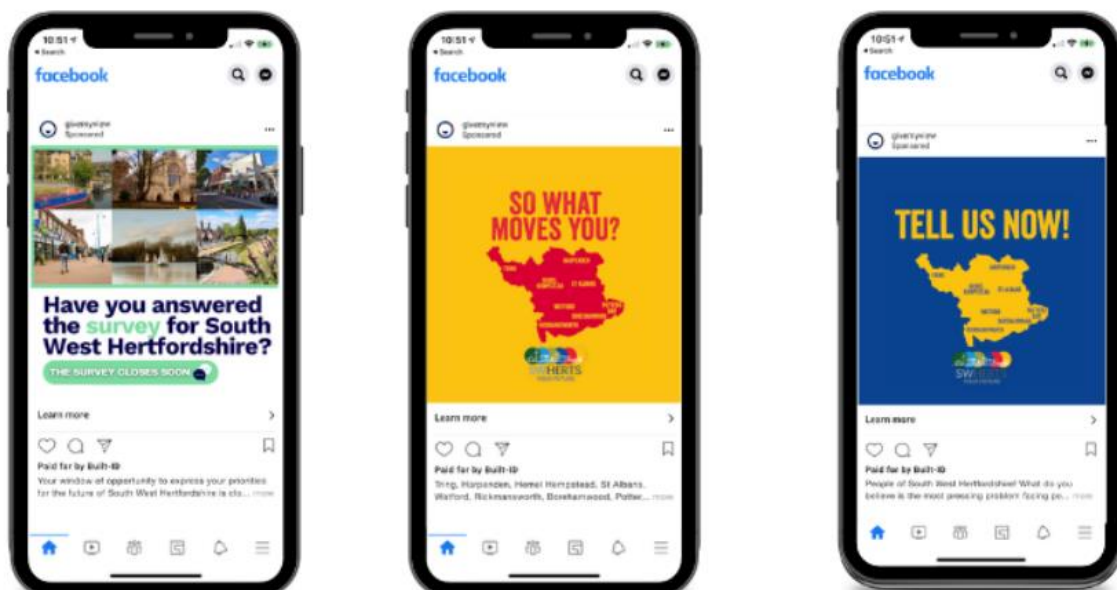
Image: Examples of the posters in- situ at Watford and St Albans stations



Poll

- 3.17 Specific marketing was carried out to promote the 'quick-fire' poll host on the Give My View platform and promoted via social media. This promotional material comprised a mix of static imagery and a series of brief, impactful video messages. Marketing for the poll was carried out over the 3 weeks the poll was live for, but was paused for the weekend of the Queens' funeral.
- 3.18 Some examples of how the marketing material appeared on phone screens is shown below, with further detail of the material itself in Appendix 15:

Image: Examples of poll marketing imagery



Earned media

3.19 Earned media relates to promotion of the consultation by third parties.

Media coverage

3.20 There was a range of both paper and digital media coverage throughout the consultation period (see examples in Appendix 16), both locally and in the trade planning press, including:


- Herts Advertiser (digital)
- Herts Mercury (digital)
- My Local News – various editions including Radlett, Abbots Langley and Chorleywood (print)
- The Planner - national professional press (digital)



Image: Extract from My Chorleywood News, 22nd October 2022 edition


School newsletter

3.21 Following the schools workshop held at Kings Langley School on Wednesday 25 January, an article appeared in the Kings Langley February newsletter describing the event with a link to the consultation website for further information.



Kings Langley School News

Issue 17



Sixth Formers are part of the community vision

A small group of sixth formers: James, Scarlett, Sam and Maria attended a workshop organised by the SW Hertfordshire Joint Strategic Plan, supported by their consultants Icenii Projects. They discussed the local area as they see it, and their hopes and aspirations for themselves and the local area into the future. It was a positive exercise as they were encouraged to think about their lives into their 20s and 30s and how the local area will change and respond to environmental challenges ahead.


The group took part in three main activities, mapping places that matter to them in the local boroughs of Dacorum, Three Rivers, Watford, St Albans and Hertsmere, then placing issues in a pictorial rank order for the joint strategic plan to consider and then finally commenting on the role of the local area in their lives as they see them in the future, as places to live and work.

School events next week

Tuesday 21st February -
Y12 Visit to Auschwitz
Y11 Blood Brothers
Richmond theatre trip - 7.30pm - 11pm

Thursday 23rd February -
Y7 Virtual subject consultation evening 4.15pm—7.45pm

Friday 24th February -
Y10 Drama workshop all day activity.



As Subject Leader of Geography it was good to see the students grappling with issues of sustainability in such an engaging way. Also, from a careers education point of view it was excellent to witness the way these professionals are utilising their Geography degrees in their chosen careers. We look forward to continuing to work with the SW Herts team in the future at KS3 and KS4, especially as the consultants commented that getting to hear the views of young people is so important to the process and often difficult for them to access.

[SW Herts Joint Strategic Plan \(swhertsplan.com\)](http://swhertsplan.com)
Ms Chabrel

Subject Leader - Geography



Shared media

Town and Parish Councils

3.22 The JSP team recognises the importance of ensuring town and parish councils in the area are aware of the consultation and can assist the JSP programme spread the word locally. Separate briefing sessions were held on a district / borough basis⁵ on the 5th to 7th September, with attendees including representatives from:

- Aldenham Parish Council
- Shenley Parish Council
- Abbots Langley Parish Council
- Little Gaddesden Parish Council
- Harpenden Town Council
- Colney Heath Parish Council

3.23 As a result of these meetings a number of town and parish councils included information about the consultation on their websites (see Appendix 17).

Third party email promotion

3.24 A number of community groups and organisations are understood to have raised the profile of the consultation through direct messages to their supporters. For example, CPRE Hertfordshire emailed their membership on 17th October, setting out their initial views on the consultation and urging their members to submit individual responses.

⁵ Excluding Watford Borough, as this area is not parished.

Social media

3.25 Social media had the potential to reach of up to 760,000 users over the engagement period and its use is explicitly encouraged by the Government’s plan making policy⁶. The individual councils’ social media accounts were therefore an important mechanism to publicise the consultation and inform residents and organisations how they could respond (see Appendix 18). The schedule of promotional activity agreed with council Communications Officers is attached as Appendix 19. Actual activity varied slightly from this plan due to communications output being affected by the Queen’s death and much local council promotional activity being paused as a mark of respect.

3.26 A mix of paid and organic social media posts were used. Advertising took place predominantly via Facebook and Instagram due to their use among a wide range of demographics and Facebook’s increasing use by many community groups and organisations. Data provided social media reach is summarised in Appendix 20.

Image: Examples of Instagram promotional posts

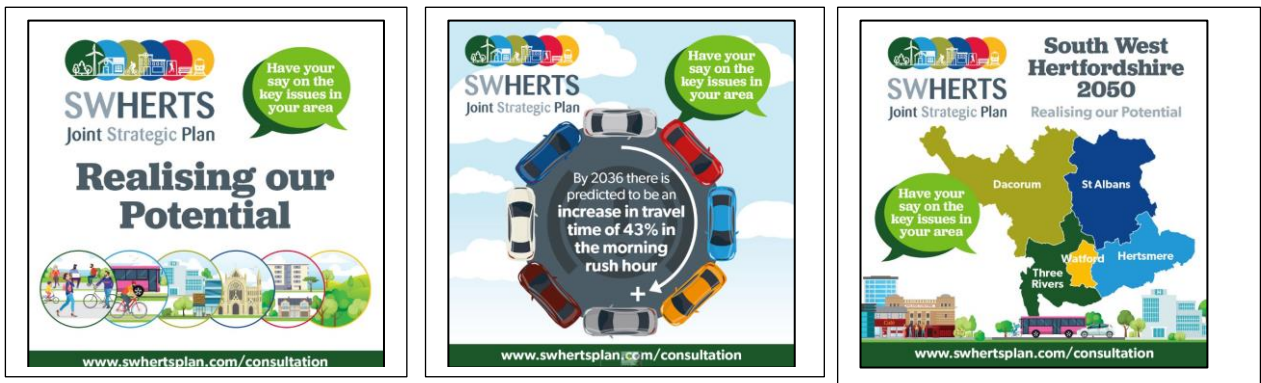
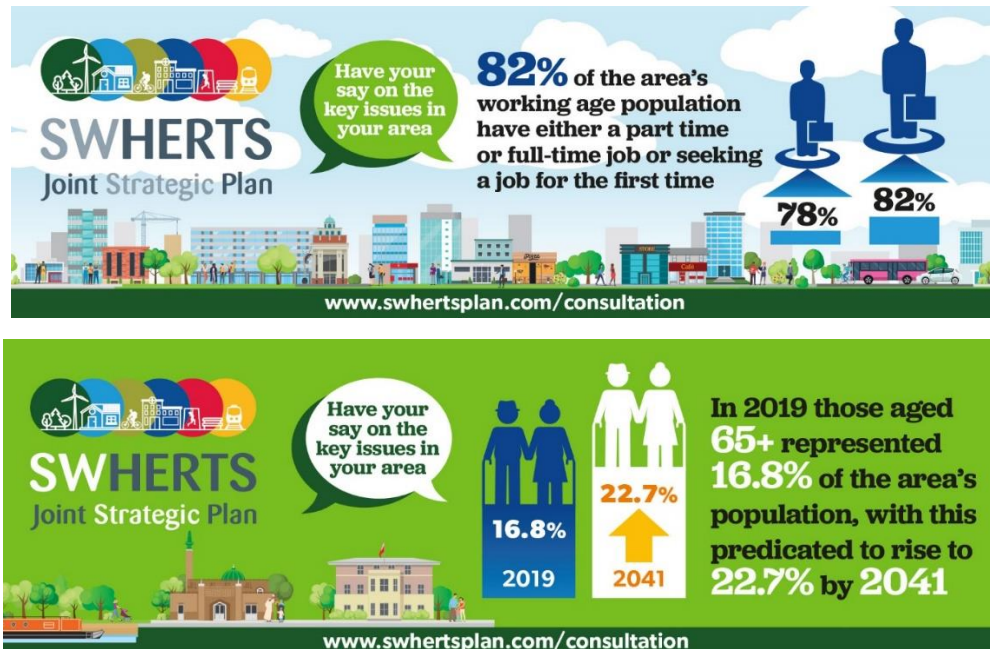


Image: Examples of Facebook promotional posts



⁶ Plan-making - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

The banner features a header with icons for a wind turbine, house, school, factory, and bus. Below this is the text 'SWHERTS Joint Strategic Plan'. A green speech bubble contains the text 'Have your say on the key issues in your area'. Two orange boxes display statistics: '72% of adults recorded as physically active in 2019/20' and 'compared to the national average of 66%'. The background shows a stylized town with trees and buildings, and two runners on a path. A dark green footer contains the URL 'www.swhertsplan.com/consultation'.

Have your say on the key issues in your area

SWHERTS
Joint Strategic Plan

72% of adults recorded as physically active in 2019/20

compared to the national average of **66%**

www.swhertsplan.com/consultation



SWHERTS
Joint Strategic Plan

South West Hertfordshire 2050

Realising our Potential



Consultation Report

Appendices

Part 1: What we did

March 2023

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Communications and Engagement Plan

SW Herts JSP

Regulation 18: Issues and Options: Communications and Engagement Plan

Introduction

The purpose of this communications and engagement plan is to set out our suggested approach to cross authority engagement over the coming months to help develop and promote a Joint Strategic Plan (JSP) for South West Hertfordshire.

A Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) setting out the broad approach to engagement has been prepared and consulted on and the team are currently reviewing comments. This plan is intended to provide more detail specifically in relation to the statutory Regulation 18 Issues and Options consultation planned for September – October 2022.

To ensure a diverse response to engagement, there are two strands of work planned, the core engagement hosted via the dedicated SW Herts engagement website and the digital engagement work planned using the latest available engagement software as part of the secured PropTech fund. The PropTech fund work is intended to supplement the wider engagement and target a younger audience.

Background and Summary of Work to Date

The five local planning authorities within South West Herts (Dacorum Borough Council, Hertsmere Borough Council, St Albans City and District Council, Three Rivers District Council, and Watford Borough Council) are working in collaboration with Hertfordshire County Council to develop a JSP, with the intention to proactively plan for growth up to and beyond 2050.

The JSP will be a formal statutory Development Plan Document, providing the overarching strategic planning framework for the five Local Planning Authority areas.

The JSP team recognises the importance of ensuring that the JSP is not developed in isolation and that in order to help smooth the path of its development, ultimately allowing it to be a successfully adopted planning document, early, diverse and meaningful engagement with the wider community and stakeholders is pivotal.

SW Herts, Your Future, Digital Engagement

To commence early engagement with the community, a widespread digital engagement exercise was undertaken between February and May 2020, asking residents across the 6 authorities about issues that were important to them. This resulted in 3,270 members of the community interacting and providing nearly 15,000 pieces of individual feedback. The community also provided over 2,000 pieces of 'free text' written feedback, in addition to the poll questions. The overall outcomes of the initial engagement have been written up in full, both from a qualitative and quantitative basis and includes:

- An even spread of ages of respondents, from under 25's to over 65's;
- A clear emerging consensus on community priorities;
- A strong basis for ongoing engagement; and
- Over 700 people willing to be engaged during the next stage of work.

SW Herts, Realising our Potential, Vision Workshops

Building on the success of the initial consultation exercise and to enable a draft vision for the JSP to be created, a series of workshops were undertaken during 2021 and early 2022 involving a youth group, council officers, local councillors, and key stakeholders. The workshops helped build a greater understanding of the opportunities and challenges currently facing the area, whilst anticipating changes and trends that may inform how we live, work, move, and play in the future.

The results of the workshops are available on the dedicated SW Herts engagement website www.swhertsplan.com and have informed the preparation of a Vision report. This vision will form the basis of the first iteration of the JSP that we plan to consult on as part of the Regulation 18 Issues and Options consultation from September to October 2022.

Aims and Objectives of the Regulation 18 Engagement

The aims of the ongoing engagement are to:

- Build awareness, understanding and generate interest in the process, resulting in greater participation in the future; and
- Inform the technical work, providing information related to priorities, issues and opportunities.

The objectives of the ongoing engagement are to:

1. Engage with hard to reach groups and demographics, particularly young people and record their views on key issues;
2. Establish and expand a dialogue with key stakeholders to become actively involved in the development of the plan; and
3. Communicate the benefits of working together and the vision and objectives of the JSP to residents and businesses in SW Herts, through our own and paid channels and by enabling and empowering local authorities to promote and share digital resources on their channels

Engagement Next Steps: Regulation 18 Consultation

The table below outlines how it is intended to continue joint engagement at a strategic level to meet the aims and objectives. The table includes potential additional engagement that could be undertaken at a more local level for each authority to carry out directly.

Building insight and transparency into the process over time will support both the key stages of JSP work and promote the benefits of joint working. It will be important to grow the audience at each stage and evaluate ongoing success, alongside recording quantitative and qualitative findings to inform the work.

All work will be in line with the Statement of Community Involvement and reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis.

Proposed engagement activities are as follows:

SW Herts JSP

Regulation 18: Issues and Options: Communications and Engagement Plan

Stage	Area of work	Related Objective	Time scale	Suggested engagement activity
Preparation	JSP Programme support from communication officers	2	Now	Continue monthly communication officer meetings across the 6 authorities to coordinate engagement activity and consider how it can be built into existing workstreams. Embed JSP programme within wider communication plans for each authority. Map Local Plan timescales and other key events locally and regionally that may impact on the JSP Reg 18 engagement programme.
	Officers and members involved in JSP work	2	Now	Continue Council officer and member sessions (Strategic Planning Members Group, Steering Group and Strategic Planning Officers Group) to brief on JSP progress and upcoming engagement work.
	Wider officer and members	2	Now	Update members and officers not directly involved in JSP process through briefing notes or otherwise, to raise awareness and understanding. Consider extending this to statutory consultees.
	Youth Forum	1	Now	Establish Youth Forum meetings between April and September, with a view to undertaking 3 meetings, growing attendees each time. Agree overarching Terms of Reference, plus purpose and output for each meeting in advance, including asking the group to support the PropTech digital engagement exercise, given its emphasis on the 18-25 demographic.
	Website	3	Ongoing	Regularly update website based on above scope – key messaging, FAQs, timescales, ‘one pager’ etc. Track website traffic by webpage to see which areas are the most successful, and by geographic location if possible, to highlight any blind spots.

	Integration with wider collaborations	2	Ongoing	Update and integrate the Reg 18 engagement with wider workstreams, particularly those associated with collaboration (e.g. Hertfordshire Growth Board). Ensure through regular reviewing and communication that the engagement in relation to the JSP fits within any wider collaboration work to ensure consistency in messaging and approach.
	Communications Protocol	3	April – May	Refresh communications protocols to ensure consistent messaging across the multiple authority areas, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Website and social media updates - Key messaging framework - Joint media protocol, including statement from Leaders once engagement goes live - Suite of document templates to support the engagement programme - Member briefings
	FAQ	3.	April – May	Disseminate website FAQs amongst officers within each authority, including those not directly involved in the process to increase awareness, understanding and maximise opportunities. Update on rolling basis.
	One pager	3.	April – May	Disseminate ‘one pager’ briefing note which serves as a public facing guide to the JSP including updating officers and members not directly involved in the process. The note would set out the benefits of the JSP, who is involved and how the work is developing with key next steps.
	PropTech Fund	1.	April – May	Develop PropTech fund digital engagement exercise including marketing collateral and consultation questions Explore potential for social media ‘influencer’ to promote engagement process.
	Meetings and networks	2	April – May	Map existing meeting network across the areas and consider attendance during summer months to promote consultation e.g., LEP meetings, relevant Parish Council meetings, Chamber of Commerce, heritage groups, environmental groups etc.

	Database contacts	3	End May	District Councils to give everyone on their Local Plan consultation databases the option to 'opt in' to receive direct notification of the JSP engagement (in accordance with GDPR rules).
	External press	1,2 &3	April - June	<p>Agree approach to external press in relation committee cycle process and formal engagement launch. Options are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No proactive media approach, but ensure we have 'if-asked' lines prepared to share with district/borough comms officers should they get media enquiries, mainly drawn from the FAQs on the JSP website - Proactive media approach, which would involve a template press release shared with district and borough comms teams, for them to issue after their individual council committee meeting, should it be approved that the plan can move forward for engagement.
	Toolbox	3	April – June	<p>Create 'toolbox' of engagement collateral to enable each authority to promote and directly undertake consultation at a local level, linked to meetings and networks above, initial ideas <i>for discussion</i> include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QR codes on business cards for circulation including at stations/ high streets/ library's/council buildings etc. • Digital signage adverts in stations and/ or bus stops • Radio advert • Email bulletins • Existing e-newsletters and residents magazines. • JSP-branded social media for use on own channels, potentially with a view to paid-for promotion.

	Interactive content	2.	June - July	Consider interactive content to build online presence in lead up to consultation stage – for example explanatory video from Youth Forum or others in relation to forthcoming consultation, to be hosted on the engagement website.
During	Commence consultation	1,2 & 3	Early Sept – to run for 8 weeks	<p>Commence Formal Regulation 18 consultation in line with draft SCI, including notifying all relevant consultees in writing and placing hard copies of document and associated questionnaire in local libraries and deposit points as per requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signpost through individual council websites. • Update JSP website to coincide with the start of the formal consultation. – to include launch of interactive consultation document, associated background information and initial explainer video including explanation in relation to JSP/ Local Plan relationship. • Encourage electronic engagement wherever possible. • Supply JSP-branded social media content to promote the start of the consultation period, and support district councils to update their social media channels. • Issue joint press release to launch JSP consultation, noting we are particularly keen to hear from hard-to-reach groups, with a particular focus on young people. • Direct notification of contacts on JSP database – including those who responded to ‘Your Future’ engagement and those who have ‘opted in’ following contact from district Local Plan databases.
	Continual review	1,2 & 3	Sept - Oct	Consider supporting engagement work to maximise response rate and ensure a diverse range of views are sought, for instance:

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise virtual briefings and invite Parish Council representatives and members, one briefing per authority. Encourage local stakeholders to use networks to notify people consultation is live Contact (by email) existing networks including the 700 interested residents who said they would like to be involved as part of the earlier digital engagement exercise to complete the consultation.
	Monitoring	3.	Sept - Oct	Measure and report on success with weekly monitoring of feedback by geographical position where possible
		3.	Sept - Oct	Weekly monitoring of press and social media reach and engagement for paid-for posts. To be provided by comms teams via a secure, online, shared document, where possible.
	Initiate Protech work	1.	Early Sept	Commence Built ID adverts with key questions linked to consultation, with a particular focus on engaging with the 18-25 demographic and other groups that tend not to take an interest in planning policy matters.
		1.	During Sept	Review build ID feedback on weekly basis
	Announce end of consultation	3.	Oct	Issue press release to mark the end of the consultation and highlight next steps, update social media channels & all references on websites. A template press release and messages will be provided by the JSP comms resource which each council comms team can adapt/use to their borough/district.

Post Consultation	Review and evaluate process	3.	Mid – Oct	<p>Commence review of feedback once consultation ends.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure lessons learnt are recorded for PropTech fund write up. • Capture and evaluate user data to measure interaction including geographic and demographic analysis where possible, building on the ‘Your Future’ digital engagement in 2022 • Review results with Youth Forum group. • Update officers and Members. • Review how the results and engagement from this consultation can be used to build engagement and reach for the next stages of consultation in order to support JSP progression.
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Evaluation and measuring success

We will be using simple mechanisms to capture and evaluate user data, which will include demographic and geographic distribution analysis.

The results for this second round of consultation on the South West Hertfordshire will look to build upon the results of the first ‘Your Future’ digital activity, which saw responses from an even spread of age ranges and across all five districts and boroughs.

We would expect some changes in the amount and richness of engagement.

Youth Forum terms of reference



South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan (JSP) Youth Forum

Terms of Reference

April 2022

Objective / Purpose

The 'Youth Forum' will assist the Joint Strategic Plan (JSP) team and its partners ensure the SW Herts JSP prepares a robust framework for the long term planning of the area. The Youth Forum will be central in helping the JSP team understand and define what is important to younger generations (c18-26 year olds). Listening to young people and representing their interests will help deliver some key outcomes the JSP seeks to achieve.

The Youth Forum's initial involvement will help inform the way the first engagement on the JSP (known as the Regulation 18 or 'Issues and Options' document) takes place. The Youth Forum will act as a consultative body that provides feedback on the JSP's approach to consultation on its draft Regulation 18 document. The focus will be on the digital and social media aspects of the consultation.

Duties and Responsibilities

To include the following:

- Attend and actively participate in scheduled Youth Forum meetings
- Review the SW Herts JSP Regulation 18 Issues & Options document(s)
- Input into approach to consultation with a focus on reaching c18-26 year olds
- Contribute ideas for videos and images
- Assist in formulating 'quick fire' consultation questions suitable for use on social media
- Advise on content and scope of social media campaign
- Review digital consultation materials
- Provide feedback to elected Members and Officer group
- Advocate on behalf of the JSP amongst their peers

Structure of the Forum

The JSP Youth Forum will be made up of up to 15 young people (c18-26 year olds).

The JSP team will:

- Coordinate the Youth Forum
- Actively seek representation on the Youth Forum from a wide range of young people in South West Hertfordshire.
- Circulate agendas prior to Youth Forum meetings
- Take and circulate minutes
- Provide materials for discussion

- Coordinate and arrange the online (Teams) meetings
- Communicate any updates to the Youth Forum members
- Encourage and support youth participation
- Positively challenge Youth Forum members
- Provide references and information for CVs for participants on request

Conduct of members

Youth Forum members should:

- Engage in discussion and contribute their views and ideas whilst listening to and respecting those of others, even when they differ to their own
- Be passionate about creating positive change and improving South West Hertfordshire
- Be supportive and encouraging of one another
- Be reliable and committed
- Not misuse information gained in the course of membership for personal gain, nor seek to use this opportunity to promote personal/private interests or those of any other organisations
- Not communicate confidential information gained in the course of their membership including through social media channels

Frequency and location of Meetings

The Youth Forum will meet broadly every second month in the lead up to the Regulation 18 Issues & Options consultation, scheduled to take place in August / September 2022.

The meetings will take place remotely and be scheduled in the early evening at a time that suits most participants. There is potential for a one off 'in person' meeting if agreed by the Forum.

Compensation

Youth Forum participants will receive £30 in Amazon vouchers for each meeting attended. If they are unable to attend a meeting but provide written feedback they will receive half the amount (£15 Amazon vouchers).

Reporting

Nominated members of the Forum may on occasion be requested to present on behalf of the Youth Forum to elected Members or relevant Officer groups.

The JSP team will report on the actions of the Youth Forum demonstrating how the Forum's ideas have been incorporated into the JSP's consultation strategy.

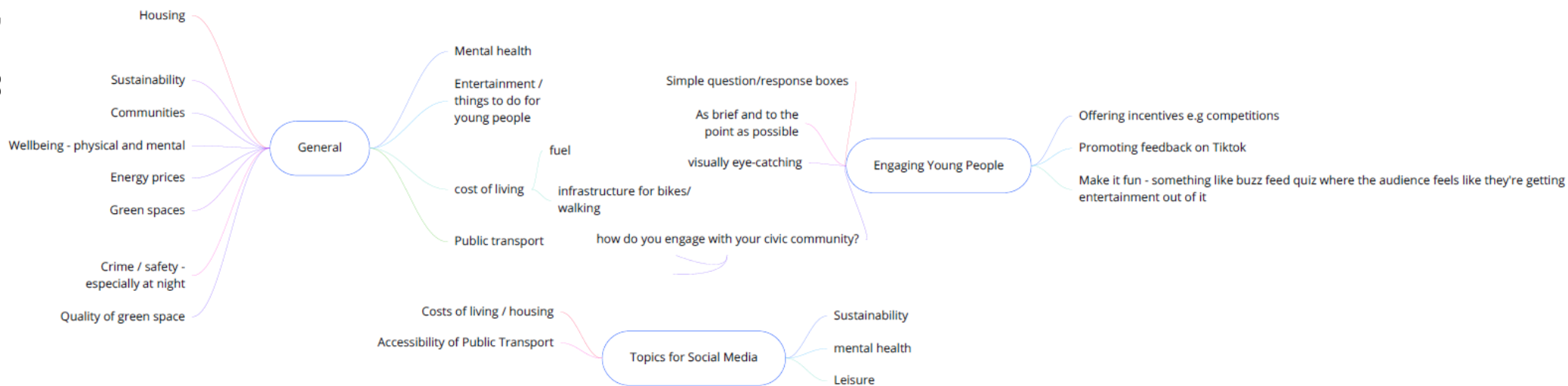
Future Youth Forum work

Further work to be undertaken by the Youth Forum beyond the current Issues and Options stage of the JSP is under consideration. Should the Youth Forum continue beyond this stage then the terms of reference will be reviewed and amended as necessary.

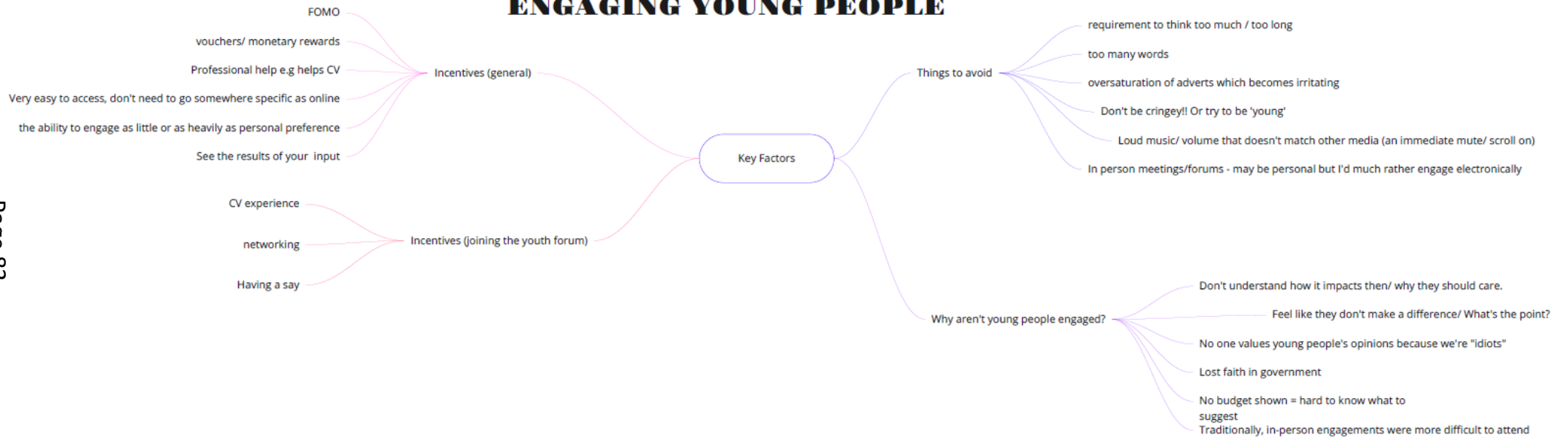
Youth Forum example miro boards

Miro boards were used to capture feedback 'live' at meetings.

KEY CONSULTATION ISSUES



ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE



Schools workshop – list of schools / colleges invited

School / college name	District / borough
Ashlyns School	Dacorum
Beaumont School	St Albans
Bushey Meads School	Hertsmere
Croxley Danes School	Three Rivers
Dame Alice Owen's School	Hertsmere
Future Academies Watford	Watford
Hertswood Academy	Hertsmere
John F Kennedy Catholic School	Dacorum
Katherine Warington School	St Albans
Kings Langley School	Dacorum
Laureate Academy	Dacorum
Longdean School	Dacorum
Loreto College	St Albans
Mount Grace School	Hertsmere
Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School	St Albans
Parmiter's School	Three Rivers
Queens' School	Hertsmere
Rickmansworth School	Three Rivers
Roundwood Park School	St Albans
Saint Joan of Arc Catholic School	Three Rivers
Saint Michael's Catholic High School	Three Rivers
Samuel Ryder Academy	St Albans
Sandringham School	St Albans
Sir John Lawes School	St Albans
St Albans Girls' School	St Albans
St Clement Danes School	Three Rivers
St George's School	St Albans
The Adeyfield Academy	Dacorum
The Astley Cooper School	Dacorum
The Grange Academy	Hertsmere
The Hemel Hempstead School	Dacorum
The Marlborough Science Academy	St Albans
The Reach Free School	Three Rivers
Townsend VA Church of England	St Albans
Tring School	Dacorum
Verulam School	St Albans
Watford Grammar School for Boys	Watford
Watford Grammar School for Girls	Watford
Westfield Academy	Watford
Yavneh College	Hertsmere
Oaklands College	St Albans
West Herts College	Watford and Dacorum
Elstree Screen Academy	Hertsmere

Schools workshop – email marketing material

Sent to all schools listed above on 7 December

SAVE	TELL US WHAT MATTERS TO YOU	DATE
25 JANUARY 2023 4-6PM	THE	 Kings Langley School, Love Lane, Kings Langley, WD4 9HN
 SWHERTS Joint Strategic Plan Realising our potential Book your school's place before Monday 16 January by emailing haveyoursay@swhertsplan.com		

Sent to schools on or around 10 January

tell us what
matters to you



SWHERTS
Realising our potential

South West Herts JSP SCHOOLS EVENT

King's Langley School, Love Lane, King's Langley



25 January

An opportunity to have your say on the future of South West Hertfordshire, including what matters most to you.



4-6pm

Help us address issues such as climate change, infrastructure, the environment, employment and housing, and set high level ambitions for the area.

BOOK YOUR PLACE



Contact Us

Email haveyoursay@swherstplan.com to book a place before Monday 16 January. Places are initially limited to three students per school.



Interactive website – example pages

Foreword



South West Hertfordshire 2050

Realising our Potential



Home / South West Hertfordshire 2050 - Realising our Potential

South West Hertfordshire 2050 - Realising our Potential



Foreword

As Leaders of the six authorities that make up South West Hertfordshire, we are pleased to introduce a vision for the future of our area and to seek your feedback.

This consultation marks the first exciting step in a new approach to long term planning in South West Hertfordshire, covering the areas of Dacorum Borough, Hertsmeire Borough, St Albans City and District, Three Rivers District and Watford Borough.

The South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan (JSP) will establish a collective ambition and set a blueprint for the future of the area to 2050. Eventually it will need to address big issues like the scale and location of new growth, the infrastructure needed to deliver it and our response to the challenges of climate change. However at this stage it is not about housing or employment numbers, or locations for growth. We don't yet know where growth should go, but we know we want it to happen as sustainably as possible.

This is your chance to tell us how you think our area can realise its full potential and how we can ensure sustainable growth provides a better future for everyone. In section 5, you will find a draft vision and objectives for our area, which we want your thoughts on. This will then guide future stages of our plan.

We want the preparation of the Joint Strategic Plan to be an open process. This initial document is therefore designed to stimulate debate. We want the plan to be visionary, aspirational and use growth as an opportunity to improve the quality of life for those who currently live, work and play in the area, and those who wish to do so in the future.

When developing our draft vision, we have tried to recognise the many assets and strengths of SW Herts – in terms of our built, natural and human resources. We have also tried to ensure that we make the most of our economic strengths, enhance the quality of our life and reduce and adapt to the impact of climate change.

We want to talk to as many people as possible to ensure that the process of preparing the plan is fully collaborative and inclusive. Only by planning collectively for a sustainable future that benefits all our existing and new residents and businesses can we truly realise our area's potential together.

We look forward to hearing what you have to say.

Clr Andrew Williams
 Leader of Dacorum Borough Council

Clr Sarah Neimes
 Leader of Three Rivers District Council

Clr Morris Bright
 Leader of Hertsmeire Borough Council

Clr Peter Taylor
 Mayor of Watford Borough Council

Clr Chris White
 Leader of St Albans City & District Council

Clr Richard Roberts
 Leader, Hertfordshire County Council

Next page



'Realising Our Potential' Contents

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Our world is changing
- 3 SW Herts today
- 4 Planning for infrastructure
- 5 The draft Vision (including sub-sections on the Six Pillars)
- 6 Shaping the future
- 7 Making it happen
- 8 Next steps
- 9 Appendix: Background to the Joint Strategic Plan

[REGISTER](#) to get involved and send your comments

Related Pages

- Consultation on the Joint Strategic Plan, 'Realising our Potential'
- Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report
- Background Documents



South West Hertfordshire 2050 Realising our Potential



Home / 5. The draft vision - tell us what you think

5. The draft vision - tell us what you think



We have drafted a vision statement for the South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan, which we would like your feedback on. This vision has been developed in line with issues raised about our environment, and living, working, playing and moving around in the area.

Our vision statement
Realising our potential

"South West Herts will realise its full potential of being globally connected, nationally recognised and locally cherished. Known for its creative spirit, collaborative working and willingness to accelerate positive change, it will be a place where sustainable growth provides a better future for everyone."

Setting clear objectives

The objectives we set today will shape the lives of generations to come. And this is where it starts... In order to achieve our vision, we have established six pillars to guide us. These set out our ambitions for the key areas that the plan will cover. Each pillar contains a number of more specific objectives that are designed to help shape future policies within the Joint Strategic Plan, and wider investment decisions in the area. Through these pillars we aim to understand current and future needs and desires of those who live and work in the area, and where we want to be by 2050.

The Six Pillars

The Pillars are described below. Please select each for more information.

- Living green in a healthy natural environment** - What if SW Herts made living green easy and led our country's response to climate change?
- Growing opportunities to work locally** - What if SW Herts was a place where investors, innovators, entrepreneurs and creators chose to come together?
- Living in healthy, thriving local communities** - What if SW Herts was an affordable, sustainable and fulfilling place to live?
- Moving easily in well connected places** - What if SW Herts had more people moving around by public transport, bikes and on foot than by car?
- Building homes and places that people are proud of** - What if SW Herts became nationally recognised as providing a high quality of life?
- Delivering robust and sustainable infrastructure** - What if SW Herts was cleaner and greener, with more robust and sustainable infrastructure?

These pillars are expanded in more detail over the following pages. We would like your feedback on each of these and the objectives that sit beneath them.

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Realising Our Potential Contents

- 1 Introduction
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- 3 SW Herts today
- 4 Planning for infrastructure
- 5 **The draft Vision** (including sub-sections on the Six Pillars)
- 6 Shaping the future
- 7 Making it happen
- 8 Next steps
- 9 **Appendix:** Background to the Joint Strategic Plan

REGISTER to get involved and send your comments.

Related Pages

- 2 Consultation on the Joint Strategic Plan, 'Realising our Potential'
- 2 Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report
- 2 Background Documents

What do you think?

Questions on the draft vision

Please send us any comments you may have on this topic below. We'd like to know if the draft vision statement summarises your aspirations for the future or if there are any changes you would like to see.

If you want to upload any supporting material for this or any other question, please do so as part of any other comments you may have on [Section 7, 'Making it Happen'](#).

COMMENT HERE

Consultation questionnaire



Questionnaire

South West Hertfordshire 2050

Realising our Potential

September 2022

YOUR INFORMATION

Name: *

Organisation: (if relevant)

Email:

Address:

Postcode: *

* Denotes minimum information required

By providing this information, you agree to be added to the Joint Strategic Plan's consultation database and will be directly notified of future consultations on this document. Information will be held in accordance with data protection laws and only shared with parties listed in our privacy policy.

The privacy policy can be found here: <https://www.swhertsplan.com/privacy>.

If at any time you wish to withdraw your consent and be removed from the consultation database please contact: SWHJSP@dacorum.gov.uk.

YOUR RESPONSE

If you have internet access it is recommended that you give your feedback online at: www.swhertsplan.com

This questionnaire should be read in conjunction with 'SW Hertfordshire 2050: Realising Our Potential.' This document is available online via the link above. Alternatively, paper copies are held for reference at libraries within the SW Herts area, as well as district / borough council offices in Hemel Hempstead, Borehamwood, St Albans, Rickmansworth and Watford.

You do not have to provide feedback on all of the questions asked - just answer those questions that are most relevant to you.

Please note: Your comments may be made available for public inspection and therefore cannot be treated as confidential. Your name and postcode must be completed as a minimum for your comments to be considered. Your contact details will remain confidential and will not be published.

Our World is changing

- (1) Are there any other national or global issues or trends that we should take account of when preparing the Joint Strategic Plan?

YES

NO

If YES, please explain what these are and why they are important:

SW Herts today

- (2) Do you agree with our summary of the current issues relating to OUR ENVIRONMENT in SW Herts?

YES

NO

If NO, please explain why:

- (3) Are there any issues or opportunities (relating to OUR ENVIRONMENT in SW Herts) we have missed?

YES

NO

If YES please explain why:

- (4) Do you agree with our summary of the current issues relating to LIVING in SW Herts?

YES

NO

If NO please explain why:

(5) Are there any issues or opportunities (relating to LIVING in SW Herts) we have missed?

YES

NO

If YES please explain why:

(6) Do you agree with our summary of the current issues relating to WORKING in SW Herts?

YES

NO

If NO please explain why:

(7) Are there any issues or opportunities (relating to WORKING in SW Herts) we have missed?

YES

NO

If YES please explain why:

(8) Do you agree with our summary of the current issues relating to PLAYING in SW Herts?

YES

NO

If NO please explain why:

(9) Are there any issues or opportunities (relating to PLAYING in SW Herts) we have missed?

YES

NO

If YES please explain why:

(10) Do you agree with our summary of the current issues relating to MOVING in SW Herts?

YES

NO

If NO please explain why:

(11) Are there any issues or opportunities (relating to MOVING in SW Herts) we have missed?

YES

NO

If YES please explain why:

Planning for infrastructure

(12) Are there any long term infrastructure challenges or opportunities that you would like to make us aware of as we begin work on the plan?

YES

NO

If YES please explain what these are and why:

The draft vision

(13) Does the draft vision statement summarise your aspirations for the future of South West Hertfordshire to 2050?

- YES
- NO

(14) Are there any changes you would like to see to the vision statement?

- YES
- NO

If YES, please explain what these are and why:

(15) Do you support the draft objectives relating to LIVING GREEN IN A HEALTHY NATURAL ENVIRONMENT?

- YES
- NO

Please explain your answer and any suggested changes:

(16) Do you support the draft objectives relating to GROWING OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK LOCALLY?

- YES
- NO

Please explain your answer and any suggested changes:

(17) Do you support the draft objectives relating to LIVING IN HEALTHY, THRIVING LOCAL COMMUNITIES?

- YES
- NO

Please explain your answer and any suggested changes:

(18) Do you support the draft objectives relating to **MOVING EASILY IN CONNECTED PLACES?**

YES

NO

Please explain your answer and any suggested changes:

(19) Do you support the draft objectives relating to **BUILDING HOMES AND PLACES THAT PEOPLE ARE PROUD OF?**

YES

NO

Please explain your answer and any suggested changes:

(20) Do you support the draft objectives relating to **DELIVERING ROBUST AND SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE?**

YES

NO

Please explain your answer and any suggested changes:

(21) Which of the six topics covered by the 'pillars' is of most importance to you?

Please tick the relevant box below:

Living green in a healthy natural environment

Growing opportunities to work locally

Living in healthy, thriving local communities

Moving easily in well connected places

Building homes and places that people are proud of

Delivering robust and sustainable infrastructure

Please explain the reasons for your choice:

Shaping the future

(22) Which option or options do you think is the most appropriate way to shape future growth in SW Herts?

Please tick ALL that apply:

- (a) Growth within existing large settlements
- (b) Outwards growth of existing large settlements
- (c) New settlements
- (d) Growth of groups of settlements
- (e) Growth along key transport corridors
- (f) Growing the best connected places
- (g) Scattered growth

Please explain the reasons for you answer, relating this to the draft vision and objectives for the plan where possible.

(23) Are there any other growth types we have not mentioned that you think should be considered?

- YES
- NO

If YES, please explain what these are and why. (Note: we are not considering specific locations or sites at this stage).

Making it happen

(24) Are there any other 'good practice' examples you feel should be considered for SW Herts?

- YES
- NO

If YES, please explain what these are and why:

(25) Are there any further comments you would like to make on the SW Herts Joint Strategic Plan?

YES

NO

If YES, please explain what these are and why:

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

We have published a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping Report alongside our 'Realising our Potential' consultation.

SAs are prepared to help us compare different options and see which is the most sustainable in terms of a range of social, economic and environmental factors.

We realise that the SA Scoping Report is quite a long and technical document, but it contains information about sustainability issues facing the area you may find interesting and wish to comment on. If so, please let us have your feedback so that it can inform the next version of the Sustainability Appraisal process.

(26) Do you have any comments on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report that is published alongside the 'SW Hertfordshire 2050: Realising Our Potential' document?

YES

NO

If YES, please explain what these are:

Please ensure that this completed questionnaire is received by the Joint Strategic Plan team by 5pm on Friday 4th November 2022. Comments received after this date may not be considered.

This questionnaire can be sent to us in the following ways:

POST: Joint Strategic Plan team
c/o Dacorum Borough Council
The Forum
Marlowes
Hemel Hempstead
Hertfordshire
HP1 1DN

EMAIL: haveyoursay@swhertsplan.com

Further copies of this questionnaire can be downloaded from the JSP website at www.swhertsplan.com.

Frequently Asked Questions document



South West Hertfordshire 2050

Realising our Potential

FAQs

September 2022

What is the South West Hertfordshire Joint Strategic Plan?

The Joint Strategic Plan will provide a long-term blueprint for the south west Hertfordshire area to 2050. It will consider and address issues that cross council boundaries and will set out a strategic vision for the area. It will also help guide future Local Plans and strategies by setting out high level policies on topics such as climate change, net zero carbon, infrastructure provision, environmental protection, employment and housing. Once approved, the Joint Strategic Plan will provide a coordinated overarching framework that will guide local decision-making on planning matters.

What area is covered by this plan?

The South West Hertfordshire Joint Strategic Plan will cover the area covered by the South West Hertfordshire partner authorities. These are Dacorum Borough Council, Hertsmere Borough Council, St Albans City and District Council, Three Rivers District Council and Watford Borough Council. The Plan is also supported by Hertfordshire County Council. For more information and to view a map of South West Hertfordshire, please go to 'The South West Herts area' page of the website: <https://www.swhertsplan.com/the-south-west-herts-area>.

Why are the South West Hertfordshire local authorities producing a Joint Strategic Plan?

The Joint Strategic Plan will help each council to better plan beyond their current Local Plan periods (which currently run to between 2031 and 2038) and into the future up until 2050. Working together like this means the councils will be in a better position to ensure that all infrastructure such as transport, schools, health, and utilities is well coordinated and delivered at the right time together with new homes and jobs. It will also provide a platform for the authorities to work together to tackle climate change and net zero carbon.

We already have a Local Plan, why do we need this plan?

Each of the South West Hertfordshire authorities is in the process of updating their individual Local Plans, which currently run to between 2031 and 2038. The Joint Strategic Plan will look further ahead, to 2050, to help provide a longer-term framework for the area. Together the councils, through the Joint Strategic Plan, will set the high-level strategic policies on issues such as housing, employment and infrastructure to 2050. When each authority comes to review their Local Plan again, they will be able to frame those new policies in the context of the jointly developed policies in the Joint Strategic Plan. The next round of Local Plans will also add more detail to the policies of the Joint Strategic Plan and facilitate their delivery. Working in the context of the jointly developed Joint Strategic Plan policies, these more detailed Local Plan policies will be more effective in delivering the overall policy aims for the South West Hertfordshire area.

How will the Joint Strategic Plan help us respond to the climate change emergency?

The South West Hertfordshire authorities have all declared climate emergencies and pledged to work on reducing carbon emissions. The Joint Strategic Plan has an important role to play at a strategic level, by planning for carbon reduction, requiring the more efficient use of natural resources, supporting and promoting the natural environment to mitigate the impacts of climate change, championing more sustainable ways to improve the way we move around, promoting digital connectivity and by supporting technological change.

How is transport accounted for in the South West Hertfordshire Joint Strategic Plan?

The Joint Strategic Plan will take into account Hertfordshire County Council's Local Transport Plan and its future iterations. At its core, the plan will promote 'active travel' such as walking and cycling, as well as other forms of sustainable transport. The onus will be to encourage people to avoid relying on their cars where possible, by reducing the need to travel and/or ensuring that there are realistic and affordable alternative ways to move around.

What is the 'South West Hertfordshire 2050 - Realising our Potential' document?

This document marks the first formal plan-making stage for the SW Herts Joint Strategic Plan. This is known as the Issues and Options or Regulation 18 stage consultation.

The questions within it ask for feedback on what you think about the area at present, your views on a proposed vision and objectives for the SW Herts area to 2050, and your thoughts on how long term growth of the area could happen in the most sustainable way. Responses to this consultation will help shape the more detailed content of the plan as it progresses.

How can I have my say on South West Hertfordshire 2050 – Realising our Potential document?

The best way to respond to the consultation on 'South West Hertfordshire 2050 – Realising our Potential' is via the interactive document on our website www.swhertsplan.com/consultation. You will need to follow a simple registration process before leaving your feedback.

Through the consultation we ask for your feedback on a series of questions. You don't have to answer all of these - just focus on those that are of most interest to you. You can also download a copy of the document from our website in PDF format, or email SWHJSP@dacorum.gov.uk and the JSP team will send an electronic copy to you.

For those without access to the internet, copies of the document and associated questionnaire are also available to view in the reference sections of libraries within south west Hertfordshire and from the reception area at the following Council offices:

- **Hertsmere Borough Council**, Civic Offices, Elstree Way, Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, WD6 1WA
- **Watford Borough Council**, Town Hall, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD17 3EX
- **Dacorum Borough Council**, The Forum, Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP11DN
- **Three Rivers District Council**, Three Rivers House, Northway, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, WD3 1RL
- **St Albans City and District Council**, Civic Centre, St Peter's Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 3JE

We have also sent copies of all the consultation documents to town and parish councils within the SW Herts area.

Whilst we encourage you to respond online, you can email your comments to haveyoursay@swhertsplan.com or post them to:

SW Herts Joint Strategic Plan team
c/o Dacorum Borough Council
The Forum
Marlowes
Hemel Hempstead
Hertfordshire
HP1 1DN

Responses to the consultation must be received by **5pm on Friday 4th November 2022.**

There is also a simplified version of the consultation available via a poll hosted on various social media platforms which will be live for the first part of the consultation period. This is aimed at helping us to reach as wide a range of participants as possible.

What has informed this consultation?

This consultation has been informed by two key pieces of work:

- (a) A 'SW Herts Your Future' poll carried out in early 2020. This successful social media-based engagement generated over 14.5k comments and provided a high level overview of what those who live and/or work in SW Herts like about the area now, and what should be priorities for the future. The results of this engagement can be viewed at <https://www.swhertsplan.com/what-you-have-already-told-us>
- (b) A Vision Report prepared by consultants Prior and Partners which was informed by a series of workshops involving officers, elected councillors, key stakeholders and a group of 18-25 year olds. It also reflected the results of an interactive questionnaire published on the JSP website during November and December 2021, asking what type of future respondents envisaged for the area. This report is available here: <https://www.swhertsplan.com/sw-herts-vision>.

Why are you asking questions in this consultation about growth types?

The consultation document includes a question on some potential growth types. These are very high level descriptions of how the area could evolve i.e. through the development of new settlements, focussing growth within existing large settlements or extending development along sustainable transport corridors for example.

These growth types intentionally do not refer to any geographical locations, as we do not have sufficient information to consider potential sites at this early stage of plan-making. They also don't assume any particular number of new homes or jobs, as again, the scale of growth the JSP should plan for has not yet been established.

The growth types are included as it is good practice to consider broad options at an early stage in the plan-making process and the feedback received will help inform the next stage of consultation, which is due to be on spatial options.

Is there any other supporting information available?

Supporting information includes a series of Topic Papers on key planning issues, which summarise what Government guidance requires us to do, and how we expect the JSP to address key issues. There is also the Vision Report prepared by consultants Prior and Partners which explains how the proposed vision and objectives set out in the consultation document has been developed. A Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report considers the key documents the plan will need to have regard to, and also sets a suggested framework against which the social, economic and environmental credentials of the plan can be assessed.

These are available on the 'Background documents' page of the website at www.swhertsplan.com.

Other documents which may be of interest include the Statement Of Common Ground which has been signed by all the participating authorities and sets out how we will work together on the JSP and what broad issues the JSP will cover. There are also minutes from the JSP Member Planning Panel to view. These are available here: <https://www.swhertsplan.com/governance-and-papers>

Can I comment on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report?

Yes. As required by planning regulations, we have published a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report to accompany the 'Realising our Potential' document. This has been prepared by specialist consultants LUC. Its role is to:

- a) consider the key documents the plan will need to have regard to;
- b) set a suggested framework against which the social, economic and environmental credentials of the plan can be assessed; and
- c) provide an initial assessment of the suggested growth types against this draft framework.

If you wish to comment on this document please leave your feedback on www.swhertsplan.com or send your feedback by email haveyoursay@swhertsplan.com or post comments to:

SW Herts Joint Strategic Plan team
c/o Dacorum Borough Council
The Forum
Marlowes
Hemel Hempstead
Hertfordshire
HP1 1DN

Responses to the SA Scoping Report must be received by **5pm on Friday 4th November 2022.**

Can I put forward a site for consideration?

No. At the current time, as we are not carrying out a 'Call for Sites.' We already have a good understanding of land availability through work carried out by the districts as part of their Local Plan processes – albeit this does not cover the full period to 2050. We also feel that long-term growth options should initially be guided by a consideration of the most sustainable locations, rather than constrained by what land may or may not be currently available.

What are the next steps?

The 'South West Hertfordshire – Realising our Potential' consultation marks the first formal stage of consultation on the SW Herts Joint Strategic Plan. The next stages are outlined in the timeline below. We cannot confirm the precise dates for these next stages yet, as they depend upon the progress of the current round of district Local Plans. Keep an eye on the JSP website www.swhertsplan.com for updates, or register on our consultation database and you will be notified when future consultations take place.



Notification emails / letters

Email sent from JSP website 5/9/22

Note: the same text was used for the email sent to the JSP database contacts from the haveyoursay@swhertsplan.com email.

From SW Herts Joint Strategic Plan
Reply to haveyoursay@swhertsplan.com
To 1126 recipients
Subject Consultation on SW Herts Joint Strategic Plan 2050



South West Hertfordshire 2050

Realising our Potential



Consultation on SW Herts Joint Strategic Plan 2050

Dear Sir / Madam,

The five councils that make up South West Hertfordshire are working together to produce a Joint Strategic Plan (JSP). This plan will address some of the biggest issues and challenges facing the area to 2050. The councils are Dacorum Borough, Hertsmere Borough, St Albans City and District, Three Rivers District and Watford Borough, supported by Hertfordshire County Council.

The plan will create a vision for South West Hertfordshire, setting out the priorities for the area, ensuring transport, education and healthcare infrastructure is co-ordinated and ensure new homes and jobs are delivered in the right places.

What is this consultation about?

The *Realising our Potential* document marks our first formal consultation as we begin preparation of the JSP. We are asking for feedback on a draft vision and objectives for the area, and for views on some very high level growth types we could consider. We are not asking about specific development sites, or asking for views on housing or jobs numbers at this early stage in the plan preparation process. This *Realising our Potential* document is accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report which we are also inviting comments on.

How can I comment?

You have registered for our online consultation platform at www.swhertsplan.com/consultation so we would encourage you to use this system to give your feedback. All of the consultation material is available to view and

download from here. Hard copies of the consultation documents are also being held at local libraries and at your local borough / district main council office reception. If you do not wish to submit your comments using the online consultation platform, please see our website for the postal and email address to use when submitting comments.

You may also receive a duplicate email notification about this consultation from our JSP email if your contact details are also held on our consultation database.

Comments must reach us by **5pm on Friday 4th November 2022.**

How can I find out more?

We have prepared some FAQs which should answer any questions that you may have about this consultation and the JSP more broadly. These are available on our website.

Kind regards,

Chris Outtersides

SW Herts Joint Strategic Plan Director

Notification letter



South West Hertfordshire JSP team
c/o Dacorum Borough Council
The Forum
Marlowes
Hemel Hempstead
HP1 1DN

haveyoursay@SWHertsplan.com

Potters Bar Library

The Elms
High Street
Potters Bar
EN6 5BZ

Date: 30 August 2022

Dear Head Librarian,

CONSULTATION ON 'REALISING OUR POTENTIAL' - SW HERTS JOINT STRATEGIC PLAN 2050

What is the SW Herts Joint Strategic Plan?

The five Councils that make up South West Hertfordshire are working together to produce a Joint Strategic Plan (JSP). This plan will address some of the biggest issues and challenges facing the area to 2050. The five councils are Dacorum Borough, Hertsmere Borough, St Albans City and District, Three Rivers District and Watford Borough, supported by Hertfordshire County Council.

The plan will create a vision for South West Hertfordshire, setting out the priorities for the area, ensuring transport, education and healthcare infrastructure is co-ordinated and ensure new homes and jobs are delivered in the right places.

What is this consultation about?

The 'Realising our Potential' document marks our first formal consultation as we begin preparation of the JSP. We are asking for feedback on a draft vision and objectives for the area, and for views on some very high level growth types we could consider for the area. We are not asking about specific development sites, or asking for views on housing or jobs numbers at this early stage in the plan preparation process. This 'Realising our Potential' document is accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report which we are also inviting comments on.

We have enclosed two sets of the consultation material. Please can you hold these in your reference section until the close of the consultation on 4th November. We would also be grateful if you could display the enclosed posters.

How can residents comment?

All of the consultation material is available at www.swhertsplan.com/consultation, where residents can also submit their comments online.

If anyone would like a copy of any of the documents emailed to them, then they can request this by emailing us. Copies of the document are also being held at local libraries and copies have been sent to town and parish councils.

The consultation begins on Monday 5th September and comments must reach us by **5pm on 4th November 2022.**

We are encouraging residents to submit their comments online at www.swhertsplan.com/consultation.

Comments can also be emailed to haveyoursay@SWHertsplan.com or posted to:

South West Herts JSP team
c/o Dacorum Borough Council
The Forum
Marlowes
Hemel Hempstead
Herts
HP1 1DN

How can residents find out more?

We have prepared an FAQ document, some copies of which are enclosed, which should answer many questions that residents may have. Alternatively, if there are any additional questions the JSP team can be contacted via the email address above.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Outtersides
SW Herts Joint Strategic Plan Director

GiveMyView notification email

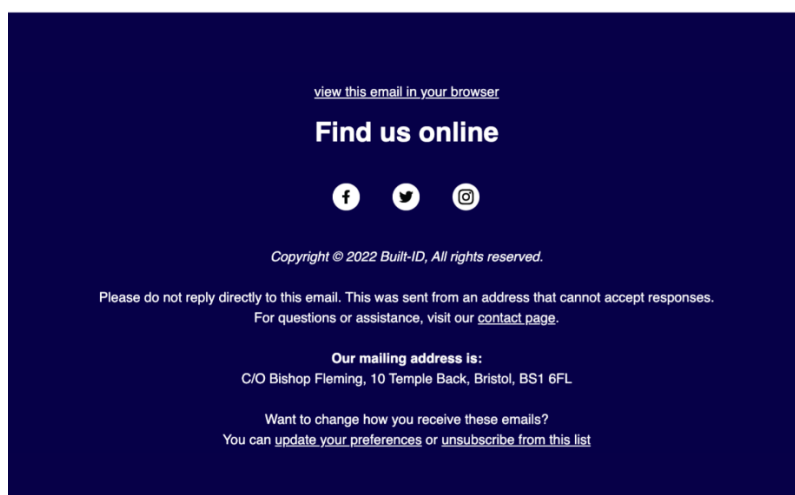


Dear community member,

The new survey for South West Hertfordshire is closing soon, have you voted? This new phase of consultation is asking for feedback on a draft vision and objectives for the area.

This is your last chance to join others who have voted.

[Vote Now](#)



JSP website extracts

Sample survey pages – foreword



South West Hertfordshire 2050

Realising our Potential



Home / South West Hertfordshire 2050 - Realising our Potential

South West Hertfordshire 2050 - Realising our Potential



Foreword

As Leaders of the six authorities that make up South West Hertfordshire, we are pleased to introduce a vision for the future of our area and to seek your feedback.

This consultation marks the first exciting step in a new approach to long term planning in South West Hertfordshire, covering the areas of Dacorum Borough, Hertsmere Borough, St Albans City and District, Three Rivers District and Watford Borough.

The South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan (JSP) will establish a collective ambition and set a blueprint for the future of the area to 2050. Eventually it will need to address big issues like the scale and location of new growth, the infrastructure needed to deliver it and our response to the challenges of climate change. However at this stage it is not about housing or employment numbers, or locations for growth. We don't yet know where growth should go, but we know we want it to happen as sustainably as possible.

This is your chance to tell us how you think our area can realise its full potential and how we can ensure sustainable growth provides a better future for everyone. In section 5, you will find a draft vision and objectives for our area, which we want your thoughts on. This will then guide future stages of our plan.

We want the preparation of the Joint Strategic Plan to be an open process. This initial document is therefore designed to stimulate debate. We want the plan to be visionary, aspirational and use growth as an opportunity to improve the quality of life for those who currently live, work and play in the area, and those who wish to do so in the future.

When developing our draft vision, we have tried to recognise the many assets and strengths of SW Herts – in terms of our built, natural and human resources. We have also tried to ensure that we make the most of our economic strengths, enhance the quality of our life and reduce and adapt to the impact of climate change.


We want to talk to as many people as possible to ensure that the process of preparing the plan is fully collaborative and inclusive. Only by planning collectively for a sustainable future that benefits all our existing and new residents and businesses can we truly realise our area's potential together.

We look forward to hearing what you have to say.

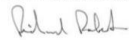

 Clr Andrew Williams
 Leader of Dacorum Borough Council


 Clr Sarah Nelmes
 Leader of Three Rivers District Council


 Clr Morris Bright
 Leader of Hertsmere Borough Council


 Clr Peter Taylor
 Mayor of Watford Borough Council


 Clr Chris White
 Leader of St Albans City & District Council


 Clr Richard Roberts
 Leader, Hertfordshire County Council

Next page



Realising Our Potential Contents

- 1 Introduction 
- 2 Our world is changing 
- 3 SW Herts today 
- 4 Planning for infrastructure 
- 5 The draft Vision (including sub-sections on the Six Pillars) 
- 6 Shaping the future 
- 7 Making it happen 
- 8 Next steps 
- 9 Appendix: Background to the Joint Strategic Plan 

[REGISTER](#) to get involved and send your comments

Related Pages

- Consultation on the Joint Strategic Plan, 'Realising our Potential'
- Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report
- Background Documents



South West Hertfordshire 2050

Realising our Potential



Home / 5. The draft vision - tell us what you think

5. The draft vision - tell us what you think



We have drafted a vision statement for the South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan, which we would like your feedback on. This vision has been developed in line with issues raised about our environment, and living, working, playing and moving around in the area.

Our vision statement

Realising our potential

"South West Herts will realise its full potential of being globally connected, nationally recognised and locally cherished. Known for its creative spirit, collaborative working and willingness to accelerate positive change, it will be a place where sustainable growth provides a better future for everyone."

Setting clear objectives

The objectives we set today will shape the lives of generations to come. And this is where it starts... In order to achieve our vision, we have established six pillars to guide us. These set out our ambitions for the key areas that the plan will cover. Each pillar contains a number of more specific objectives that are designed to help shape future policies within the Joint Strategic Plan, and wider investment decisions in the area. Through these pillars we aim to understand current and future needs and desires of those who live and work in the area, and where we want to be by 2050.

The Six Pillars

The Pillars are described below. Please select each for more information.

- Living green in a healthy natural environment** What if SW Herts made living green easy and led our country's response to climate change?
- Growing opportunities to work locally** What if SW Herts was a place where investors, innovators, entrepreneurs and creators chose to come together?
- Living in healthy, thriving local communities** What if SW Herts was an affordable, sustainable and fulfilling place to live?
- Moving easily in well connected places** What if SW Herts had more people moving around by public transport, bikes and on foot than by car?
- Building homes and places that people are proud of** What if SW Herts became nationally recognised as providing a high quality of life?
- Delivering robust and sustainable infrastructure** What if SW Herts was cleaner and greener, with more robust and sustainable infrastructure?

These pillars are expanded in more detail over the following pages. We would like your feedback on each of these and the objectives that sit beneath them.

[Previous page](#)

[Next page](#)

4 Planning for infrastructure

5a Pillar: (a) Living green in a healthy environment

What do you think?

Questions on the draft vision

Please send us any comments you may have on this topic below. We'd like to know if the draft vision statement summarises your aspirations for the future or if there are any changes you would like to see.

If you want to upload any supporting material for this or any other question, please do so as part of any other comments you may have on [Section 7, "Making it Happen"](#).

Realising Our Potential Contents

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Our world is changing
- 3 SW Herts today
- 4 Planning for infrastructure
- 5 **The draft Vision** (including sub-sections on the Six Pillars)
- 6 Shaping the future
- 7 Making it happen
- 8 Next steps
- 9 **Appendix:** Background to the Joint Strategic Plan

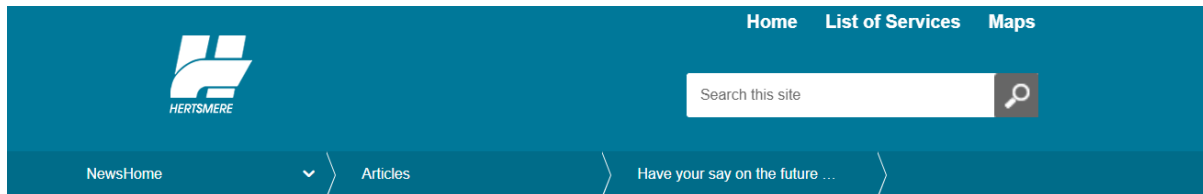
to get involved and send your comments.

Related Pages

- Consultation on the Joint Strategic Plan, 'Realising our Potential'
- Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report
- Background Documents

Press release examples

Consultation launch press release



Have your say on the future of South West Herts



Last Modified September 05, 2022

[Share this page](#)

Views on the future of South West Hertfordshire are being invited, as a draft vision for the area which aspires to accelerate 'positive change' is now open for public consultation.

The [South West Hertfordshire 2050 - Realising Our Potential](#) document, includes a draft vision and objectives for the area until 2050 and marks the first formal plan-making stage for the South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan (JSP), which we've drawn up with [St Albans City and District Council](#), [Dacorum Borough Council](#), [Three Rivers District Council](#) and [Watford Borough Council](#), supported by [Hertfordshire County Council](#).

The document covers all aspects of life in South West Hertfordshire and considers how to tackle the big issues and opportunities that lie ahead for the area, including the challenges of climate change. Responses to this consultation will help shape the more detailed content of the plan as it progresses.

Hertsmere Borough Councillor Dr Harvey Cohen, Portfolio Holder for Planning said: "Our borough is changing, as is the rest of South West Hertfordshire, and we've been working with the other local authorities in the area, supported by Hertfordshire County Council, to consider how we can meet the challenges and make the most of the opportunities that lie ahead.

"The South West Hertfordshire JSP will set out a blueprint for the whole of South West Hertfordshire, including Hertsmere, to 2050. The vision and objectives in this document will inform that plan and provide a bedrock from which all future decisions about the JSP will be made.

"It's vital as many people as possible comment on this document, so we can be sure the final plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our residents and businesses."

Chair of the SW Herts Member Group and Leader of St Albans City and District Council, Cllr Chris White said: "South West Hertfordshire is a wonderful place to live, work and visit – but we need to think about the future.

"The five local authorities which make up the area, supported by Hertfordshire County Council, have been working on a plan which will address key issues and opportunities for our area until 2050, such as climate change and the transition to zero carbon.

"This document marks the first step towards delivering that plan, and we want to hear from you on the particular issues that matter to you. Every comment matters to us.

"At this stage, we don't know yet where growth should go, but we know we want it to happen sustainably, and we want the key pieces of infrastructure in place to support that growth.

"Tell us how you think our area can realise its full potential - your views will help shape the future of South West Hertfordshire."

The [South West Hertfordshire 2050 – Realising our Potential](#) has been developed following a poll in early 2020, which generated more than 14,500 comments, a series of workshops, and an online engagement exercise, in which participants were asked what type of future they would like to see.

In addition, residents and businesses are being asked to give their views on a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping report, which will help us consider the environmental, social and economic effects of the joint strategic plan.

SW Herts is one of only a small number of councils in the UK working together in this way. By considering the longer-term future of a bigger area as whole, the opportunities for the future such as more Government funding for infrastructure improvements are greater.

The SW Herts JSP will not replace Local Plans. Dacorum, Hertsmere, St Albans City & District, Three Rivers and Watford are still required to have in place their own up-to-date plans.

The full document is available to view [here](#). Responses can be submitted until 5pm on Friday 4 November.

Posted on Monday 5th September 2022



My Watford 🔍

Council Services ☰

Search watford.gov.uk



Home > Latest news > Two weeks left to have your say on SW Herts' future

Two weeks left to have your say on SW Herts' future

Residents and businesses have just two weeks left to give their views on the future of South West Hertfordshire, as part of a public consultation on a draft vision of the area...



Share on



More than 3000 people have already responded to the consultation on the South West Hertfordshire 2050 - Realising Our Potential document. The document, which includes a draft vision and objectives for the area until 2050, marks the first formal plan-making stage for the South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan (JSP) and covers all aspects of life in South West Hertfordshire, as well as the big issues and opportunities that lie ahead for the area, such as the challenges of climate change.

It has been drawn up by Hertsmere Borough Council, St Albans City and District Council, Dacorum Borough Council, Three Rivers District Council and Watford Borough Council, supported by Hertfordshire County Council. Responses to the consultation are invited until 5pm on Friday 4 November.

The South West Hertfordshire 2050 - Realising our Potential document has been developed following a poll in early 2020, which generated more than 14,500 comments, a series of workshops, and an online engagement exercise, in which participants were asked what type of future they would like to see.

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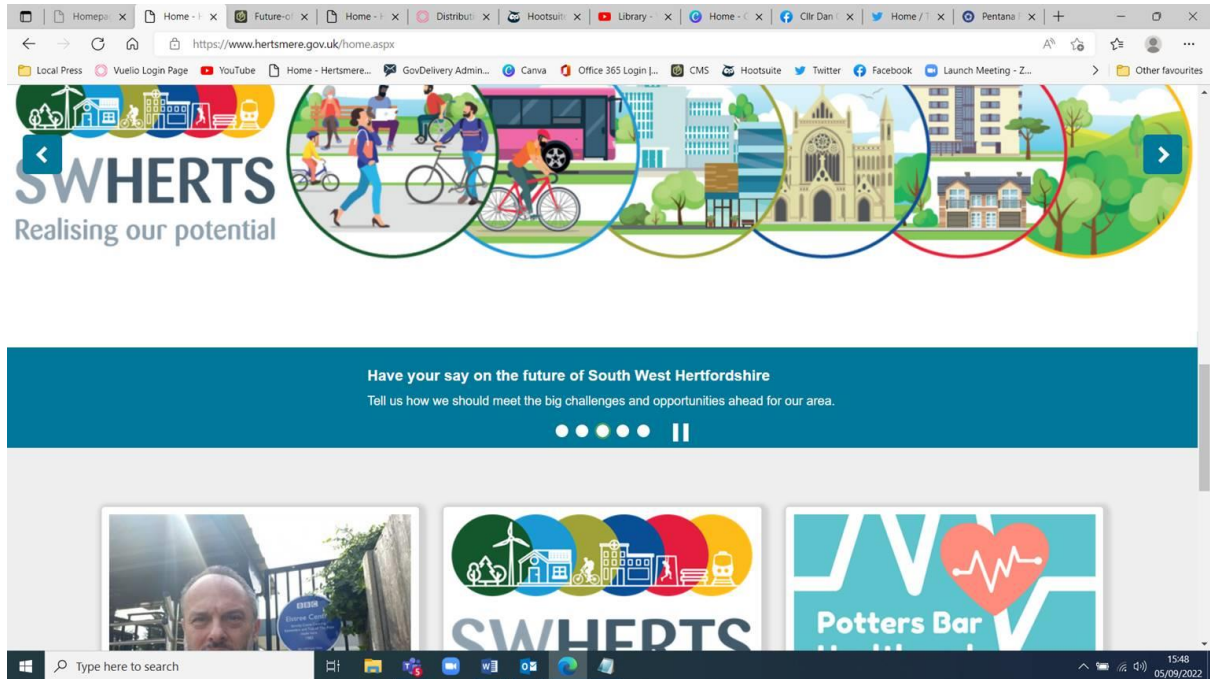
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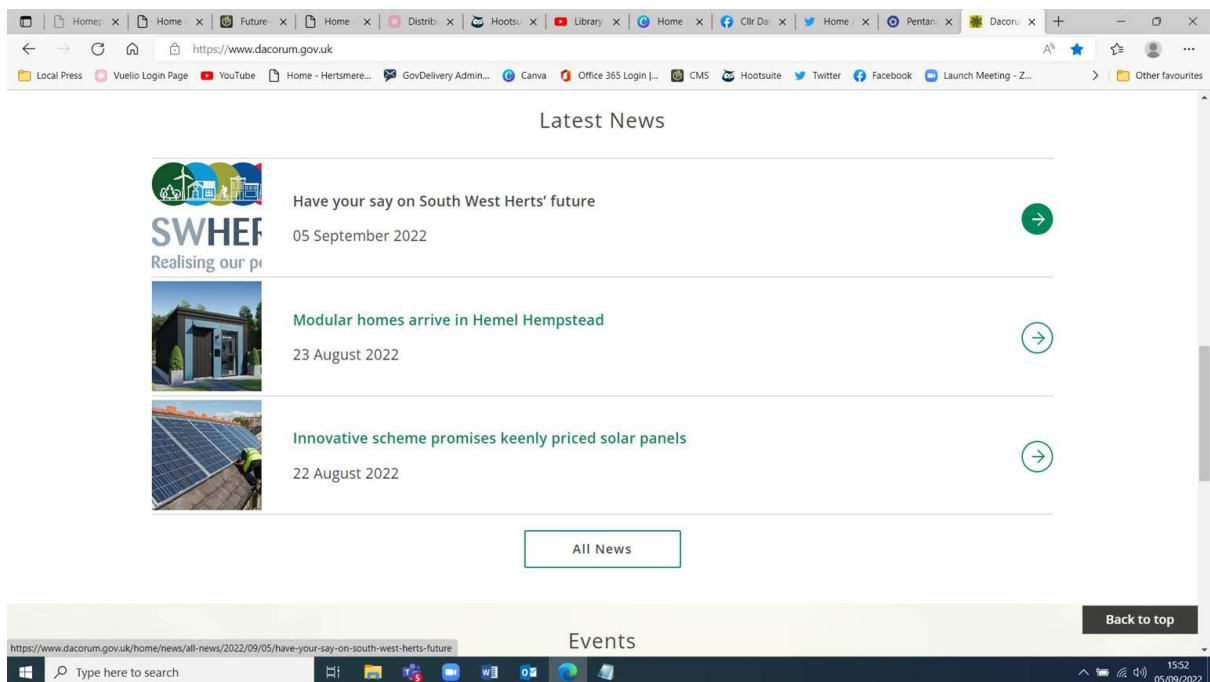
The full document is available to view at www.swhertsplan.com/consultation.

Council website promotion

Hertsmere Council homepage



Dacorum homepage



St Albans homepage

The screenshot shows the St Albans City & District Council homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the council logo, a search bar, and links for 'Pay Online', 'Do it Online', and 'Menu'. Below this is a 'Latest news' section with a 'Get free updates' sign-up form. The main content area features a carousel of four news items: 'SWHERTS Joint Strategic Plan', 'New contract for management of eight major sport and cultural facilities agreed', 'Solar Together: scheme to cut emissions and reduce energy bills launched', and 'Museum + Gallery awarded VisitEngland's quality mark'. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 15:50 on 05/09/2022.

Watford Council homepage

The screenshot shows the Watford Council homepage. It features a news article titled 'Have your say on South West Herts' future' published on 5th September 2022. Below this is another article titled 'Local cycling enthusiasts invited to join Watford Cycle Forum' published on 31st August 2022. The page includes images of a town, cyclists, and a man at a junction. A 'FEEDBACK' button is visible on the right side. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 15:49 on 05/09/2022.

Three Rivers Council homepage

Homepage | Home - Hertsmere Borough Co... | Home


https://www.threerivers.gov.uk

Local Press | Vuelio Login Page | YouTube | Home - Hertsmere... | GovDelivery Admin... | Canva | Office 365 Login |... | CMS | Hootsuite | Twitter | Facebook | Launch Meeting - Z... | Other favourites

Council Meetings

Quick links

- Your guide to the Three Rivers area >
- Business support >
- Leisure and culture >



Swap your old clothes and help the environment for Great Big Green Week

06th September 2022


A host of free activities will be taking place in Three Rivers this month as part of the national Great Big Green Week campaign to highlight the need for...

[Go to news >](#)

Waiting for a bus made easier in Three Rivers, thanks to real-time updates

06th September 2022

Electronic displays have been installed at bus stops across Three Rivers - providing passengers with real-time updates to help encourage more people to...



Have your say on SW Herts' future

05th September 2022

Views on the future of South West Hertfordshire are being invited, as a draft vision for the area which aspires to accelerate 'positive change' is...

Spotlight on Services

Type here to search

12:18 07/09/2022

Council e-newsletters

Three Rivers 'Stay Connected 21/9/22



Have your say on SW Herts' future



Views on the future of South West Hertfordshire are being invited, as a draft vision for the area which aspires to accelerate 'positive change' is now open for public consultation.

[Read more](#)



Realising our Potential



www.swhertsplan.com/consultation

Have your say on SW Herts' future

We're planning for the long-term future of South West Hertfordshire and we want to hear from you.

Our Realising our Potential document is now available for comment. It sets out the issues and opportunities for our area now and in the future. Together we can plan for the future of the area.

Our consultation runs until 5pm on 4 November.

[Find out more and comment](#)



Community News September 2022 Edition from St Albans City and District Council
St Albans City and District Council sent this bulletin at 22-09-2022 02:03 PM BST



Have your say on the future of South West Herts



SWHERTS

Joint Strategic Plan

Realising our potential

Views on the future of South West Hertfordshire are being sought as a draft vision for the area has opened for public consultation.

We have teamed up with four other Councils – Dacorum, Hertsmeire, Three Rivers and Watford - to produce a Joint Strategic Plan to 2050 for the area.

This will help guide future plans for tackling issues such as climate change, infrastructure, environmental protection, employment and housing.

You can see the draft vision document, *South West Hertfordshire 2050 - Realising Our Potential*, and give your views here. The consultation runs until Friday 4 November.

Hertsmere Works - Issue 11 - October 2022

Hertsmere Borough Council sent this bulletin at 20-10-2022 09:22 AM BST



Have your say on SW Herts' future

There are just over two weeks to have your say on the future of South West Hertfordshire.

The *South West Hertfordshire 2050 - Realising Our Potential* document, includes a draft vision and objectives for the area until 2050 and marks the first formal plan-making stage for the South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan.

The document covers all aspects of life in South West Hertfordshire and considers how to tackle the big issues and opportunities that lie ahead for the area, including the challenges of climate change.

We're preparing the SW Herts JSP in partnership with St Albans City and District Council, Dacorum Borough Council, Three Rivers District Council and Watford Borough Council, supported by Hertfordshire County Council.

The SW Herts JSP will not replace Local Plans. We are still required to have in place an up-to-date Local Plan for our area.

Responses can be submitted until 5pm on **Friday 4 November 2022**.

This bulletin was sent to the following groups of people:

Subscribers of Climate Change and Sustainability, Council news, Local Plan, Planning and building control, or Planning policy and conservation, (21028 recipients)



Have your say on the future of SW Herts



Your views on the future of South West Hertfordshire are being invited, as a draft vision for the area is now open to public consultation.

SWHERTS Joint Strategic Plan Realising our potential

The [South West Hertfordshire 2050 - Realising Our Potential](#) document, includes a draft vision and objectives for the area until 2050 and marks the first formal plan-making stage for the [South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan](#). The document covers all aspects of life in South West Hertfordshire and considers how to tackle the big issues and opportunities that lie ahead for the area, including the challenges of climate change.

We want to hear from you on the particular issues that matter to you, or the whole document. Every comment matters to us.

We're preparing the SW Herts JSP in partnership with St Albans City and District Council, Dacorum Borough Council, Three Rivers District Council and Watford Borough Council, supported by Hertfordshire County Council.

The SW Herts JSP will not replace Local Plans. We are still required to have in place an up-to-date Local Plan for our area.

Responses can be submitted until 5pm on Friday 4 November 2022.

Working with you, for you, improving our communities, our places.

Contact us

www.hertsmere.gov.uk

customer.services@hertsmere.gov.uk

020 8207 2277

Civic Offices, Elstree Way, Borehamwood, WD6 1WA

Watford Urban Room invitation



SWHERTS
Joint Strategic Plan

Have your say on the key issues in your area

Realising our Potential



www.swherstplan.com/consultation

The five councils that make up South West Hertfordshire - Watford, Dacorum, Hertsmere, St Albans City & District and Three Rivers councils - are working together to create a long term plan for how transport, schools, health and other services can be delivered alongside new homes and jobs up to 2050.

To help us understand the key issues that this plan should focus on, we have published a document called 'South West Hertfordshire 2050 – Realising Our Potential' for comment. This has been drawn up following a range of engagement events and workshops in early 2020, where local people, elected Councillors and representative from a range of organisations were asked what type of future they would like to see for the area.

Join us for this event where we will discuss the content of this document with you and get your views. It's really important that we hear about the issues that are important to residents of Watford and the wider South West Herts area. The views we gather in this consultation will help us plan long term for our area and help secure Government funding for future infrastructure improvements.

Details:

21 September, 2.30pm – 4pm
Urban Room at 15-17 Atria Watford
Refreshments provided

Book your place using the link below:

<https://swhjsp.eventbrite.co.uk/>

Give My View poll – marketing material

Adverts – first round

[VIEW VIDEO](#)

MORE PUBLIC TRANSPORT

[VIEW VIDEO](#)

ONE IDEA TO MAKE YOUR AREA BETTER

Calling all communities in South West Hertfordshire! It's time for you to have your say. You have the opportunity to voice your priorities for shaping your local area for a brighter future, give your views today.

SO WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU?

TRING HARPENDEN
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD ST ALBANS
WATFORD BOREHAMWOOD
RICKMANSWORTH POTTERS BAR

SO WHAT MATTERS TO YOU?

TRING HARPENDEN
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD ST ALBANS
WATFORD BOREHAMWOOD
RICKMANSWORTH POTTERS BAR

SWHERTS
SOUTH WEST HERTFORDSHIRE

Your neighbours are responding, now it's your turn! Help South West Hertfordshire become the place you want by sharing your priorities in the survey today.


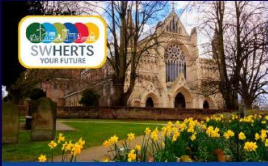






Tring, Harpenden, Hemel Hempstead, St Albans, Watford, Rickmansworth, Borehamwood, Potters Bar and surrounding areas! What moves you? You can help shape the future of South West Hertfordshire today!



People of South West Hertfordshire! What do you believe is the most pressing problem facing people living in your area? Answer the survey today before time runs out.

Adverts – second round

 <p>DACORUM THE SURVEY FOR SW HERTFORDSHIRE IS ABOUT TO CLOSE. ANSWER IT NOW</p>	 <p>ST ALBANS THE SURVEY FOR SW HERTFORDSHIRE IS ABOUT TO CLOSE. ANSWER IT NOW</p>	 <p>WATFORD THE SURVEY FOR SW HERTFORDSHIRE IS ABOUT TO CLOSE. ANSWER IT NOW</p>	<p>[TOWN NAME]: What do you believe is the most pressing problem facing people living in your area? The survey for South West Hertfordshire is about to close, answer it now.</p>
 <p>HERTSMERE THE SURVEY FOR SW HERTFORDSHIRE IS ABOUT TO CLOSE. ANSWER IT NOW</p>	 <p>THREE RIVERS THE SURVEY FOR SW HERTFORDSHIRE IS ABOUT TO CLOSE. ANSWER IT NOW</p>	 <p>BERKHAMSTED THE SURVEY FOR SW HERTFORDSHIRE IS ABOUT TO CLOSE. ANSWER IT NOW</p>	



Have you answered the survey for South West Hertfordshire?




THE SURVEY CLOSES SOON

Your window of opportunity to express your priorities for the future of South West Hertfordshire is closing. Vote right away to avoid missing out!



The survey is closing, what are you waiting for? Take advantage of this opportunity to share your vision for the future of South West Hertfordshire before it's too late.

Emails

<p>Subject line: A new survey is open for SW Hertfordshire!</p>  <p>Dear community member,</p> <p>Thank you for taking part in the first phase of the South West Hertfordshire project. The feedback which you and your fellow community members provided was valuable.</p> <p>A new consultation is now open for you to vote. This new phase of consultation is asking for feedback on a draft vision and objectives for the area, and for views on some very high level growth types that could be considered.</p> <p>Continue to influence your local surroundings today.</p> <p>Vote Now</p>	<p>Subject line: Your neighbours have voted, it's your turn!</p>  <p>Dear community member,</p> <p>Did you know there is a new survey for South West Hertfordshire? Thank you for the ideas you gave in the first phase, we now want to dig deeper into your views.</p> <p>This new phase of consultation is asking for feedback on a draft vision and objectives for the area, and for views on some very high level growth types that could be considered.</p> <p>Vote Now</p>	<p>Subject line: Closing soon: Survey for South West Hertfordshire!</p>  <p>Dear community member,</p> <p>The new survey for South West Hertfordshire is closing soon, have you voted? This new phase of consultation is asking for feedback on a draft vision and objectives for the area.</p> <p>This is your last chance to join others who have voted.</p> <p>Vote Now</p>
<p>View this email in your browser</p> <p>Find the line</p> <p>Email 1</p> <p>Please do not reply directly to this email as we cannot accept responses. For questions please contact us on 01438 824444.</p> <p>Our mailing address is: C/O Bishop Farming, 10 Temple Back, Stoney, SG1 6PL</p> <p>Want to change how you receive these emails? You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list</p>	<p>View this email in your browser</p> <p>Find the line</p> <p>Email 2</p> <p>Please do not reply directly to this email as we cannot accept responses. For questions please contact us on 01438 824444.</p> <p>Our mailing address is: C/O Bishop Farming, 10 Temple Back, Stoney, SG1 6PL</p> <p>Want to change how you receive these emails? You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list</p>	<p>View this email in your browser</p> <p>Find the line</p> <p>Email 3</p> <p>Please do not reply directly to this email as we cannot accept responses. For questions please contact us on 01438 824444.</p> <p>Our mailing address is: C/O Bishop Farming, 10 Temple Back, Stoney, SG1 6PL</p> <p>Want to change how you receive these emails? You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list</p>

Examples of paper and digital media coverage

My Local News – 23/9/22



PLAN 2050: South West Herts residents asked for their say on future of area

Published on: 23rd September 2022 | By: Bryn Holmes | Category: Uncategorized

Residents across the region of South West Hertfordshire are being asked for their opinions on a new plan for the future of the area.

The South West Hertfordshire 2050 – Realising Our Potential document details a potential vision for how the area will develop from now until 2050 and marks the first formal plan-making stage for the South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan.

The initiative is being supported by all local councils in the area, including Three Rivers District Council, St Albans City and District Council, Dacorum Borough Council, Hertsmere Borough Council and Watford Borough Council.

The plan has a particular focus on how to tackle the big issues that will face the region in the coming decades, including climate change and the eventual transition to a zero-carbon way of life.

Chair of the SW Herts member group, councillor Chris White, said: "South West Hertfordshire is a wonderful place to live, work and visit – but we need to think about the future.

"The five local authorities which make up the area, supported by Hertfordshire County Council, have been working on a plan which will address key issues and opportunities for our area until 2050, such as climate change and the transition to zero carbon.

"This document marks the first step towards delivering that plan, and we want to hear from you on the particular issues that matter to you. Every comment matters to us."

Residents are now being asked their opinion on the plans. These plans can be viewed at www.swhertsplan.com/consultation, with responses being accepted until 5pm on Friday, November 4. It is also emphasised that this new initiative will not replace Local Plans.



Radlett Snippets

Residents invited to take part in survey
Radlett residents are being invited to complete a survey as a draft vision for the area which aspires to accelerate 'positive change' is proposed.
The South West Hertfordshire 2050 – Realising Our Potential document, includes objectives for the area until 2050 and marks the first formal plan-making stage for the South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan.
The full document is available to view at www.swhertsplan.com/consultation
Responses can be submitted until 5pm on November 4.

Author story correction
In the September edition of RADLETTNEWS, we featured an article on page 12 with the headline 'Resident's journey from convict to author captured in film'.
The article was about popular author Jason Cook,



Jason is having his life story turned into a film an ex-convict who turned his life around.
We included an email address for Jason, however, the printed address was incorrect. The correct address is jasoncook@ntlworld.com
We apologise for any confusion.

Residents invited to take part in survey
Abbots Langley residents and others across South West Hertfordshire are being asked for their opinions on a new plan for the future of the area.
The South West Hertfordshire 2050 – Realising Our Potential document details a potential vision for how the area will develop from now until 2050 and marks the first formal plan-making stage for the South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan.
The initiative is being supported by all local councils in the area, including Three Rivers District Council, St Albans City & District Council, Dacorum Borough Council, Hertsmeare Borough Council and Watford Borough Council.
Councillor Chris White, chair of the South West Herts member group, said: "This document marks the first step towards delivering that plan, and we want to hear from you on the particular issues that matter to you. Every comment matters to us."
Residents can submit their views on the plans at www.swhertsplan.com/consultation until 5pm on Friday, November 4.

Scheme empowers residents to grow trees
Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) is offering residents the chance to claim free trees as part of its 'Your Tree Our Future' scheme, which will see 100,000 trees given away over the next four years.



The scheme will see 100,000 trees given away

The scheme will help the council deliver on several of its Sustainable Hertfordshire ambitions as planting trees has a positive impact on air quality, helps reduce the carbon in the atmosphere, supports biodiversity, and can help communities adapt to the impacts of climate change.
The scheme was created as part of HCC's Tree and Woodland Strategy, which sets out how the council will increase tree cover in the county.
Hertfordshire residents can visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/yourtree where they will be able to choose from a selection of eight different native species or a hedgerow pack, which will be provided on a first-come first-served basis.



Kings Snippets

Residents invited to take part in survey

Kings Langley residents and others across South West Hertfordshire are being asked for their opinions on a new plan for the future of the area.

The South West Hertfordshire 2050 – Realising Our Potential document details a potential vision for how the area will develop from now until 2050 and marks the first formal plan-making stage for the South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan.

The initiative is being supported by all local councils in the area, including Three Rivers District Council, St Albans City & District Council, Dacorum Borough Council, Hertsmere Borough Council and Watford Borough Council.

Councillor Chris White, chair of the South West Herts member group, said: "This document marks the first step towards delivering that plan, and we want to hear from you on the particular issues that matter to you. Every comment matters to us."

Residents can submit their views on the plans at www.swhertsplan.com/consultation until 5pm on Friday, November 4.

Scheme empowers residents to grow trees

Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) is offering residents the chance to claim free trees as part of its 'Your Tree Our Future' scheme, which will see 100,000 trees given away over the next four years.

The scheme will see 100,000 trees given away

The scheme will help the council deliver on several of its Sustainable Hertfordshire ambitions, as planting trees has a positive impact on air quality, helps reduce the carbon in the atmosphere, supports biodiversity, and can help communities adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The scheme was created as part of HCC's Tree and Woodland Strategy, which sets out how the council will increase tree cover in the county.

Hertfordshire residents can visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/yourtree where they will be able to choose from a selection of eight different native species or a hedgerow pack, which will be provided on a first-come first-served basis.

Residents asked for their say on future of area

Written by Bryn Holmes

Rickmansworth residents are being asked for their opinions on a new plan for the future of the area.


The South West Hertfordshire 2050 – Realising Our Potential document details a potential vision for how the area will develop from now until 2050 and marks the first formal plan-making stage for the South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan.

The initiative is being supported by all local councils in the area, including Three Rivers District Council, St Albans City & District Council, Dacorum Borough Council, Hertsmere Borough Council and Watford Borough Council.

The plan has a particular focus on how to tackle the big issues that will face the region in the coming decades, including climate change and the eventual transition to a zero-carbon way of life.

Chair of the South West Herts member group, councillor Chris White, said: "South West Hertfordshire is a wonderful place to live, work and visit, but we need to think about the future.

"The five local authorities which make up the area, supported by Hertfordshire County Council, have been working on a plan which will address key issues and opportunities for our area until 2050, such as climate change and the transition to zero carbon.



The plan could affect the area's development until 2050

"This document marks the first step towards delivering that plan."

The consultation is open until 5pm on November 5 at www.swhertsplan.com/consultation

Maggie Greenfield
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The Herts ADVERTISER

Have your say on the future of south west Herts

 Laura Bill



Published: 10:16 AM September 6, 2022



SWHERTS Joint Strategic Plan

A Joint Strategic Plan is being formulated for south west Herts. - Credit: SWH JSP

A partnership between various local councils aims to shape a strategic plan for the future of south west Herts - and YOUR views are crucial.

The South West Hertfordshire 2050 - Realising Our Potential document, includes a draft vision and objectives for the area until 2050.

It marks the first formal plan-making stage for the South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan (JSP), which is being drawn up by councils including Hertsmere, St Albans, Dacorum, Three Rivers and Watford, supported by County Hall.

The document covers all aspects of life in that part of Herts and considers how to tackle the big issues and opportunities that lie ahead for the area, including the challenges of climate change.

Responses to a public consultation will help shape the more detailed content of the plan as it progresses.

Chair of the SW Herts Member Group, St Albans council leader Cllr Chris White said: "South west Hertfordshire is a wonderful place to live, work and visit – but we need to think about the future.

"The five local authorities which make up the area, supported by Hertfordshire County Council, have been working on a plan which will address key issues and opportunities for our area until 2050, such as climate change and the transition to zero carbon.

"This document marks the first step towards delivering that plan, and we want to hear from you on the particular issues that matter to you. Every comment matters to us.

"At this stage, we don't know yet where growth should go, but we know we want it to happen sustainably, and we want the key pieces of infrastructure in place to support that growth.

"Tell us how you think our area can realise its full potential - your views will help shape the future of south west Hertfordshire."

Hertsmere Cllr Dr Harvey Cohen added: "The vision and objectives in this document will inform that plan and provide a bedrock from which all future decisions about the JSP will be made.

"It's vital as many people as possible comment on this document, so we can be sure the final plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our residents and businesses."

The JSP will not replace councils' Local Plans, and the full document is available to view at www.swhertsplan.com/consultation.

Responses can be submitted until 5pm on Friday November 4.



H News > Hertfordshire News > Planning

First steps taken to grow Watford, St Albans, Three Rivers, Hertsmere and Dacorum in major combined plan

The South West Hertfordshire Joint Strategic Plan will provide a long-term blueprint for the area to 2050

SHARE Comments

By **Karolina Komada** Multimedia Journalist
15:54, 6 SEP 2022 | UPDATED 15:55, 6 SEP 2022

NEWS



Aerial photo of Watford (Image: Watford Borough Council)

People across South West Hertfordshire are invited to have their say on future in the region they live, as a draft vision for the area which aspires to accelerate 'positive change' is now open for public consultation.

The South West Hertfordshire 2050 - Realising Our Potential document includes vision and objectives for the area. It covers all aspects of life in the region and aims to address the big issues and opportunities that lie ahead, including improving infrastructure or tackling challenges of climate change.

Elected Mayor of Watford Peter Taylor said: "The plan has been developed following a consultation in early 2020 and using this feedback, we are working with other councils towards a single vision for the region that will make it an even better place to live, work and visit.

READ MORE: [Residents at 'inadequate' care home 'at risk of harm', declares damning report](#)

"This is particularly important for Watford, where we are trying to push back against the increased housing targets for our town which are being forced on us from central government. It is vitally important that planning policies and planning decisions are made locally and that local residents are given the power to shape their town.

"One of my key priorities is to improve our infrastructure to make sure that we can provide high quality services to all residents. Please have your say, as by only working together and taking a more strategic, long-term view can we deliver the right infrastructure, the right homes and space for our businesses to grow."

The South West Hertfordshire 2050 – Realising our Potential has been developed following a poll in early 2020, which generated more than 14,500 comments, a series of workshops, and an online engagement exercise, in which participants were asked what type of future they would like to see.

Chair of the SW Herts Member Group and Leader of St Albans City and District Council, Cllr Chris White said: "South West Hertfordshire is a wonderful place to live, work and visit – but we need to think about the future. The five local authorities which make up the area, supported by Hertfordshire County Council, have been working on a plan which will address key issues and opportunities for our area until 2050, such as climate change and the transition to zero carbon.

"This document marks the first step towards delivering that plan, and we want to hear from you on the particular issues that matter to you. Every comment matters to us.

"At this stage, we don't know yet where growth should go, but we know we want it to happen sustainably, and we want the key pieces of infrastructure in place to support that growth. Tell us how you think our area can realise its full potential - your views will help shape the future of South West Hertfordshire."

In addition, residents and businesses are being asked to give their views on a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping report, which will help us consider the environmental, social and economic effects of the joint strategic plan. Hertsmere Borough Councillor Dr Harvey Cohen, Portfolio Holder for Planning said: "Our borough is changing, as is the rest of South West Hertfordshire, and we've been working with the other local authorities in the area, supported by Hertfordshire County Council, to consider how we can meet the challenges and make the most of the opportunities that lie ahead.

"The South West Hertfordshire JSP will set out a blueprint for the whole of South West Hertfordshire, including Hertsmere, to 2050. The vision and objectives in this document will inform that plan and provide a bedrock from which all future decisions about the JSP will be made.

"It's vital as many people as possible comment on this document, so we can be sure the final plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our residents and businesses."

By considering the longer-term future of a bigger area as whole, the opportunities for the future such as more Government funding for infrastructure improvements are greater. The SW Herts JSP will not replace Local Plans. Dacorum, Hertsmere, St Albans City & District, Three Rivers and Watford are still required to have in place their own up-to-date plans.

Inspire Magazine September 2022

❖ Have your say on the future of South West Hertfordshire

Join the conversation about the future of the area. Let us have your views before 5pm on Friday 4th November.

SWHERTS
Joint Strategic Plan

Have your say on the key issues in your area

Realising our Potential

www.swhertsplan.com/consultation

Local Plan Watch: Herts councils keep joint strategic planning hopes aflame

8 September 2022 by Mark Wilding

Local authorities in South West Hertfordshire are pressing ahead with efforts to produce a joint strategic plan, just weeks after similar efforts in two other areas fell by the wayside.



Dacorum Borough Council (Picture: CCL)

Leaders of six councils in the area have announced [a consultation on the plan](#), describing it as “the first exciting step in a new approach to long term planning in South West Hertfordshire”.

The South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan will set out a vision for the area until 2050, outlining cross-boundary policies and identifying large-scale development sites.

It is being produced by Dacorum Borough Council, Hertsmere Borough Council, St Albans City and District Council, Three Rivers District Council and Watford Borough Council, with support from Hertfordshire County Council.

The districts and boroughs said they still intend to prepare their own local plans, which will sit within the framework set by the joint strategic plan.

The consultation document sets out a draft vision and objectives, including six guiding ‘pillars’: promoting green living and mitigating climate change; growing opportunities to work locally; living in healthy and “thriving” local communities; promoting the use of public transport, cycling and walking; building well-designed homes in the right places and that meet housing needs; and delivering “robust and sustainable” infrastructure.

Describing the South West Hertfordshire plan, the leaders of the six authorities said: “Eventually it will need to address big issues like the scale and location of new growth, the infrastructure needed to deliver it and our response to the challenges of climate change.

“However at this stage it is not about housing or employment numbers, or locations for growth. We don’t yet know where growth should go, but we know we want it to happen as sustainably as possible.”

Issues to be addressed by the plan include climate change mitigation, infrastructure needs, green belt boundaries, and identifying opportunities for homes, jobs, and large-scale growth.

South West Hertfordshire may now be the last hope for joint strategic planning in England, after a series of failed efforts elsewhere.

Last month, plans for a South Essex joint strategic plan [were dropped](#) when seven councils in the region said they would instead collaborate on a non-statutory planning document.

That news came just weeks after five councils working on a joint strategic plan for Oxfordshire announced their emerging strategy [was being scrapped](#) after they failed to reach agreement on housing need.

Of five groups of local authorities that had embarked on joint strategic plans [in mid-2019](#), councils in South West Hertfordshire are now [the last](#) to remain committed to the process. Plans for the [Greater Exeter Strategic Plan](#) and the [West of England Joint Spatial Plan](#) have also since been abandoned.

The consultation runs until 4 November.

The Planner 6/9/22

https://www.theplanner.co.uk/news/news-in-brief-dacorum-launches-south-west-hertfordshire-consultation-devoluti...

A round-up of planning news: Tuesday 6 September, 2022

Dacorum launches South West Hertfordshire consultation

Dacorum Borough Council has launched a public consultation on the future of South West Hertfordshire. Views are sought on a draft vision for the area that aims to accelerate "positive change".

The *South West Hertfordshire 2050 – Realising Our Potential* document includes a draft vision and objectives for the area until 2050.

The South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan is being drawn up by Dacorum Borough Council, St Albans City and District Council, Hertsmere Borough Council, Three Rivers District Council and Watford Borough Council, supported by Hertfordshire County Council.

The full document is available to view [here](#). Responses can be submitted until 5pm on Friday 4 November.

Devolution deal for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire

Levelling-up secretary Greg Clark has signed a deal with Derbyshire and Derby, Nottinghamshire and Nottingham that will see the area appoint a directly elected mayor.

The mayor of the combined county authority will be responsible for delivering local priorities, backed by a new £38 million-a-year investment fund, totalling £1.14 billion over 30 years. It will have control over the core adult education budget, to boost skills in the region, as well as the ability to increase control over transport.

DEVOLUTION

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Plans for a first-floor balcony and new outdoor decking for the Middle Earth Tavern in Whitby have been refused, as an inspector ruled that...

TOP JOBS

CPRE PEAK DISTRICT AND SOUTH YORKSHIRE: PRINCIPAL PLANNING OFFICER

DEPARTMENT OF TOWN PLANNING AND BUILDING CONTROL HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR: TOWN PLANNING ASSISTANTS

PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY: PLANNER

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TOP NEWS

UK 8 SEPTEMBER | 0 Comment
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REGENERATION FIRM AND TFL PARTNER TO REDEVELOP EDGWARE

UK 7 SEPTEMBER | 0 Comment
SIMON CLARKE APPOINTED HOUSING SECRETARY IN TRUSS'S CABINET

Type here to search

Raining now 14:02 08/09/2022

Examples of town and Parish Council website promotion

Chorelywood Parish Council



Consultation on SW Herts Joint Strategic Plan 2050

The five councils that make up South West Hertfordshire are working together to produce a Joint Strategic Plan (JSP). This plan will address some of the biggest issues and challenges facing the area to 2050. The councils are Dacorum Borough, Hertsmere Borough, St Albans City and District, Three Rivers District and Watford Borough, supported by Hertfordshire County Council.

The plan will create a vision for South West Hertfordshire, setting out the priorities for the area, ensuring transport, education and healthcare infrastructure is co-ordinated and ensure new homes and jobs are delivered in the right places.

What is this consultation about?

The 'Realising our Potential' document marks our first formal consultation as we begin preparation of the JSP. We are asking for feedback on a draft vision and objectives for the area, and for views on some very high level growth types we could consider. We are not asking about specific development sites, or asking for views on housing or jobs numbers at this early stage in the plan preparation process. This 'Realising our Potential' document is accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report which we are also inviting comments on.

How can I comment?

The consultation begins on Monday 5th September and comments must reach us by **5pm on 4th November 2022**.

We are encouraging residents to submit their comments online at www.swhertsplan.com/consultation, where all of the consultation material is available to view. Hard copies of the consultation documents are also being held at local libraries and at your local borough / district main council office reception.

If you do not wish to submit your comments using the online consultation platform, please see our website for the postal and email address to use when submitting comments.

You may also receive a duplicate notification about this consultation direct from our website, if you have directly registered on that system.

How can I find out more?

We have prepared some FAQs which should answer any questions you may have about this consultation and the JSP more broadly. These are available on our website.



Have your say on the future of SW Herts



Have your say on the future of SW Herts

05 September 2022 Views on the future of South West Hertfordshire are being invited, as a draft vision for the area which aspires to accelerate 'positive change' is now open for public consultation.

The South West Hertfordshire 2050 – Realising Our Potential document, includes a draft vision and objectives for the area until 2050 and marks the first formal plan-making stage for the South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan (JSP), which is being drawn up by Hertsmere Borough Council, St Albans City and District Council, Dacorum Borough Council, Three Rivers District Council and Watford Borough Council, supported by Hertfordshire County Council.

The document covers all aspects of life in South West Hertfordshire and considers how to tackle the big issues and opportunities that lie ahead for the area, including the challenges of climate change. Responses to this consultation will help shape the more detailed content of the plan as it progresses.

Hertsmere Borough Councillor Dr Harvey Cohen, Portfolio Holder for Planning said: "Our borough is changing, as is the rest of South West Hertfordshire, and we've been working with the other local authorities in the area, supported by Hertfordshire County Council, to consider how we can meet the challenges and make the most of the opportunities that lie ahead. "The South West Hertfordshire JSP will set out a blueprint for the whole of South West Hertfordshire, including Hertsmere, to 2050. The vision and objectives in this document will inform that plan and provide a bedrock from which all future decisions about the JSP will be made. "It's vital as many people as possible comment on this document, so we can be sure the final plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our residents and businesses." Chair of the SW Herts Member Group and Leader of St Albans City and District Council, Cllr Chris White said: "South West Hertfordshire is a wonderful place to live, work and visit – but we need to think about the future.

"The five local authorities which make up the area, supported by Hertfordshire County Council, have been working on a plan which will address key issues and opportunities for our area until 2050, such as climate change and the transition to zero carbon.

"This document marks the first step towards delivering that plan, and we want to hear from you on the particular issues that matter to you. Every comment matters to us.

"At this stage, we don't know yet where growth should go, but we know we want it to happen sustainably, and we want the key pieces of infrastructure in place to support that growth.

"Tell us how you think our area can realise its full potential – your views will help shape the future of South West Hertfordshire."

The South West Hertfordshire 2050 – Realising our Potential has been developed following a poll in early 2020, which generated more than 14,500 comments, a series of workshops, and an online engagement exercise, in which participants were asked what type of future they would like to see.

In addition, residents and businesses are being asked to give their views on a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping report, which will help us consider the environmental, social and economic effects of the joint strategic plan.

SW Herts is one of only a small number of councils in the UK working together in this way. By considering the longer-term future of a bigger area as whole, the opportunities for the future such as more Government funding for infrastructure improvements are greater.

The SW Herts JSP will not replace Local Plans. Dacorum, Hertsmere, St Albans City & District, Three Rivers and Watford are still required to have in place their own up-to-date plans.

The full document is available to view at www.swhertsplan.com/consultation. Responses can be submitted until 5pm on Friday 4 November.

Tring Town Council



Latest News



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



SWHERTS Joint Strategic Plan



Platinum Jubilee in Tring – take a look at Tring Together's video of the event!

SWHERTS Joint Strategic Plan

Join the Conversation

Your feedback will help shape our plan for the long-term future of South West Hertfordshire.

Please respond by **Friday 4th November**

Find out more by visiting our website www.swhertsplan.com



Join the conversation

Your feedback will help shape our plan for the long-term future of South West Hertfordshire

Find out more by visiting our website:



Please respond by 5pm Friday 4th November 2022

www.swhertsplan.com/consultation

06 Sept 2022

Examples of district / borough council social media posts

Facebook



St Albans City and District Council
Published by John McLannet · 29 September at 16:30 · 🌐

We're planning for the long-term future of South West Herts with other local authorities - and want to hear from you. Our Realising our Potential document sets out the issues and opportunities for our area. Together we can plan for the future. Have your say until 4 Nov: www.swhertsplan.com/consultation



SWHERTS

Realising our potential

SWHERTSPLAN.COM i

Consultation on the Joint Strategic Plan, 'Realising our Potential' Learn more

About this consultation This is your chance to comment on our South West ...

i Your last request to boost this post was approved X

To see how your post is performing, select See Insights.

See Insights and Ads Boost again

Twitter

 **Dacorum Council** @DacorumBC · Sep 20

We're working with the four local authorities which make up #SWHerts, supported by @HertsCC, on a long-term blueprint of the area.

Our document 'Realising our Potential' sets out a draft vision & objectives until 2050.

orlo.uk/0m1k7

#Haveyoursay before 5pm 4 Nov



 **Three Rivers District Council** @ThreeRiversDC · Sep 6

We're planning for the long-term future of #SWHerts & we want to hear from you.

Read our Realising our Potential document & have your say on the issues & opportunities for our area. Comments invited until 5pm on 4 Nov.

swhertsplan.com/consultation.

#SWHertsPlan #SWHerts2050



Hertfordshire County Council @hertscc · Sep 7
Here is a great opportunity to give your views on life in South West Hertfordshire – what do you value most and what can be improved? A draft vision to cover up until 2050 is now open for public consultation. Have your say: swhertsplan.com/consultation



SWHERTS

Joint Strategic Plan

Realising our potential

🗨️ 2 ❤️ 1 🔄

Watford Council @WatfordCouncil · 5h
We're working with the four local authorities which make up #SWHerts, supported by @HertsCC, on a long-term blueprint of the area.

Our document 'Realising our Potential' sets out a draft vision & objectives until 2050.

swhertsplan.com/consultation.


#Haveyoursay before 5pm 4 Nov


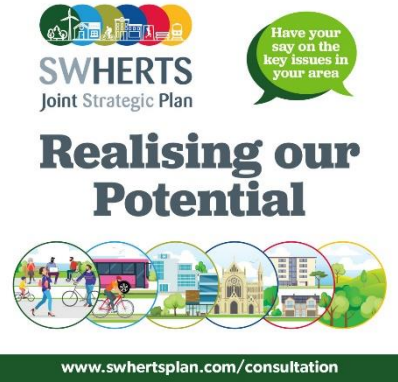




Hertfordshire County Council and 2 others
🗨️ 🔄 ❤️ 🔄


Social media schedule for districts / boroughs and county council

(Note: this changed slightly part way through the consultation as promotion was paused due to Queen's death).



Post content - w/c Monday 5 September	Social media asset	Social media channel
<p>We're planning for the long-term future of South West Hertfordshire – and we want to hear from you.</p> <p>Our Realising our Potential document is now available for comment. It sets out the issues and opportunities for our area now and in the future.</p> <p>Go to www.swhertsplan.com/consultation to find out more and have your say.</p> <p>Together we can plan for the future of the area. Our consultation runs until 5pm on 4 November.</p> <p>#SWHerts #SWHertsPlan #SWHerts2050</p>	<p>Sw-h-jsp-1900x600-ad6.jpg</p>  <p>The graphic features the SWHERTS Joint Strategic Plan logo on the left. To its right is a series of five overlapping circles containing icons for a house, a person on a bicycle, a bus, a modern office building, and a cathedral. Below the circles is a green banner with the URL www.swhertsplan.com/consultation. A speech bubble on the left says 'Have your say on the key issues in your area'.</p> <p>Alt text: A series of circles with graphics inside showing homes, bikes, buses, trees, offices and a cathedral.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Explainer video: South West Herts JSP Issues (01:24 mins)</p>	<p>Facebook/ LinkedIn</p>
<p>We're planning for the long-term future of #SWHerts & we want to hear from you.</p> <p>Read our Realising our Potential document & have your say on the issues & opportunities for our area. Comments invited until 5pm on 4 Nov.</p>	<p>Sw-h-jsp-1900x600-ad6.jpg</p>	<p>Twitter</p>


<p>www.swhertsplan.com/consultation.</p> <p>#SWHertsPlan #SWHerts2050</p>	 <p>Alt text: A series of circles with graphics inside showing homes, bikes, buses, trees, offices and a cathedral.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Explainer video: South West Herts JSP Issues (01:24 mins)</p>	
<p>We're planning for the long-term future of South West Hertfordshire – and we want to hear from you.</p> <p>Our Realising our Potential document is now available for comment. It sets out the issues and opportunities for our area now and in the future.</p> <p>Together we can plan for the future of the area. Have your say until 5pm on 4 November.</p> <p>#SWHerts #SWHertsPlan #SWHerts2050</p>	<p>SwH-jsp-1000X1000-ad1</p>  <p>Alt text: A series of circles with graphics inside showing homes, bikes, buses, trees, offices and a cathedral.</p> <p>Or PropTech videos</p>	<p>Instagram</p>

Post content - w/c Monday 19 September	Social media asset	Social media channel
<p>We're working with the four other local authorities which makes up South West Hertfordshire, supported by @HertsCountyCouncil, on a long-term blueprint for the future of the area to 2050.</p> <p>Our document 'Realising our Potential' sets out the issues and challenges facing the area, and includes our draft vision and objectives for the future.</p> <p>By working together, we are in a stronger position to deliver and better fund the essential local facilities and infrastructure people want to see.</p> <p>Go to www.swhertsplan.com/consultation to have your say and find out more. Comments invited until 5pm on 4 November.</p> <p>Together we can plan for the future of the area.</p> <p>#SWHerts #SWHertsPlan #SWHerts2050 #Haveyoursay</p>	<p>Swh-jsp-1900x600-ad5.jpg</p>  <p>Alt text: A map showing the five borough and districts making up South West Herts.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Explainer video: South West Herts JSP Overview (01:21 mins)</p>	<p>Facebook/ LinkedIn</p>
<p>We're working with the four local authorities which make up #SWHerts, supported by @HertsCC, on a long-term blueprint of the area.</p> <p>Our document 'Realising our Potential' sets out a draft vision & objectives until 2050.</p> <p>www.swhertsplan.com/consultation.</p> <p>#Haveyoursay before 5pm 4 Nov</p>	<p>Swh-jsp-1900x600-ad5.jpg</p>  <p>Alt text: A map showing the five borough and districts making up South West Herts.</p>	<p>Twitter</p>

	<p>Or</p> <p>Explainer video: South West Herts JSP Overview (01:21 mins)</p>	
<p>We're working with the four other local authorities which makes up South West Hertfordshire, supported by Hertfordshire County Council, on a long-term blueprint for the future of the area to 2050.</p> <p>Our document 'Realising our Potential' sets out the issues and challenges facing the area, and includes our draft vision and objectives for the future.</p> <p>By working together, we are in a stronger position to deliver and better fund the essential local facilities and infrastructure people want to see.</p> <p>Comments invited until 5pm on 4 November.</p> <p>#SWHerts #SWHertsPlan #SWHerts2050 #Haveyoursay</p>	<p>Swh-jsp-1000X1000-ad2</p>  <p>Alt text: A map showing the five borough and districts making up South West Herts.</p> <p>Or Proptech videos</p>	<p>Instagram</p>


Post content - w/c Monday 19 September	Social media asset	Social media channel
<p>What are the key issues that matter to you?</p> <p>We're planning for the future of South West Hertfordshire.</p>	<p>Swh-jsp-1900x600-ad1.jpg</p>	<p>Facebook/ LinkedIn</p>


<p>We know unemployment in SW Herts is lower than both the national and county average, but there are challenges for our local economy.</p> <p>Tell us what you think. Go to www.swherts.com/consultation and take part in our online survey.</p> <p>Together we can plan for the future of the area.</p> <p>Comments invited until 5pm on 4 November.</p>	 <p>Alt text: Two figures carrying suitcases and text '82% of the area's working age population have either a part time or full-time job or seeking a job for the first time.'</p>	
<p>What are the key issues that matter to you?</p> <p>We know unemployment in #SWHerts is lower than both the national and county average, but there are challenges for our local economy.</p> <p>Tell us what you think before 5pm on 4 Nov: www.swherts.com/consultation</p> <p>#SWHerts2050 #SWHertsPlan</p>	<p>Swh-jsp-1900x600-ad1.jpg</p>  <p>Alt text: Two figures carrying suitcases and text '82% of the area's working age population have either a part time or full-time job or seeking a job for the first time.'</p>	<p>Twitter</p>


<p>What are the key issues that matter to you?</p> <p>We're planning for the future of South West Hertfordshire.</p> <p>We know unemployment in SW Herts is lower than both the national and county average, but there are challenges for our local economy.</p> <p>Tell us what you think. Go to the SW Herts website for more.</p> <p>Comments invited until 5pm on 4 November.</p> <p>Together we can plan for the future of the area.</p>	<p>Swh-jsp-1000X1000-ad1</p>  <p>Alt text: Two figures carrying suitcases and text '82% of the area's working age population have either a part time or full-time job or seeking a job for the first time.'</p>	<p>Instagram</p>
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Post content - w/c Monday 26 September	Social media asset	Social media channel
<p>We, along with the four other local authorities that make up South West Hertfordshire have declared a climate emergency.</p> <p>We need your help to ensure we meet our target of net zero carbon by 2050.</p> <p>Our Realising Our Potential document sets out the key issues and challenges facing our area, including climate change.</p>	<p>Swh-jsp-1900x600-ad4.jpg</p> 	<p>Facebook/ LinkedIn</p>

<p>Tell us what you think. Go to www.swherts.com/consultation and take part in our online survey.</p> <p>Together we can plan for the future of the area.</p> <p>Comments invited until 5pm on 4 November.</p> <p>#SWHerts #SWHerts2050 #SWHertsPlan</p>	<p>Alt text: A graphic of a leaf with the phrase 'net zero carbon by 2050' and 'Have you say on the key issues in your area' in a speech bubble.</p>	
<p>We, along with the other local authorities that make up #SWHerts, have declared a climate emergency.</p> <p>Our Realising our Potential document sets out the key issues facing our area, including climate change.</p> <p>Tell us what you think before 5pm 4 Nov: www.swherts.com/consultation</p>	<p>Swh-jsp-1900x600-ad1.jpg</p>  <p>Alt text: A graphic of a leaf with the phrase 'net zero carbon by 2050' and 'Have you say on the key issues in your area' in a speech bubble.</p>	Twitter
<p>We, along with the four other local authorities that make up South West Hertfordshire have declared a climate emergency.</p> <p>We need your help to ensure we meet our target of net zero carbon by 2050.</p> <p>Our Realising Our Potential document sets out the key issues and challenges facing our area, including climate change.</p>	<p>Swh-jsp-1000X1000-ad3</p>	Instagram

<p>Tell us what you think. Go to the South West Herts website and take part in our online survey.</p> <p>Together we can plan for the future of the area.</p> <p>Comments invited until 5pm on 4 November.</p> <p>#SWHerts #SWHerts2050 #SWHertsPlan</p>	 <p>Alt text: A graphic of a leaf with the phrase 'net zero carbon by 2050' and 'Have your say on the key issues in your area' in a speech bubble.</p>	
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Post content - w/c Monday 3 October	Social media asset	Social media channel
<p>We're halfway through our public consultation on the future of South West Hertfordshire.</p> <p>Our Realising Our Potential document sets out the key issues and challenges facing our area.</p> <p>Tell us what you think. Go to www.swherts.com/consultation and take part in our online survey.</p> <p>Together we can plan for the future of the area.</p>	<p>Sw-h-jsp-1900x600-ad6.jpg</p>  <p>Alt text: A series of circles with graphics inside showing homes, bikes, buses, trees, offices and a cathedral.</p>	<p>Facebook/ LinkedIn</p>

<p>Our consultation closes at 5pm on 4 November. #SWHerts #SWHerts2050 #SWHertsPlan</p>	<p>OR Explainer video: South West JSP Issues (01:24 mins)</p>	
<p>We're halfway through our public consultation on the future of #SWHerts. Our Realising Our Potential document sets out the key issues and challenges facing our area. Have your say before 5pm 4 Nov: www.swherts.com/consultation #SWHerts2050 #SWHertsPlan</p>	<p>Swh-jsp-1900x600-ad6.jpg</p>  <p>Alt text: A series of circles with graphics inside showing homes, bikes, buses, trees, offices and a cathedral.</p> <p>Or Explainer video: South West JSP Issues (01:24 mins)</p>	<p>Twitter</p>

Data on social media reach

Borough/ District	Platform, spend and duration of promotion	Content and asset	Reach (number of people who've seen post)	Impressions (number of times post viewed)	Link clicks
Hertsmere	Facebook, £50, Promoted from 6 Sept for 7 days	We're planning for the future of South-West Hertfordshire - link to video.	5,332	7,648	165
Watford	Facebook, £100, Promoted from 6 Sept for 7 days.	We're planning for the future of South-West Hertfordshire - link to video.	12,475	35,599	602
	Facebook, £50, Promoted from 31 Oct for 5 days.	You've only got until 4 November to have your say on the future of SW Herts	5,259	7,003	111
Dacorum	Facebook, £75, promoted over 14 days.	Were working with the four other local authorities which make up South West Hertfordshire – SWH	8,826		249

	Facebook, £50, promoted over 8 days.	graphic You've only got until 4 November to have your say on the future of SW Herts – generic graphic	8,748		191
St Albans	Facebook, £30, promoted over 31 days	We're planning for the long-term future of South West Herts with other local authorities	4,795	7.878	77



SWHERTS
Joint Strategic Plan

South West Hertfordshire 2050

Realising our Potential



Consultation Report

Part 2: What you said

June 2023

Prepared on behalf of:



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Appendices: *(see separate document)*

- Appendix 1: Correlation between poll and online survey questions
- Appendix 2: Summary tables for online survey questions
- Appendix 3: Summary Report from poll questions
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- Appendix 5: Response by letter
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- Appendix 7: List of promoted sites
- Appendix 8: Recommended responses to Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report
- Appendix 9: Recommended changes to R18 document

1. Summary of consultation

SW Herts 20250 – Realising Our Potential

Launching the ‘SW Herts 2050 – Realising our Potential’ marked the first stage of formal consultation on the SW Herts Joint Strategic Plan (JSP). The plan covers the areas of Dacorum Borough, Hertsmere Borough, St Albans City and District, Three Rivers District and Watford Borough Councils.

Figure 1: The South West Hertfordshire area

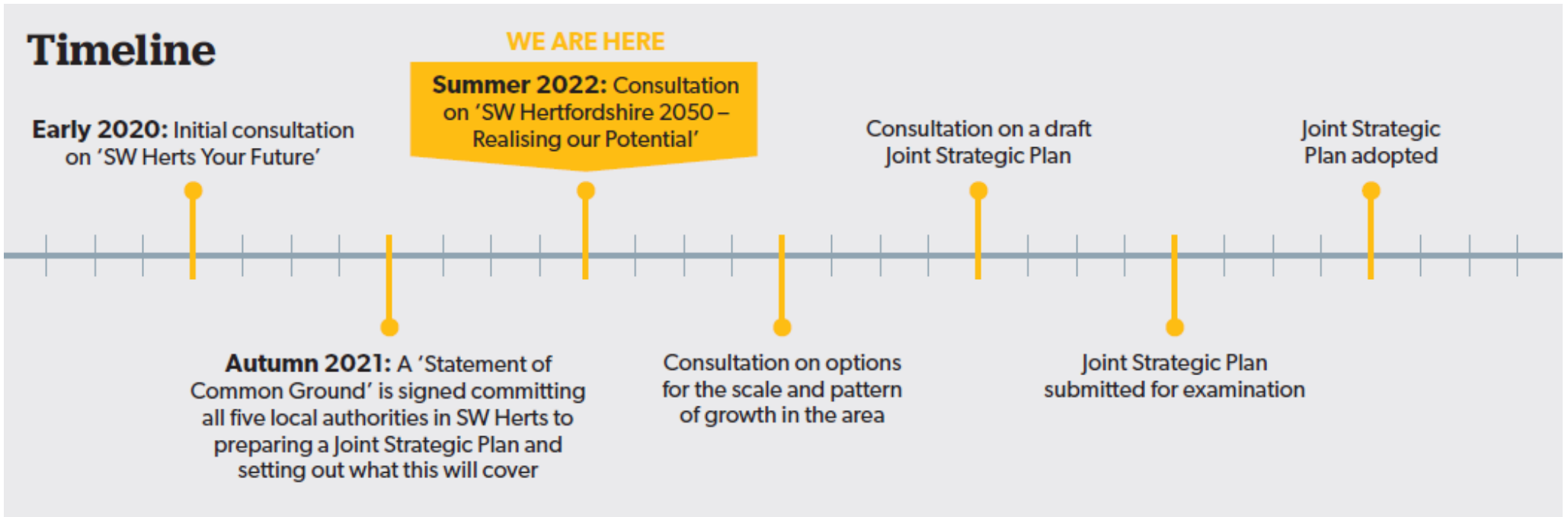


The JSP will set a collective ambition for the area and, once finalised, will set a blueprint for the future of the area to 2050. Eventually it will need to address big issues like the scale and location of new growth, the infrastructure needed to deliver that growth and the response to the challenges of climate change.

At this early stage in the plan-making process feedback was sought on two documents:

1. the main **Regulation 18 Issues and Options document** – ‘South West Hertfordshire 2050 – Realising our Potential’; and
2. an associated **Draft Sustainability Scoping Report**.

Figure 2: Stages of JSP preparation



The main consultation document included a series of questions about South West Herts as it currently is, then asked for feedback on a draft vision and series of objectives for the future, and the types of growth that are the most appropriate to consider. There was also a separate question relating to the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping Report

Approval to consult on these two documents was given at relevant council meetings across all the partner authorities during June and July 2022. The consultation itself ran from 5th September until 4th November 2022.

Methods of response

To make engagement with the consultation material as easy as possible, there were a number of different ways in which the information could be accessed and responses made:

- (a) **JSP website** – Responses could be submitted via a full survey questionnaire, or via the same questions which were embedded in the interactive version of the Regulation 18 (R18) document and on the SA Scoping Report pages of the website www.swhertsplan.com. All documents, including a questionnaire, were also available to download.
- (b) **‘Quick-fire’ poll** - This was hosted on the ‘Give My View’ platform and advertised via social media. The poll contained a series of questions based on the R18 survey, but with a reduced number of questions set out in a simplified form. The poll ran for a three week period from 5th September until 28th September inclusive.
- (c) **Letter / email** – Paper copies of the consultation documents and associated questionnaire were made available from all district / borough council receptions, local libraries and town and parish council offices within the SW Herts area. Responses could then be sent via letter or emailed to haveyoursay@swhertsplan.com.

Further detailed information regarding how the engagement was carried out is contained within Part 1 of this consultation report.

2. Level of feedback and consultation reach

Total responses

Across the different feedback mediums, a total of 3,448 individuals and organisations had their say on the 'Realising Our Potential' consultation. Counting the online survey and poll alone, this provided over 27,300 individual pieces of feedback.

Figure 3: Number of responses received

Method of response	Respondee	Individual pieces of feedback
Online survey	204	2,569
Give My View poll	3,122	24,734 (including 5,198 pieces of written feedback)
Email	138	Not assessed
Letter	1	Not assessed
TOTAL	3,465	N/A

The participation levels for the poll compares very well with the 'Your Future' poll the JSP programme carried out in early 2020. This earlier poll had 3,291 voters, casting 15,042 votes and leaving 2,082 pieces of written feedback.

Response to the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Of the total responses received across all feedback methods, 41 individuals / organisations made specific comment on the SA Scoping Report that accompanied the 'Realising Our Potential' document. This included responses from Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency, with whom it is a legal obligation to consult on these Scoping documents. See Section 5 and Appendix 8 for further information.

Consultation reach

Whilst the above figures show who chose to *respond* to the consultation, it is also relevant to look at data relating to the *reach* of the engagement i.e. how many people were aware of the consultation but chose not to respond.

The reasons for people being aware of the consultation but not responding are obviously not known. However recent research¹ indicates that the reasons for non participation in planning consultations are often a result of the following:

- Lack of awareness of planning.
- Negative attitudes towards the planning system.
- People do not feel their voices will be heard when panning decisions are made
- People feel that the planning system as a whole lacks transparency and that decisions are taken behind closed doors.
- There is a misconception or misunderstanding about what participation means.

As Part 1 of the consultation report shows, the engagement was very well publicised in a variety of ways, and anecdotal information suggests it was also promoted by a number of independent Facebook groups and e-newsletters from organisations such as CPRE Hertfordshire.

¹<https://www.commonplace.is/hubfs/Engaging%20for%20the%20Future.pdf?hsCtaTracking=f2f7a455-4eac-493b-865b-03678a40faab%7Cd2126c33-2397-4433-afaa-61110da90ed2>

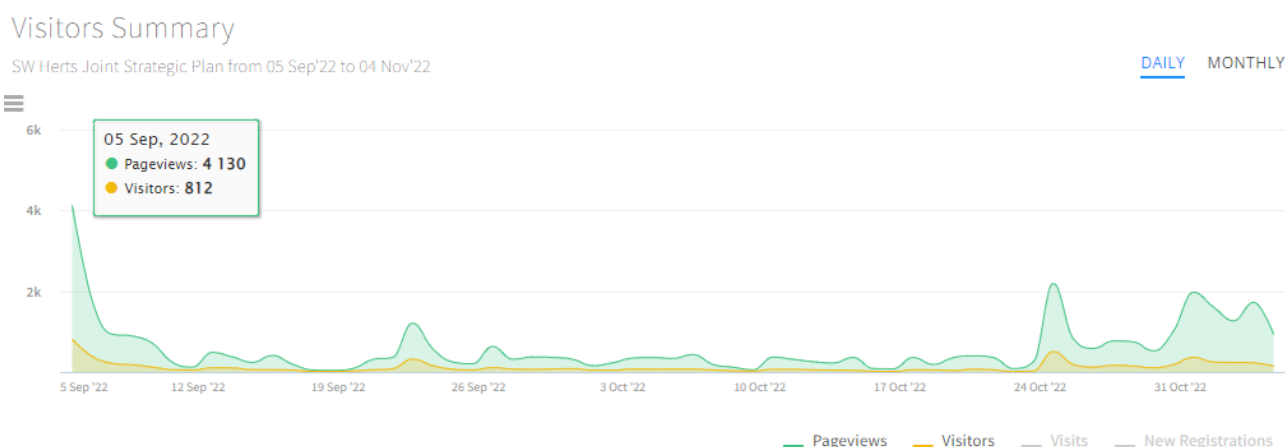
Over 3,000 groups / individuals were either notified directly from the JSP website, by an email from haveyoursay@swhertsplan.com or directly from the Give My View poll platform.

The social media adverts released via the SW Herts council's social media accounts were also seen by almost 45,500 people (see Appendix 17 of Part 1 Consultation Report).

During the course of the nine week consultation period, the JSP website was visited 8,700 times, although this number will include some duplicate visits by the same person.

The graph below shows that visitors to the site reached a peak of 812 on the 5th September when the consultation launched, with other peaks relating to promotional activity, such as press articles or social media posts.

Figure 4: Profile of JSP website 'hits' during duration of consultation



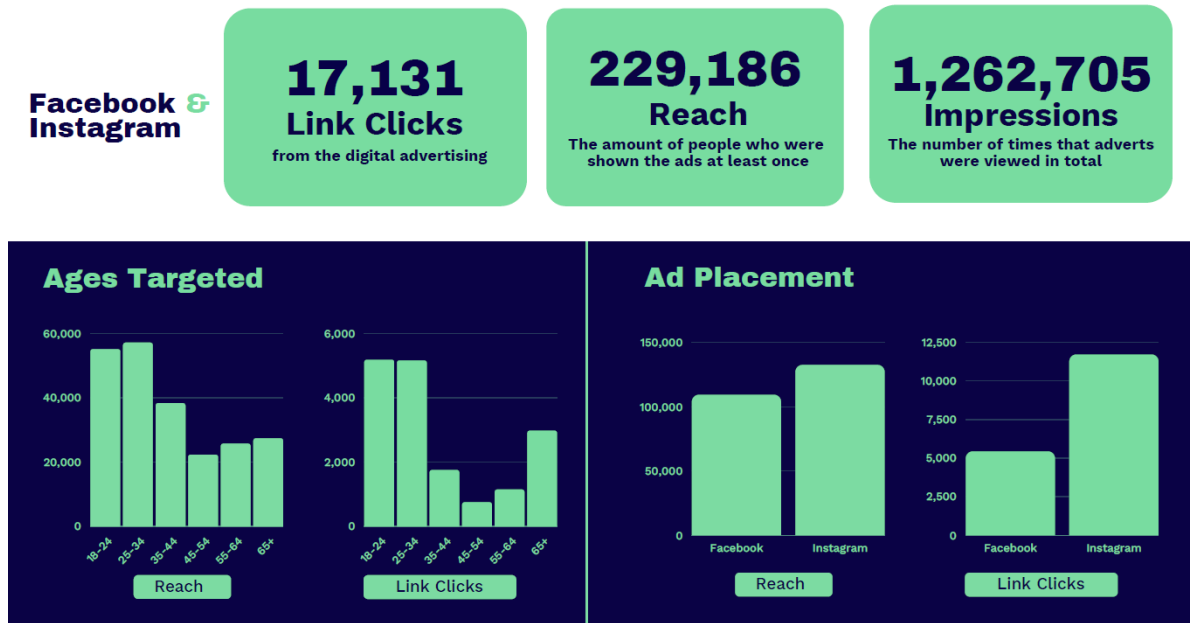
In addition to logging the number of people who completed a survey response, the website also recorded those who had visited the webpages and interacted with them in some way, such as downloading consultation documents. It also recorded those who had visited the website but didn't interact with the material (see table below).

Figure 5: Website visits

Overall totals for JSP website (5/9/22 – 4/11/22)	
Total Visits	8,700 <i>(includes duplicate visits by one person)</i>
Max Visitors Per Day	812
Engaged Visitors	204
Informed Visitors	1,800 <i>(c1,500 visited multiple survey question pages and c1,300 downloaded a document)</i>
Aware Visitors	5,800 <i>(visited website at least once)</i>

The poll hosted by 'Give My View' had even greater reach than the online survey, with over 17,000 people clicking through to the poll website from adverts on Facebook and Instagram, with the adverts viewed a total of 1,262,705 times. A more detailed breakdown of these numbers is given below:

Figure 6: Headline marketing statistics for Give My View poll



Source of visits

When assessing which of the engagement methods were most successful, it is also relevant to look at what prompted respondents to visit the JSP website and/or Give My View Poll site. The email notification sent directly to those who had registered on the website was the most successful method of raising awareness of the consultation and generating responses to the survey, followed by advertising on social media

Figure 7: Sources of website visits (total)

TRAFFIC CHANNEL	AWARE VISITS	INFORMED VISITS(%)	ENGAGED VISITS(%)
DIRECT	2994	604 (20.2%)	42 (1.4%)
SOCIAL	1120	133 (11.9%)	4 (0.4%)
EMAIL	1402	211 (15%)	9 (0.6%)
SEARCH ENGINE	856	178 (20.8%)	2 (0.2%)
.GOV SITES	354	65 (18.4%)	0 (0%)
REFERRALS	1554	206 (13.3%)	9 (0.6%)

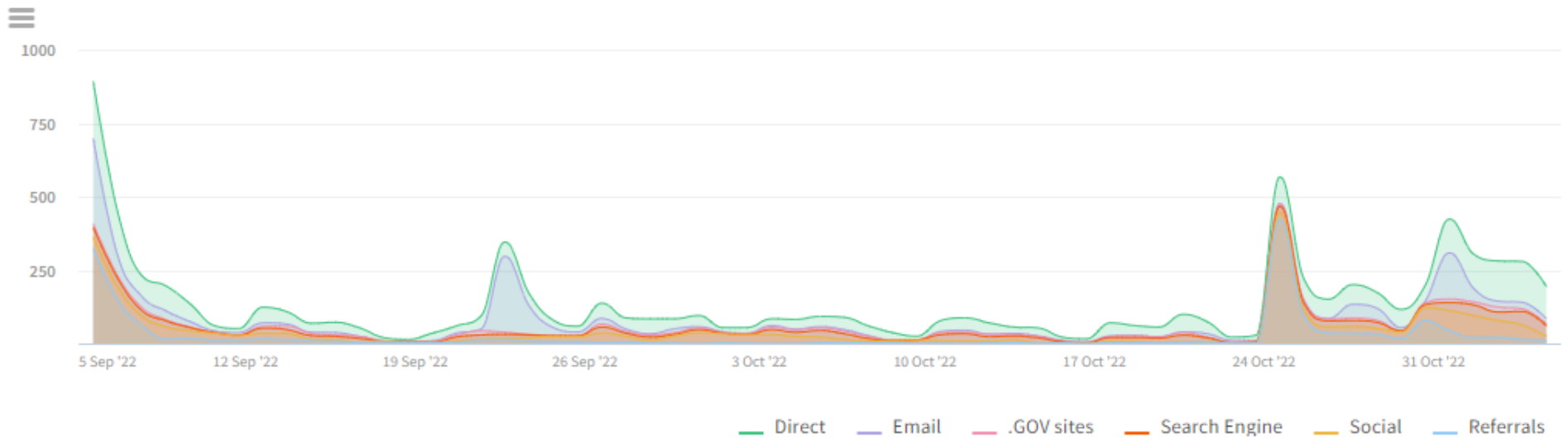
The graph below shows how the numbers accessing the survey varied depending upon how visitors became aware of the consultation. As expected there are peaks of visits from people accessing via links in emails which correlate to when initial and reminder alerts were set to those registered on the website and those who were contacted via the JSP consultation database. Other peaks correlate to the dates when there was targeted social media advertising.

Figure 8: Sources of website visits (over time)

Visits by Channel

SW Herts Joint Strategic Plan from 05 Sep'22 to 04 Nov'22

DAILY MONTHLY



3. Who responded

Significant effort was put in to developing a wide ranging engagement programme, to encourage responses from as many groups and individuals as possible – including responses from 18-25 year olds who historically do not engage in planning consultations.

As set out in Part 1 of this Consultation Report, the engagement programme was informed by a Youth Forum who advised on the best way to encourage younger people to provide feedback. A consultation database was also drawn up for the JSP, comprising the specific consultation bodies and duty to co-operate bodies defined in planning regulations. This database was supplemented by other groups and organisations who had asked to be kept informed, including those who had asked for their names to be added after being contacted by the five district / borough councils. This database will continue to be expanded, with the contact details of those who responded to the Realising Our Potential consultation added, so that they are directly notified of future consultations.

Category of respondents

Those who responded to the online survey were not required to specify whether they were completing the survey on a personal basis or on behalf of an organisation / company. However, an assessment of email addresses, usernames and the content of responses indicates that the online survey was largely completed by individuals, although Hertfordshire Police and several town / parish councils also provided their responses this way. There were also some limited submissions from other groups and organisations, including the Chiltern Society, Landscape Futures - a community interest company - and residents groups.

Similarly, the poll did not formally capture whether the response was from an individual, organisation or company. However, the email addresses provided by participants, and the fact that 89% of respondees completed the poll on their mobile phone, indicates that the majority of participants did so on a personal basis.

There was a particularly good response rate via email from those groups categorised as 'specific consultation bodies' or 'Duty to co-operate bodies'². This included:

- Affinity Water
- Transport for London
- Environment Agency
- West Hertfordshire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
- National Grid
- Historic England
- Thames Water
- Historic England
- Natural England
- Town and Parish Councils – including Shenley Parish Council, Croxley Green Parish Council, Tring Town Council and Chorleywood Parish Council
- Adjoining authorities – including London Borough of Enfield, Buckinghamshire Council and Central Bedfordshire Council.

However, the highest proportion of emails were received from individuals and developers / landowners or the consultants representing them, with the overall split as follows:

² See Statement of Community Involvement for full list of these groups
<https://www.swhertsplan.com/sci>

Figure 9: Number of respondents by category

Category of respondees using email ³	Total number of responses
Specific consultation bodies and DtC bodies	18
General consultation bodies	15
Residents / individuals	45
Developers / landowners / consultants	60
Total	138

Location of respondents

Postcode information was required from everyone who completed the online survey and voted in the poll. No locational information is available from those replying by email.

As shown in the table below, almost three quarters of responses to the survey were located in Dacorum, Hertsmere or St Albans. The distribution of those responding to the poll was broadly similar, except for a much more significant number of those located in Watford responding to the consultation this way. It is also interesting to note the much lower number of people responding to the poll who lived or worked outside of the area, compared to those who responded to the online survey. This is likely to be a reflection of the fact that most poll responses appear to have been from individuals, rather than groups / organisations or those representing landowners / developers.

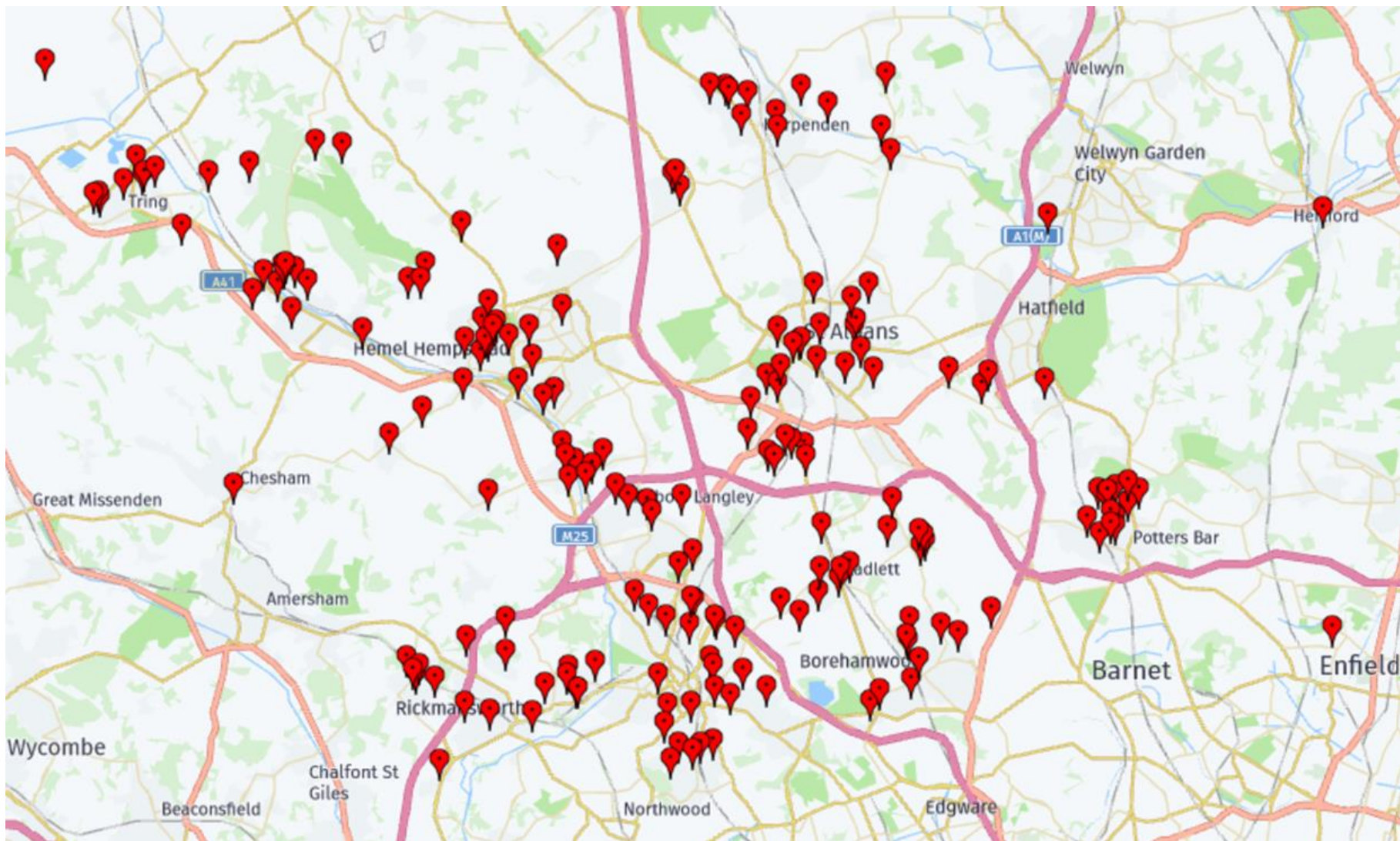
Figure 10: Percentage of responses by area

	Percentage of total respondees	
	<i>Online survey</i>	<i>Poll</i>
Dacorum	26%	28%
Hertsmere	21%	10%
St Albans	21%	23%
Three Rivers	15%	13%
Watford	6%	12%
Don't live / work in area	11%	2%

The postcode information for the online survey responses has been mapped and is shown below. It is interesting to note some clusters of responses, particularly around Potters Bar, which is likely to reflect the survey being promoted by a local group(s).

³ Categorisation based on email address used and content of response

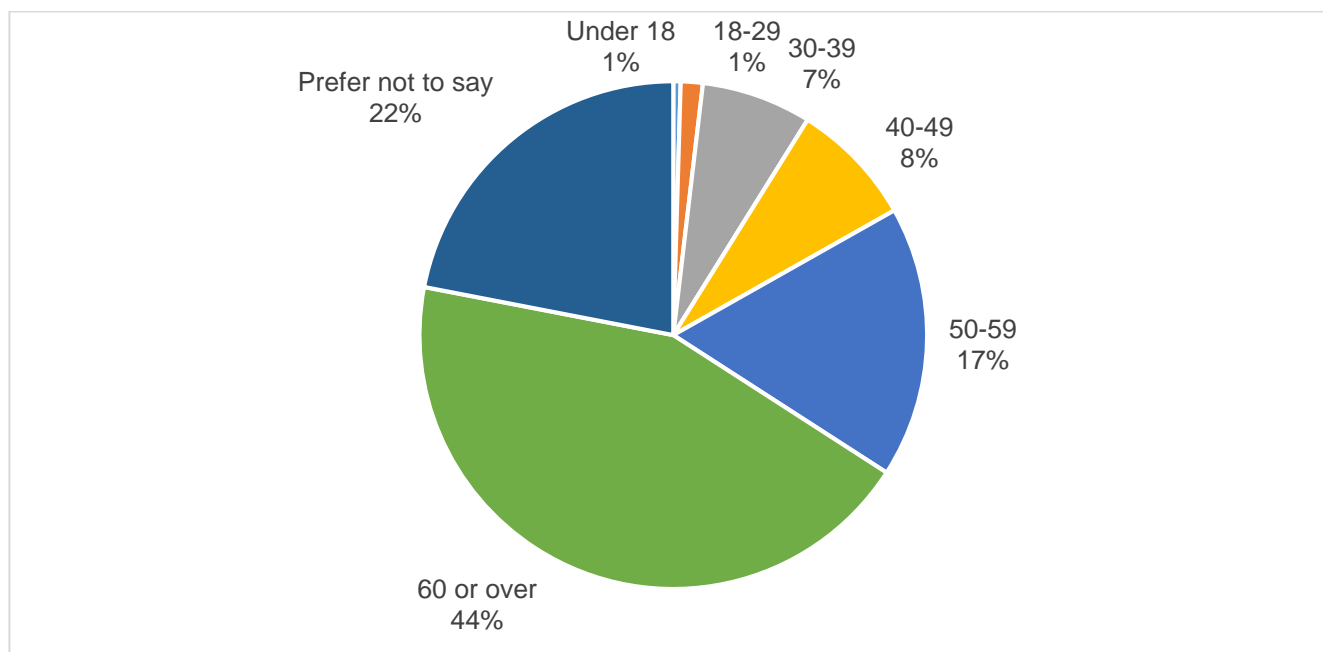
Figure 11: Map showing location of those responding to online survey



Age of respondents

Those completing the surveys were asked to indicate their ages and over three-quarters did so, despite this information not being compulsory. The information provided shows that the survey had limited success in attracting responses from those in younger age groups, with over 60% being over 50. However, the actual number of young people responding may be slightly higher than indicated in the chart below, as there is anecdotal evidence to suggest younger people are less likely to share personal information online, so may form a high proportion of the 22% in the 'prefer not to say' category.

Figure 12: Percentage breakdown of survey respondents by age



The polls proved more successful at reaching the younger demographics, although these groups were still relatively under-represented. The table below shows the proportion of poll respondents per age category for the polls compared to the one carried out in early 2020. Built-ID, who operate many surveys on their Give My View platform, advise that the results seem to reflect their general assessment that younger people are perhaps less active on Facebook and Instagram than they were in the past – preferring to use different social media platforms. The pandemic has also accelerated digital adoption amongst older demographics, so they have become more regular users of social media.

Figure 13: Poll voter ages for 2020 poll vs 2022 poll

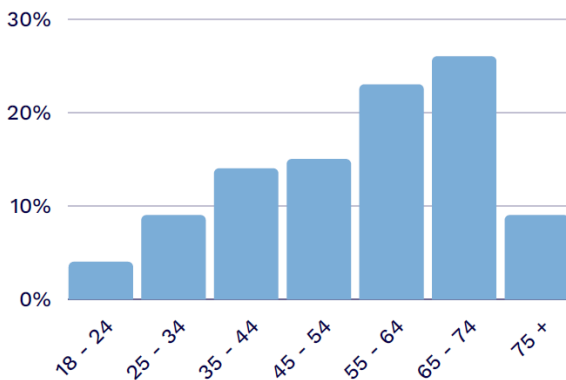
% Breakdown of voters by age	Your Future survey 2020	Realising Our Potential survey 2022
18-24	16%	4%
25-34	16%	9%
35-44	18%	14%
45-54	18%	14%

55-65	17%	22%
Over 65	15%	26%
75+		9%
Prefer not to say		2%

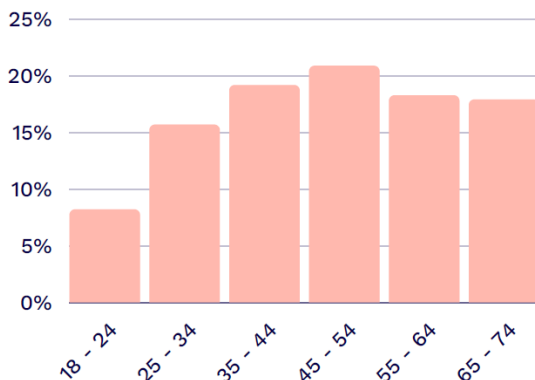
Built-ID have also provided Google analytics data which records visits to the poll, by way of a comparison. This suggests the actual proportion of under 25s who responded to the poll may be higher than the data provided indicates (see graphs below). Again this is thought to reflect a reluctance amongst many younger people to share personal details online.

Figure 14: Age of respondents (2022 poll)

Based on the demographic section of the survey

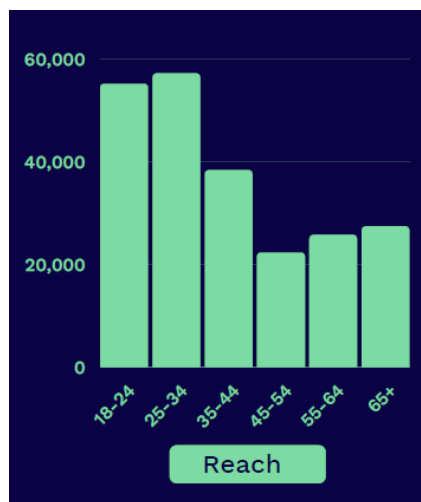


Based on the Google Analytics



This conclusion is supported by the fact that the adverts for the poll on Facebook and Instagram reached a greater proportion of younger than older people:

Figure 15: Reach of social media poll marketing



No information is available regarding the age of those who replied by email / letters.

The high response rate from those aged over 55 does however indicate that the 'digital-first' approach to the engagement did not exclude those who may have historically preferred in-person consultation events.

Ethnicity of respondents

When completing the online surveys, respondents were asked their ethnicity, although this question was not compulsory and 22% of respondents preferred not to specify. Of those who did provide this information, almost three-quarters were white. This is disappointing considering the 2011 census indicates that 19.2% of Hertfordshire residents are from an ethnic minority⁴ and this figure is likely to be even high when data for the 2021 census is assessed.

Figure 16: Ethnicity of survey respondees

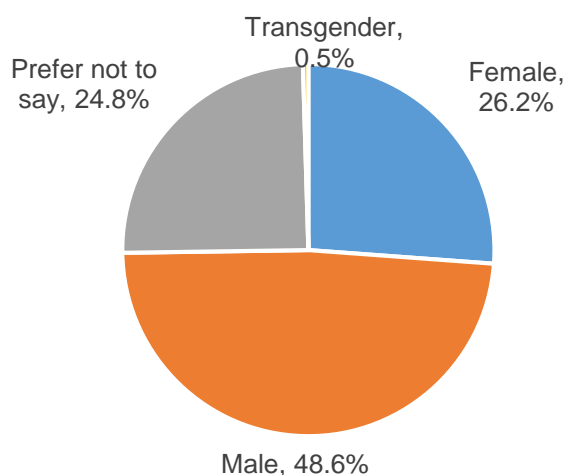
Ethnicity	% of overall survey responses
White – English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	63
White – any other white background	9
Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups – White and Black Caribbean	1
Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups – White and Asian	1
Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups – any other	1
Asian/Asian British – Indian	1
Other ethnic group – any other	2
Prefer not to say	22

No information is available regarding the ethnicity of those who replied by email / letters.

Gender of respondents

For both the online survey and poll, respondents were asked to define their gender. Nearly a quarter of those replying to the online survey preferred not to say, compared to only about 3% of poll respondents. The majority of those who did provide this information for the online survey were male, whereas for the poll the trend was reversed, with the majority being female. This split was reinforced by the Google analytics data for all those who visited the poll website (see graphs below).

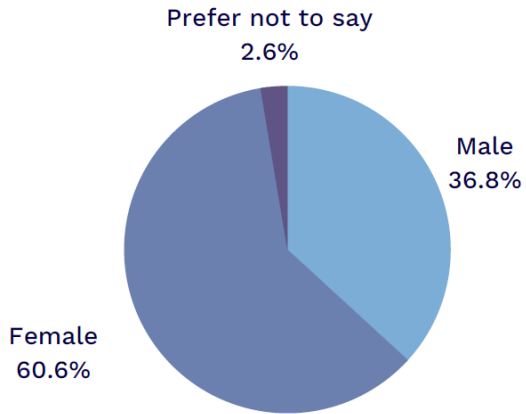
Figure 17: Gender of survey respondees



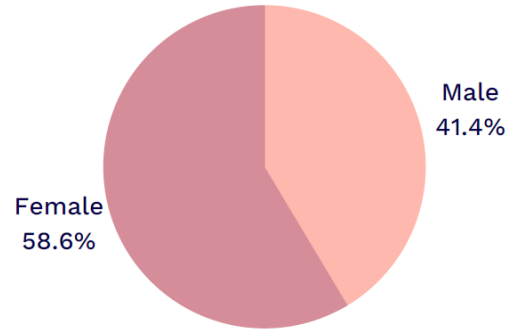
⁴ <https://www.reports.esriuk.com/view-report/f589797e29b14c50a0f7cfd2c4420/E10000015?clear=true>

Figure 18: Gender of poll respondees

Based on the demographic section of the survey



Based on the Google Analytics



No information on gender is available for responses received via email / letter.

4. Response overview

This section of the report provides an overview of the feedback received throughout the course of the consultation. It summarises responses by the themes that formed the section headings within the consultation document, namely:

- (a) SW Herts today
- (b) The draft vision
- (c) Shaping the future
- (d) Making it happen
- (e) Other feedback

This feedback is then sub-divided by the feedback mechanism the respondents chose to use.

Whilst the paper and online survey asked the full set of consultation questions (25 in total, plus one relating to the SA Scoping Report), not all questions had to be completed by respondents. Response rates therefore vary, with broader questions about the SW Herts area now usually generating more feedback than the questions that asked more specifically about the draft vision and associated objectives, and the potential growth types. A full summary of the online survey responses is set out in Appendix 2.

The poll included a reduced number of questions, set out in a slightly simplified format, due to the restrictions placed on character length by the Give My View platform. Similarly, the workshop for sixth form students focussed on a more limited number of questions, in line with the poll. A full report of the poll responses is provided in Appendix 3 and the school workshop in Appendix 6.

In contrast, many of the email responses didn't directly address the questions asked within the consultation document. Whilst some did attach a copy of the survey questionnaire, the majority raised issues or concerns about the SW Herts area, or the planning system as a whole, in a more generalised way. A full summary of email responses received is provided in Appendix 4.

A single response was received in letter form and covered all of the 25 questions posed. This is included as Appendix 5.

Many of the responses – from all sources - were very detailed in nature and many were also often quite place specific. Where matters are considered to be more relevant to informing Local Plans rather than a strategic plan such as this, they have been passed to the relevant district / borough for consideration. This includes site promotions submitted by developers and landowners (see Appendix 7).

(a) SW Herts today

Summary of key messages/issues and any changes arising

The vast majority of those who responded to the early consultation questions – which asked for views about SW Herts today under the themes of 'our world is changing,' 'our environment,' 'living,' 'working,' 'playing,' 'moving,' and 'planning for infrastructure' - agreed with the summary of issues set out in the consultation document. Where issues were raised about one particular section, it was often the case that they were picked up in subsequent sections of the consultation document - as many issues are overlapping.

Many comments reiterated concerns that had emerged from the initial 'Your Future' poll conducted in early 2020, particularly with regard to matters such as:

- Transport – especially the inadequacy of the current public transport network and the need to improve walking and cycling routes;
- Healthcare – including the need for improved hospital and GP provision locally;
- Affordability – particularly the lack of genuinely affordable homes;
- Green spaces - the need to protect the countryside (especially the Green Belt) and existing urban green spaces;
- Water - the increased pressures on water resources; and
- Ways of working - the need for the plan to recognise and reflect recent changes in working practices – both in terms of skills and premises requirements.

Many responses from specific interest groups / organisations not surprisingly wanted more detailed coverage and acknowledgement of their particular area(s) of interest – be that cycling, sports provision, the environment etc.

In terms of the changes recommended as a result of the feedback received, the majority of comments will be reflected in future iterations of the Plan. Comments relating to infrastructure will be passed to consultants carrying out relevant technical work. Some knock on changes are however suggested to the vision and objectives as a result of feedback received. These include more explicit reference being made to water resources and the historic environment.

A more detailed overview of comments follows below.

Our world is changing

Online survey

There were 148 responses to the question '*Are there any other national or global issues or trends that we should take account of when preparing the Joint Strategic Plan?*' 79% of these respondents thought there were other issues or trends that the vision should take account of. The majority of comments provided general feedback on the vision as a whole rather than comments specifically relating to the contents of the 'our world is changing' section. The comments requested an increased focus on climate change, biodiversity, energy efficiency, affordable housing, a limit to development on Green Belt, improvements to the use and quality of water resources and the provision of better physical and digital infrastructure across the area. The majority of these issues are included within the high level vision and will be expanded on as the plan progresses.

Poll

The poll did not ask a specific question about issues and trends occurring in the area that need to be taken into account when preparing the JSP.

Emails / letter

In total, 44 email responses addressed this question across the four respondent types – statutory consultees, general consultation bodies, the development industry and residents. Responses suggested that more reference should be made to the role of the open countryside and designated areas - especially the Chilterns AONB and the Green Belt - in conserving biodiversity, mitigating climate change, supporting food production and enhancing physical and mental health and wellbeing. The role of planning policy in helping to address future trends in healthcare delivery as set out in the NHS Long Term Plan was noted. Other global issues included concerns about both energy and food security, and encouragement to push not just for net zero carbon, but a negative carbon economy, infrastructure and lifestyle. The changing nature of work and shopping patterns with the move to more working from home / hybrid working was highlighted as an issue affecting the future level of demand for different land uses. The development industry responses primarily highlighted the issue of housing supply and lack of access to affordable homes in the SW Herts area.

The letter respondent considered that account should be taken of lifestyle and attitude influences from social media and other contraries.

School workshop

The workshop did not specifically discuss issues and trends occurring in the area that need to be taken into account when preparing the JSP.

Our environment

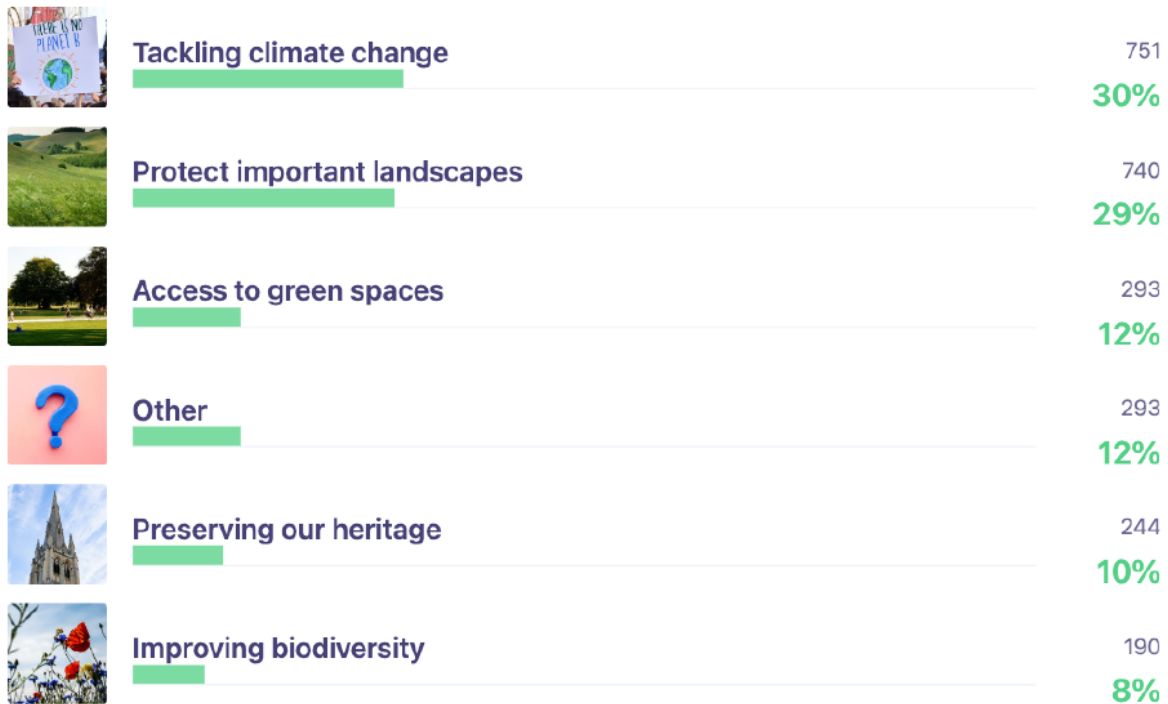
Online survey

In total there were 100 responses to the question *'Do you agree with our summary of the current issues relating to OUR ENVIRONMENT in SW Herts?'* with 74% agreeing with the summary of current issues relating to the environment. There were however suggestions that the document had omitted to include sufficient references to green infrastructure and that there was a failure to fully understand the linkages between different green assets, that the 2050 date for Net Zero was too far into the future, and that the vision failed to mention food security. There was broad support for the protection of the Green Belt, although there was some recognition that Green Belt designation should not represent a complete presumption against any development.

There were 122 responses to the question *'Are there any issues or opportunities (relating to OUR ENVIRONMENT in SW Herts) we have missed?'* 73% of respondents suggested that there were additional issues and opportunities relating to the environment that had been missed in the vision. The majority of responses focused on increasing the emphasis on protecting green spaces and Green Belt land from development. There were a variety of other responses referring to issues of air pollution, green infrastructure, improving water efficiency and quality, and encouraging renewable energy and green construction methods.

Poll

When asked *'What do you think is the biggest issue for the environment in SW Herts?'* the issues of *'Tackling climate change'* and *'Protect important landscape'* scored very highly across all authority areas. *'Improving biodiversity'* scored the lowest on average, with *'Preserving our heritage'* also scoring quite poorly. Those respondents who selected *'other'* rather than any of the options given above cited issues such as infrastructure, design, safety, levels of policing and pollution as key areas of concern.



Emails / letter

In total 83 email responses addressed these two questions across the four respondent types – statutory consultees, general consultation bodies, the development industry and residents. Respondees suggested that greater reference should be made to the role of, and need for the protection of, the open countryside and designated areas especially the Chilterns AONB and the Green Belt. Some also rightly noted that the Chilterns Beechwoods SAC should be differentiated from the Chilterns AONB as the purpose of designation of each is different. The need for clarification of the term ‘green space’ was raised by a number of respondents, who wanted to understand whether it included the wider countryside as well as urban green spaces (which it does).

A number of respondents considered that the Plan should also refer to the higher than average levels of water use in the SW Herts area and the need to tackle the challenge of depleting water resources. Another issue was the role of the JSP in identifying strategic cross-boundary mitigation solutions to relieve existing visitor pressures on key landscape and natural assets, such as the Ashridge Estate.

The letter respondent agreed with the issues raised under the ‘Living’ topic, and reiterated concerns about water abstraction for local rivers and the need to protect all types of greenspaces.

School workshop

One student from the workshop said *“Tackling climate change incredibly important, if we don’t do anything now, we are all going to be doomed. Not doing anything is really irresponsible and I think it’s the most important aspect to improve.”* Students also said they wanted easy access to green space for a place to just breathe and relax. They also felt recycling facilities could be improved in the area.

Living

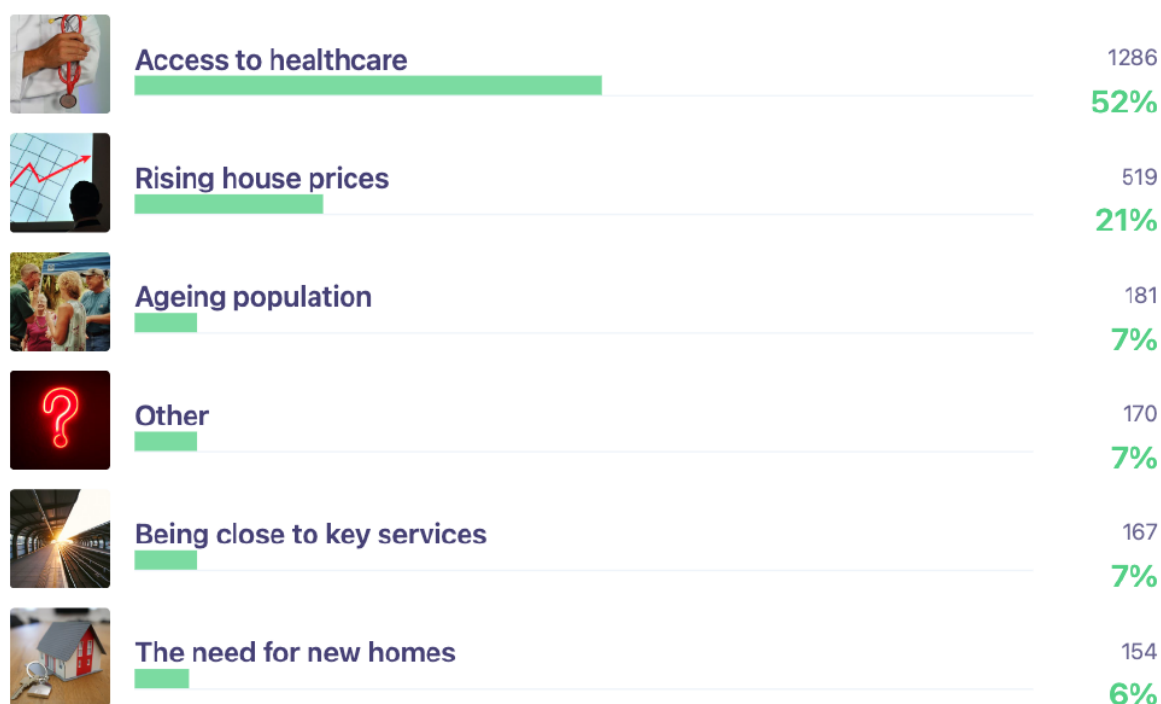
Online survey

In total, there were 113 responses to the question *Do you agree with our summary of the current issues relating to LIVING in SW Herts?* with 65% supporting the summary of current issues. The majority of comments related to future growth in the area and the need to protect Green Belt by prioritising growth on brownfield land. Related to this were criticisms of the Governments standard method figure which provides the basis for setting local housing numbers. The issues of housing affordability also arose as a key theme, with many comments promoting the delivery of social rented homes. There were also comments on the need to consider infrastructure needs alongside those of growth, particularly in relation to health and education, and access to public transport.

There were 110 responses to the question *Are there any issues or opportunities (relating to LIVING in SW Herts) we have missed?* with 68% suggesting some issues or opportunities for living in SW Herts had been missed. The majority of these responses related to housing growth both in terms of location and type, and a desire not to see development on Green Belt land, but wished to see more affordable housing delivered. There were also suggestions that social care and cultural diversity had not been referenced in the proposed vision.

Poll

When asked *'What do you think is the biggest issue to address for those living in SW Herts?'* the issue of *'Access to healthcare'* was by far the most common response. This was followed by *'Rising house prices.'* Issues related to *'Ageing population'*, *'Being close to key services'* and the *'Need for new homes'* all received relatively few votes. The relatively small number of respondents who selected *'other,'* rather than any of the options given above cited issues such as development and construction, protecting the Green Belt and natural environment and various issues related to transport and travel as key areas of concern.



Emails / letter

In total 64 email responses addressed these two questions across the four respondent types – statutory consultees, general consultation bodies, the development industry and residents. Responses raised similar issues as those who replied to the online survey, whilst also stressing the need to ensure sustainable development – balancing the needs of a growing population with environmental constraints. Some considered that the Plan should make greater reference to issues of rural deprivation and of the cost of housing in the area which is unaffordable to those on average household incomes. The development industry responses advocated a Green Belt review and release of Green Belt land in order to address the acute housing shortage across the area. It was also suggested that the vision could also be enhanced with greater reference to the historic environment.

The letter respondent agreed with the issues highlighted under the ‘Living’ themes and highlighted the need to take account of those residents living in private rented accommodation.

Schools workshop

One student who attended the session, said: *“Buying my home will only ever be a dream.”* They wanted to stay living the area and buy a home after attending university, but believed it would be too expensive. Other comments were that *“Homes will always be built, but where they are built is the point that matters”* and one noted fewer new homes being built makes existing homes more expensive.

Working

Online survey

There were 89 responses to the question *Do you agree with our summary of the current issues relating to WORKING in SW Herts?* with 66% agreeing with the summary of current issues relating to working in SW Herts. There were comments relating to the need to encourage more jobs for local people and the need for suitable infrastructure to support different types of employment. The importance of good public transport connectivity was referred to specifically. The changing patterns of work were referenced in some responses and the need for improved provision of digital infrastructure to support more working from home and more agile forms of working space and working patterns.

There were 90 responses to the question *Are there any issues or opportunities (relating to WORKING in SW Herts) we have missed?* with 63% providing details of issues or opportunities that had been missed in relation to working in SW Herts. Comments varied considerably in terms of the types of employment that respondents thought should be encouraged in SW Herts, the scale of units required and the types of uses that are needed. Other comments related to an increased need for physical and digital infrastructure, particularly public transport and access to high speed broadband in support of both traditional and agile working patterns. There were some broad comments on the potential locations for employment growth in the area both in terms of where additional floorspace should be provided and where development should be restricted, such as on Green Belt land.

Poll

When asked *‘What do you think is the biggest issue to address for those working in SW Herts?’* the issue of *‘Ensuring a skilled workforce’* was the biggest issue, followed by *‘Keeping unemployment low.’* *‘Support for agile working’* and *‘Supporting creative industries’* both received around 11% of the vote, with the least popular issue being *‘Support research.’* Quite a high proportion of respondents selected *‘other’* rather than any of the options given. They explained their answers by reference to issues such as the costs and unreliability of public transport to get to work, the need for a wider range of

employment opportunities – particularly in higher paid roles - and concerns about the lack of affordable homes for local workers.



Emails / letter

In total 54 email responses addressed these two questions across the four respondent types – statutory consultees, general consultation bodies, the development industry and residents. Responses highlighted the lack of reference to rural employment opportunities. A number of respondents commented that large scale employment growth on greenfield land is unnecessary as the area has virtually full employment with local labour shortages. Responses suggested potential future employment opportunities, such as life sciences linked to large scale investment in healthcare. A number of respondents suggested that the vision should give more emphasis to changing working patterns, accelerated by the Covid pandemic, including home and hybrid working, which are reducing the need for additional office space. Conversely, other respondents highlighted the ongoing need for industrial and logistics locations to meet national demands of online shopping and changing manufacturing needs.

The letter respondent agreed with the issues highlighted under the ‘Working’ theme and stressed the need to support small businesses and provide public transport discounts to enable students to access local further education facilities.

School workshop

Students complained about a lack of research jobs in the area, but also added they weren’t yet fully aware of what alternative jobs were available locally.

Playing

Online survey

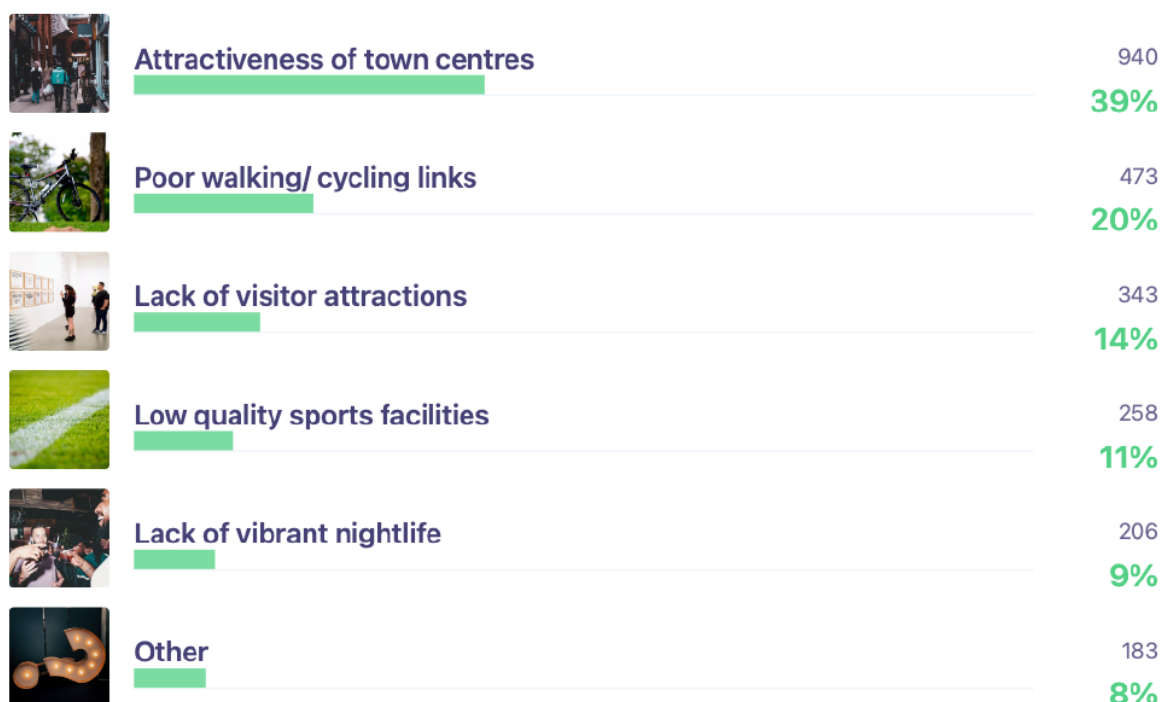
In total, there were 100 responses to the question ‘Do you agree with our summary of the current issues relating to PLAYING in SW Herts?’ with 70% agreeing with the summary of current issues relating to play in SW Herts. The majority of comments referred to the need

to create good quality cycling and walking routes across the area. There were also comments relating to the need for specific sports and leisure facilities, and play facilities for specific age groups. There were also several comments that were not directly planning related.

In total there were 99 responses to the question ‘Are there any issues or opportunities (relating to PLAYING in SW Herts) we have missed?’ with 55% of these responses suggesting that there were key issues and opportunities relating to play in SW Herts missing from the vision. The main comments referred to the need to create good quality cycling and walking routes across the area. There were also comments relating to the need for specific sports and leisure facilities, and play facilities for specific age groups. The role that the natural environment could play in terms of providing tourism opportunities was highlighted, as was the need to support retail units and markets.

Poll

When asked ‘What do you think is the biggest issue to address for those playing in SW Herts?’ the issue of ‘Attractiveness of town centres’ was the most popular responses. This was followed by ‘Poor walking / cycling links’. Only a small number of people chose the ‘other’ option, and those who did so referred to issues such as concerns over personal safety, the lack of community spaces and issues related to public transport costs and links as key areas of concern.



Emails / letter

In total 44 email responses addressed these two questions across the four respondent types – statutory consultees, general consultation bodies, the development industry and residents. Respondee raised concerns about visitor pressures on the natural landscape, especially at locations such as Ashridge, which would only worsen with further population growth. The JSP was considered by some respondents to provide an opportunity to plan strategically to manage visitor impact by providing alternative destinations. The lack of reference to the Public Rights of Way network was highlighted by a number of respondents and although respondents welcomed the reference to the importance of green corridor networks and the link between active travel and connections with nature, others noted the

poor quality and connectivity of many cycleways. The impact of social inequalities on access to sport and recreation opportunities was highlighted, together with the impact that this has on the health and wellbeing of the most deprived members of the community. The role of new, especially large scale development in delivering new recreational opportunities was highlighted.

The letter respondent agreed with the issues highlighted under the 'Playing' theme, but noted that the area will never be able to compete with London's leisure offer and that cycling was realistically only an option for younger age groups.

School workshop

Students considered there were not enough places of interest locally. They complained about littering and shop closures and a lack of affordable facilities or services for teenagers or year-round sports and activities.

Moving

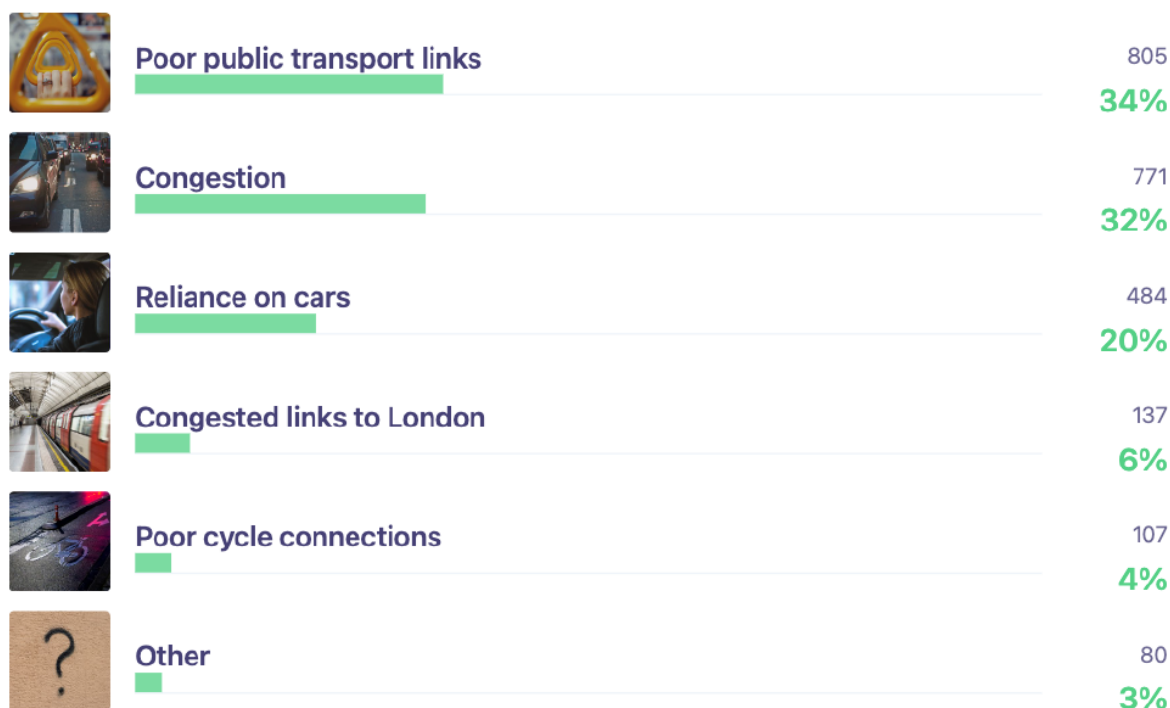
Online survey

In total, there were 110 responses to the question *Do you agree with our summary of the current issues relating to MOVING in SW Herts?* with 66% supporting the summary of key issues relating to moving in SW Herts. The majority of comments referred to the current inadequate transport system particularly east to west travel the level and quality of bus services and poor quality cycling and walking routes. There was an acknowledgement that cycling and walking will not be a solution for some sections of the population. There was a suggestion that any improvements to transport would need to be cross boundary and consistent across the area, as well as being supported by infrastructure.

In total there were 107 responses to the question *Are there any issues or opportunities (relating to MOVING in SW Herts) we have missed?* with 66% stating that there were additional issues or opportunities that should be dealt with in the vision. The majority of comments referred to the current inadequate transport system particularly poor quality and unsafe cycling and walking routes. There was also an acknowledgement that cycling and walking will not be a viable solution for some sections of the population and that any interventions such as promoting electric vehicles will need to be supported by infrastructure. There were also many specific suggestions of schemes and enhancements to the local transport network.

Poll

When asked *'What do you think is the biggest issue to address for those moving in SW Herts?'* the issues of *'Poor public transport links'* and *'Congestion'* were almost equally popular choices, followed by *'reliance on cars.'* Surprisingly *'Poor cycle connections'* was considered to be a big issue with regard to this question, despite being the second highest issue of concern with regard to the *'playing'* question above. Of the very limited number of people who selected *'other'* rather than any of the options given above, most cited issues such as unreliable public transport links, the cost of transport, parking issues and the poor condition of roads in the area as key areas of concern.



Emails / letter

In total 60 email responses addressed these two questions across the four respondent types – statutory consultees, general consultation bodies, the development industry and residents. A number of respondents agreed that east-west travel is a significant issue for the area, with support expressed for the HERT scheme. Issues raised included the difficulty of squaring encouragement of a shift away from use of the private car to alternative forms of transport, bearing in mind the current background of cuts to bus and train services. Poor rural public transport was noted as increasing visitor cars on rural roads and the lack of a frequent and reliable bus service, that is integrated with other forms of transport limits its usefulness to rural residents. The lack of reference to the Public Rights of Way network was highlighted again here, as was the need to improve cycle connections generally, including making links to green infrastructure and green corridors. In terms of growth opportunities, it was suggested that these should focus on locations where sustainable transport can be facilitated.

The letter respondent agreed with the issues highlighted under the 'Moving' theme, but considered that the HERT scheme would do little to increase the overall uptake of public transport.

School workshop

The students felt there were a lot of one-way roads without cycle paths, buses were unreliable and routes were confusing and they wanted to see fewer people using cars for short journeys. They also wanted to see the quality of public transport design improved.

Planning for Infrastructure

Online survey

The online survey asked respondents '*Are there any long term infrastructure challenges or opportunities that you would like to make us aware of as we begin work on the plan?*' This question generated one of the highest response rates of all the survey questions – highlighting the importance that those who live and/or work in SW Herts place on this issue.

In total there were 130 responses to this question, 78% of which stated that there are long term infrastructure challenges or opportunities that they would like to make us aware of as we begin work on the plan.

The issues relating to healthcare were most frequently mentioned. The principal concerns related to Watford Hospital and the fact that this was hard to access - especially for those with mobility issues. Concerns were also raised about local healthcare facilities such as GPs.

Educational facilities were also referenced by a number of respondents, with feedback alluding to the fact that these needed to be located close to demand. The lack of local school places was noted as a factor in increasing congestion in the area.

Another frequently raised issue was the need for safe, reliable and affordable public transport that connects with the right places and serves more rural areas. There were a number of references to the Hertfordshire Essex Rapid Transit (HERT), as it was provided as a case study in the consultation document. The general consensus from those who referenced it was that it seemed a good idea, but further detail was needed to ensure it connected with where people live. The need for high quality pedestrian and cycle links – especially those connecting to rail stations and services was noted.

Poll

The poll did not ask a specific question about infrastructure.

Emails / letter

In total 58 email responses addressed this question across the four respondent types – statutory consultees, general consultation bodies, the development industry and residents. Responses welcomed the strategic approach to infrastructure provision across the SWH authorities and here was further support for the HERT, as above. Comments included the need to ensure that current infrastructure in the area (notably water infrastructure) is adequate to meet additional demand and where required new infrastructure can be located. Some responses suggested that the JSP should promote the transition to a more circular economy with an emphasis on waste reduction, reuse and recycling. The need for more and improved health facilities, both at community / GP level and more strategically, i.e. hospital provision, was raised by a number of respondents.

The letter respondent considered the key infrastructure challenge for the area was to ensure local hospitals were served by expanded bus provision.

School workshop

The workshop did not specifically discuss infrastructure.

Responses highlighted the need to address climate change, provide more job opportunities for young people, improve the balance between housing and green space and improve the sustainability and interconnectedness of public transport.

(b) The draft vision

Summary of key messages/issues and any changes arising

This section is considered to be the key element of the consultation, as it is critical to have a clear vision and set of objectives to guide future stages of plan-making.

The majority of respondents either supported the draft vision, or had neutral views. Many suggested that it should more explicitly address issues that they felt strongly about – such as the approach to the Green Belt, or include more locally-specific issues. However, the vision is intentionally high level, as is appropriate for a strategic scale plan. Some of the detail requested is included in the objectives that sit below the vision, whilst other detail will be added through the articulation of the spatial strategy and thematic policies that will follow in due course. All of these will be subject to further consultation.

Some changes are however suggested as a result of feedback received – including adding reference to ‘health’ and making sure that the wording is clear that sustainable growth needs to benefit both people and the environment.

The vast majority of those who responded to the questions on the pillars and associated objectives supported these, although a lot of amendments to the detailed wording were put forward for consideration. Many of the issues that were flagged as missing from one pillar were however picked up through the wording of the other pillars – as there are overlaps between the themes and a lot of cross cutting issues.

The feedback did however raise a few areas where it is considered the objectives need clarifying or expanding. This includes ensuring that they appropriately reference:

- The historic environment;
- Air quality;
- Both urban and rural jobs; and
- Water resources.

In terms of priority order for the six pillars, there was consensus that the most important pillar was *‘Living green in a healthy natural environment.’* The relative priorities for each of the themes after that differed a little between the poll, survey and email responses.

A more detailed overview of comments follows below.

Vison

Online survey

46 of the 93 respondents to the online survey who responded to the question *‘Does the draft vision statement summarise your aspirations for the future of South West Hertfordshire in 2050?’* answered yes. However, both those who answered yes and no responded to the question *‘Are there any changes you would like to see to the vision statement?’* The most commonly raised issue was that the words were too generic and could apply to many other areas. Others considered that the vision should explicitly say that the Green Belt and green spaces should not be built on. Many used the question to express concerns that the area is already full, with services and infrastructure at capacity.

Poll

The poll used a 'slido' approach to enable respondents to answer the question '*Do you agree with the vision statement for the future of SW Herts?*' 2843 people answered this question, with 63% of votes cast in the neutral to positive range.

Interestingly, of the respondents who gave their age, those in the 18-24 age range viewed the vision statement most positively, with those aged 55-74 being the least positive.

This poll question did not have the facility for residents to leave any free text explanation for their answers.

Emails / letter

In total 44 email responses addressed the question '*Does the draft vision statement summarise your aspirations for the future of South West Hertfordshire in 2050?*' across the four respondent types – statutory consultees, general consultation bodies, the development industry and residents. Of these, 21 respondents answered yes. 41 respondents provided comments to the question about whether any changes were required to the vision. There were requests for 'health' or 'healthy' to be included in the vision and for a strengthening of the commitment to sustainable development through the addition of the word 'environment'. A number of respondents wanted to see the climate emergency placed at the front and heart of the plan's aspirations and for some, the vision was too focussed on growth, rather than protecting and enhancing the area's existing character and assets. A number of responses noted that the objectives should be SMART and measurable in some way in order to enhance the effectiveness of the vision.

The letter respondent did not support the vision and suggested alternative wording – focusing on progressive thinking and fair dealing and a genuine interest in all the area's citizens.

School workshop

The workshop did not specifically discuss the draft JSP vision.

Pillar: Living green in a healthy natural environment

Online survey

The online survey asked "*Do you support the draft objectives relating to LIVING GREEN IN A HEALTHY NATURAL ENVIRONMENT?*" and then gave respondees the opportunity to explain their answers more fully. 75% of the 101 respondents agreed with the draft objectives. The explanations given were quite varied. The most frequently mentioned concern was about the loss of green space and Green Belt that could result from housing pressures, and the fact that the protection of these areas needed to be a key plan objective. Linked to this was a reference to the fact that the loss of agricultural land could negatively impact food security.

Several respondents noted that they were pleased that the declaration of a climate emergency was being taken seriously. However some noted the tensions between the environmental and commercial aspirations of the plan.

A lot of reference was made to the need for very specific actions, such as helping those on low incomes insulate their homes, the need to support micro energy generation and the need to add solar panels to all housing association properties.

Poll

The poll did not ask a specific question about this pillar.

Emails / letter

In total 49 email responses addressed this question across the four respondent types – statutory consultees, general consultation bodies, the development industry and residents. As already raised in relation to previous questions, responses highlighted the need to protect water resources. There was also a request for the addition of an additional objective for new development to have regard to the historic environment. The JSP was also felt to have a strategic role in supporting nature recovery networks and to protect and enhance designated landscapes, the Green Belt and urban green spaces.

The letter responded supported the ‘Living green in a healthy natural environment’ pillar but considered that reducing the use of sand a gravel would not be compatible with current building methods.

School workshop

The workshop did not specifically discuss the draft pillars.

Pillar: Growing opportunities to work locally

Online survey

When asked “*Do you support the draft objectives relating to GROWING OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK LOCALLY?*” almost all respondees (61 out of 79) supported the suggested draft objectives. In terms of the free text explanation, there were no consistent emerging messages. Comments varied from suggestions that commercial space should be converted to affordable housing, to the need to support small businesses and start-ups, rather than just big companies. Some feedback was contradictory, with respondents both supporting the visitor economy whilst another questioned if this sectors should be encouraged in an area that is already busy. The need to ensure the JSP reflected changes in how people worked e.g. the increase in remote working, was noted, with emerging trends and sectors such as online retailing needing particular consideration.

Poll

The poll did not ask a specific question about this pillar.

Emails / letter

In total, 45 email responses addressed this question across the four respondent types – statutory consultees, general consultation bodies, the development industry and residents. Support was expressed for new working patterns including home working and working closer to home, due to the wider benefits – to the local community and businesses as well as helping reduce road congestion. This pillar was considered by some respondents to fail to address the need for industrial/logistics floorspace. The need to achieve a balance between homes and jobs was also noted, especially the need for affordable homes. A number of respondents felt that more reference should be made to the value of the rural economy to the area’s economic base.

The letter responded supported the ‘Growing opportunities to work locally’ pillar but considered new restrictions on permitted development were required.

School workshop

The workshop did not specifically discuss the draft pillars.

Pillar: Living in healthy, thriving local communities

Online survey

A huge majority (85%) of the 80 respondents to the online survey answered 'yes' when asked "*Do you support the draft objectives relating to LIVING IN HEALTHY, THRIVING LOCAL COMMUNITIES?*" The reasons given were varied but quite limited in number.

It was noted that the objectives set out very broad ambition and there as little to disagree with. Other comments ranged from an observation that healthy, thriving communities are dependent on good access to a range of services and facilities and that it was important to create places that people were proud of, as this means they will be well looked after. Some respondents made reference to very specific places and these are of more relevance to district / borough Local Plans rather than the JSP.

Poll

The poll did not ask a specific question about this pillar.

Emails / letter

In total 35 email responses addressed this question across the 4 respondent types – statutory consultees, general consultation bodies, the development industry and residents. As raised in previous questions, the need for affordable housing was raised by numerous respondents. The recognition of the value of links between health, wellbeing and access to the natural environment was supported. The delivery of infrastructure before new homes was also advocated to ensure that new residents have access to services and capacity of existing services is not exceeded. Access to the countryside was seen as an important factor in creating healthy, thriving communities.

The letter responded supported the 'Living in healthy, thriving local communities' pillar, but noted that safety concerns are often a result of perceived dangers rather than actual dangers.

School workshop

The workshop did not specifically discuss the draft pillars.

Pillar: Moving easily in connected places

Online survey

The online survey asked "*Do you support the draft objectives relating to MOVING EASILY IN WELL CONNECTED PLACES?*" and then gave respondees the opportunity to explain their answers more fully. This pillar and associated objectives was supported by 68% of the 87 respondents. Surprisingly, relatively few respondents provided an explanation for their answers. Those who did noted that there must continue to be a commitment to both cars and car use, as other options were often not feasible, especially in rural areas. It was considered that public transport needed to be improved before car dependence would be reduced. One respondent noted the importance of considering wider initiatives such as increased remote working, online shopping and car clubs when planning for the future of the area.

Poll

The poll did not ask a specific question about this pillar.

Emails / letter

In total 38 email responses addressed this question across the four respondent types – statutory consultees, general consultation bodies, the development industry and residents. Responses supported ambitions to improve public transport and the active travel network but some noted the poor quality, infrequency and unreliability of services will hamper achievement of that aspiration. As on previous questions, the lack of reference to the Public Rights of Way network was noted. There was generally support for the focus of growth at sustainable locations. The role of 15 minute neighbourhoods as a means of reducing the need for car journeys and encouraging more local sustainable journeys was noted.

The letter responded supported the ‘Moving easily in well connected places’ pillar, but considered the area was still a long way away from a radical travel transformation.

School workshop

The workshop did not specifically discuss the draft pillars.

Pillar: Building homes and places that people are proud of

Online survey

When asked “*Do you support the draft objectives relating to BUILDING HOMES AND PLACES THAT PEOPLE ARE PROUD OF?*” 62% of the 92 respondents said ‘yes.’ A range of issues were raised by those who chose to explain their answer. The most commonly mentioned issue was the need for more affordable housing – especially social housing. The importance of considering the scale and location to reflect local infrastructure capacities was noted, as was the need to provide homes for younger people and downsizing opportunities for older generations. Also mentioned by many respondents was the need for both existing and new housing stock to be more sustainable and respond to the challenges of climate change.

Poll

The poll did not ask a specific question about this pillar.

Emails / letter

In total 50 email responses addressed this question across the four respondent types – statutory consultees, general consultation bodies, the development industry and residents. Support was expressed for the objective to secure high quality, well designed homes, as well as the need - expressed before - for more affordable homes across the area. Many of those objecting to this pillar did not want to see more building at the expense of the natural environment. Responses emphasised the need to maximise use of brownfield land and for the provision of infrastructure to keep pace with growth.

The letter responded supported the ‘Building homes and places that people are proud of’ pillar, but considered that the energy efficiency of buildings was more important than their architectural merit.

School workshop

The workshop did not specifically discuss the draft pillars.

Pillar: Delivering robust and sustainable infrastructure

Online survey

80% of the 90 respondents replied 'yes' to the question *"Do you support the draft objectives relating to DELIVERING ROBUST AND SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE?"* There were however a number of caveats and comments provided as explanation by those who answered both 'yes' and 'no.' The need to acknowledge the relationship of the JSP to Hertfordshire County Council's Minerals and waste Local Plans, as well as district / borough Local Plans was noted by one of the general consultation bodies.

Some respondents considered that many issues related to infrastructure were due to failures at national Government level to force developers to provide sufficient funding from new development to support infrastructure. Others noted the importance of encouraging renewable energy generation – including small scale schemes.

Other comments were varied in nature and related to issues such as electric vehicles, digital infrastructure and the need to support the circular economy, not just when considering infrastructure but across all new development.

Emails / letter

In total 31 email responses addressed this question across the four respondent types – statutory consultees, general consultation bodies, the development industry and residents. Support for the provision of infrastructure was key to achieving sustainable development although some respondents wanted to see better use made of existing infrastructure as a more sustainable approach. There was encouragement for strategic and integrated approaches to resource and infrastructure management, especially where resources cross-boundaries and the need for a 'larger than local' approach. Support was expressed for recognition of the circular economy and aspirations for waste reduction, as well as for investment in public transport and non-car modes of transport. As noted above, many were concerned that the provision of infrastructure needed to keep pace with growth.

The letter responded supported the 'Delivering robust and sustainable infrastructure' pillar and noted that more public participation around proposal was required at the outset.

School workshop

The workshop did not specifically discuss the draft pillars.

Pillar priorities

Online survey

In response to the question *'Which of the six topics covered by the 'pillars' is of most importance to you?'* a significant majority of the *** responding to the online poll (50%) chose *'Living green in a healthy natural environment.'* This was followed by *'Living in healthy, thriving local communities'* and *'Building homes and places that people are proud of.'* One respondent considered all six pillars to be of equal importance and noted that they were mutually dependent. One respondent who chose the *'Living green in a healthy natural environment'* pillar noted that *"Having declared a climate emergency it is important to do something about it."*

Poll

The poll question was worded slightly differently from the online survey, but was seeking the same feedback, asking *'What should be the highest priorities for SW Hertfordshire in the next 30 years?'* The results are shown below and highlight that, whilst the top three pillars were the same as for the online survey, their order was different. In the poll both the *'Sustainable infrastructure'* (abbreviated from *'Delivering robust and sustainable infrastructure'*) and *'Natural and green living'* pillar (abbreviated from *'Living green in a healthy natural environment'*) received the highest number of votes (56% each), followed by the *'A healthy and thriving community'* pillar (abbreviated from *'Living in healthy, thriving local communities'*). The pillar relating to *'Local employment opportunities'* (abbreviated from *'Growing opportunities to work locally'*) was the fourth most popular choice, whilst this was the least popular on the online survey. *'Well connected living'* (abbreviated from *'Moving easily in well connected places'*) received the least number of votes. However, this may in part be a result of how the wording was abbreviated to fit the poll's word limit specifications and many people picked up transport concerns through choosing the *'Sustainable infrastructure'* option – especially due to this being illustrated by a transport-related image.



Emails / letter

From those who responded to this question, 15 responses felt that all six pillars were equally important. Several respondents noted that all pillars are interconnected and required to create sustainable development in the future. Of the individual pillars, responses were as follows:

- Living green in a healthy natural environment: 15 responses
- Building homes & places people are proud of: 8 responses
- Growing opportunities to work locally: 3 responses
- Living in healthy, thriving communities: 2 responses
- Delivering robust and sustainable infrastructure: 2 responses

The letter respondent considered the *'Living in healthy thriving communities'* to be the most important of the six pillars.

School workshop

The workshop did not specifically discuss the pillar priorities.

(c) Shaping the future

Summary of key messages/issues and any changes arising

This section of the consultation was perhaps the most technical in nature, as it asked respondents for their views on a number of generic growth types that could form the basis of a potential spatial strategy for the JSP.

The views expressed varied depending on the category of respondent and also between the poll, survey and email. Many individuals expressed a strong desire to protect green spaces and the Green Belt, and some considered there should be no further growth in the area at all. Unsurprisingly, responses from developers and landowners were often influenced by the location of the site(s) they were promoting – although some did offer more balanced observations about the relative sustainability of the options suggested.

Growth of existing large settlement was generally the preferred growth type, although with clear caveats regarding density, additional infrastructure needs, the protection of greenspaces etc.

No realistic alternative growth types arose through the consultation. Many suggestions were outside the scope of what planning can influence, or were relevant to all growth types i.e. making best use of previously development land and considering densification.

It was also noted that (a) not all growth types suggested were necessary alternatives, as many overlapped with one another and (b) that more than one growth type would probably need to be taken forward through the JSP.

No changes are proposed to the growth types that will be considered as the JSP progresses as a result of the feedback received. However the responses will be passed to consultants advising the JSP programme on potential spatial strategies, as the information is very helpful in articulating the likely pros and cons, and the broad acceptability or otherwise, of the different approaches.

A more detailed overview of comments follows below.

Online survey

There were 111 responses to the online survey question which asked '*Which option or options do you think is the most appropriate way to shape future growth in SW Herts?*' The most popular choices were (a) *Growth within existing large settlement* (61), (e) *Growth along transport corridor* (28) and (f) *Growing the best connected places* (26). The least popular option was (d) *Growth of groups of settlement*, with only five individuals and three developers / landowners supporting this.

As expected, views expressed by developers / landowners reflect the potential development sites they were promoting. The reason given for people's choices varied, but common themes were the fact that larger settlements tended to have the necessary services and facilities present. However it was also noted that much of this infrastructure was ageing and was hard to replace. There were also concerns about the impact of increased development densities. The need to protect green spaces and the Green Belt was raised several times, together with the importance of making maximum use of brownfield land. Some respondent notes that there shouldn't be growth at any price and

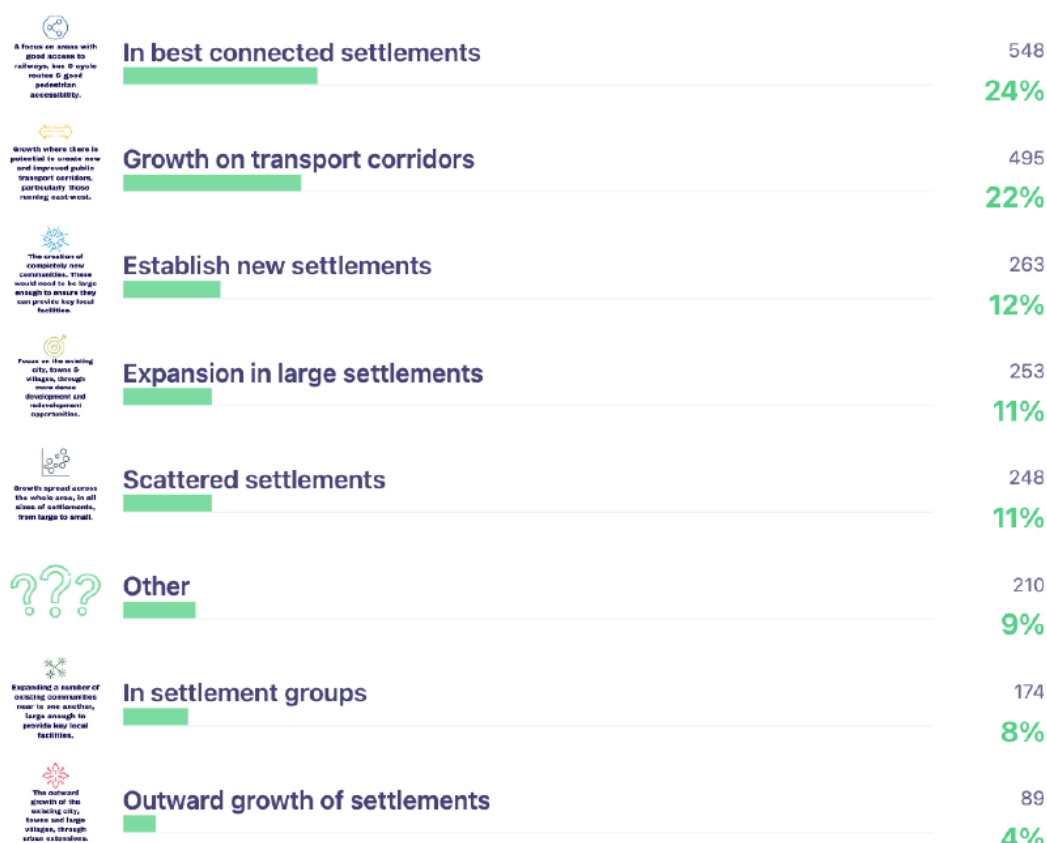
there needed to be further discussions with Government regarding housing numbers, in order to protect the quality of life for existing local residents.

In response to the question ‘Are there any other growth types we have not mentioned that you think should be considered’, no realistic alternative options were put forward by the 90 respondents. Suggestions ranged from encouraging people to downsize, increasing densification and supporting a no growth approach. It was also correctly noted that not all of the options put forward within the consultation were necessary alternatives – as many overlap with one another.

Poll

Those who completed the poll were asked ‘What do you think is the best way to achieve sustainable growth in SW Herts’ and were given the same list of growth types as the survey, albeit in abbreviated form due to the word limits imposed by the poll structure. The icon images did however contain a further explanation of each growth type.

The answers given via the poll varied quite a lot from the answers given via the full online survey. ‘Growth on transport corridors’ was the second most popular choice in both the poll and the survey. However the most popular choice in the poll was ‘In best connected settlements’ rather than ‘Expansion of large settlements’. The idea of establishing ‘New settlements’ was a much more popular approach amongst poll respondent than survey respondents. The growth of groups of settlement was an unpopular approach, as it was for the survey.



None of those who chose ‘other’ and explained their answer actually suggested an alternative growth type. The free text comments mostly articulated the view that there should be no further growth in the area, and/or commentary around the issue respondents considered accompanied growth – such as concerns about healthcare, transport issues and the need to restrict levels of development in order to protect green spaces, the wider landscape and infrastructure capacity. Many advocated the need to make use of brownfield

sites. Others suggested actions that are outside of planning controls, such as heavily taxing second homes and encouraging people to have smaller families.

Emails/ letter

In total 74 email responses addressed this question across the four respondent types – statutory consultees, general consultation bodies, the development industry and residents. Responses varied between those which identified a preferred option and those making comments without expressing a preference. A significant number of responses identified multiple growth options, considering that a combination of options would be necessary in order to achieve the levels of housing growth needed for the area. Comments included requests for the plan to make the best use of brownfield sites, avoid building on Green Belt land, avoid encroaching onto farmland and expressed the view that research has shown urban extensions to be unsuccessful forms of sustainable growth as they promote car dependency. Key considerations should include the capacity of the historic and natural environment to accommodate new development.

Of the individual growth options, the most popular was ‘*Growth in existing large settlements.*’ Reasons given for this choice were that this would be the best way to prevent unnecessary harm to the special qualities of the AONB, its setting and the wider countryside. As above, views expressed by developers / landowners reflect the potential development sites they were promoting with many of them preferring a combination of different options, rather than one single approach.

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| • Growth within existing large settlements | 15 responses |
| • Outward growth of existing large settlements | 5 responses |
| • New settlements | 2 response |
| • Growth of groups of settlements | 0 responses |
| • Growth along sustainable transport corridors | 1 response |
| • Growing the best connected places | 3 responses |
| • Scattered growth | 2 responses |
| • Combination | 27 responses |

The letter respondent agreed with the majority view that ‘Growth within large settlements’ was the best option, but with caveats regarding building densities and height, and the impact on the historic environment.

School workshop

The workshop did not specifically discuss the potential growth types.

(d) Making it happen

Summary of key messages/issues and any changes arising

This section of the consultation received a low response rate compared to others. This is partly due to the fact that the poll did not include the question. Survey responses were also lower in number than for other sections of the consultation. This may reflect that fact that specialist organisations are perhaps more likely to have knowledge of relevant national and international good practice examples than individuals.

Consideration will be given to the examples highlighted as the JSP progresses.

A more detailed overview of comments follows below.

Are there any other 'good practice' examples you feel should be considered for SW Herts?

Online survey

There were 75 responses to this question, 43% of which said that there are other good practice examples that should be considered in the development of the JSP. These included examples of an eco-village in Bedfordshire, the impacts of the significant Green Belt development that has occurred around Nuneaton and Hinckley and examples of sustainable transport infrastructure in France and the Netherlands including metro systems, cycling infrastructure and car clubs.

Poll

The poll did not ask a specific question about this how to deliver future changes and improvements to the area.

Emails / letter

In total 21 email responses addressed this question across the four respondent types – statutory consultees, general consultation bodies, the development industry and residents. A number of good practice examples were put forward, including underground waste systems in NW Cambridge, promotion of the TV and film industry at Borehamwood and the Danish cycle super-highways which are also used by equestrians. The Cambridgeshire Plan was given as a good example of multi-user paths on the service road alongside the tramway.

The letter respondent considered the 'Café 1759' case study example, which included co-located community services, was a concept that should be taken forward in the area.

School workshop

The workshop did not specifically discuss good practice examples.

(e) Other feedback

Summary of key messages/issues and any changes arising

The final question of the consultation was included to enable respondents to raise any issues that they had not had the opportunity to raise. However, most of the points highlighted repeated things mentioned under previous questions. Some landowners / developers used this questions to promote potential development sites. A list of all land promoted through this consultation is included in Appendix 7. This information has been passed to districts to inform their Local Plans, as the JSP is not considering development sites at this stage.

No changes are proposed as a direct result of feedback received to this section of the consultation.

A more detailed overview of comments follows below.

Online survey

Are there any further comments you would like to make on the SW Herts Joint Strategic Plan?

There were 86 comments received in response to this question. This was a broad question and as such there were a wide range of comments covering a wide variety of issues. The comments mainly related to the future growth options for housing of different types to serve the needs of different groups, and the location of this growth particularly in relation to Green Belt land. There were also comments on the need to protect biodiversity and key habitats.

Three documents were submitted as attachments as part of the online survey responses. These were as follows:

- A word document duplicating responses made by a resident to the online survey.
- A copy of The Countryside Agency document 'On the right track: surface requirements for shared use routes – Good Practice Guide (publication date unknown).
- A copy of Cycling UK campaigns briefing – Public Footpaths (May 2017).

Emails / letter

In total 40 email responses addressed this question across the four respondent types – statutory consultees, general consultation bodies, the development industry and residents. A broad range of matters were covered in the responses, including the need to acknowledge the impact of the cost of living crisis, the lack of reference to the Public Rights of Way network which has been raised previously and the need to balance sustainable growth with the protection of the natural environment. The need to both protect the Green Belt and undertake a review were also reiterated here. A number of responses requested clarification as to the role and status of the JSP in relation to Local Plans and other related documents.

The letter respondent noted that travel to school was a key factor in increased car use, noted the importance of flood prevention schemes and good public transport for low paid workers and expressed concerns about the sufficiency of public sector funding available to deliver the suggested plan objectives.

5. Sustainability Appraisal feedback

A total of different 41 groups / individuals gave feedback on the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping Report through the consultation. This included responses from the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England, who are statutory consultees for Sustainability Appraisals and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) matters. The number of replies by type of respondents is illustrated below.

Figure 19: Response to the SA Scoping by respondent category

Category of respondent	Number of responses
Statutory Consultees (for the purpose of Sustainability Appraisal)	3
Other consultation bodies	5
Residents / individuals	17
Landowners / developers	16
Total	41

Four additional respondents made reference to the SA Scoping Report in their responses, but did not make any comment on its actual content.

The feedback received has been considered by both Officers and the JSP's specialist consultants, LUC.

The responses from the statutory consultees was generally supportive in nature. A number of changes have however been suggested to the SA Scoping Report to ensure it is as robust as possible. This includes referencing additional key publications and baseline information, together with some changes to the Sustainability Appraisal issues and associated framework, to ensure it is as comprehensive as possible.

Feedback from other parties was more varied in nature. Many comments related to the JSP document and process rather than the SA Scoping Report itself. Lots of feedback related to needing more detailed information and justification relating to various matters within the report. The SA is not the appropriate place for this detail – especially an SA for what is intend to be a strategic-level plan. Several comments related to a misunderstanding about the role and regulatory context that surround SA Reports and why issues such as Green Belt designations and housing needs aren't assessed in the report. Others respondees stated that they found the document hard to follow. Whilst the content and coverage of SA/SEA Scoping Reports is determined by legislation, consideration will be given to how future iterations of the SA are presented to try to make it more accessible to as wide a readership as possible. This might include providing a glossary of terms and a non technical summary.

A number of the comments from developers / land promoters related to the growth types and expressed concerns that the assessment of these was not sufficiently nuanced and didn't take account of the perceived benefits they think their site(s) would bring. However, the assessment of growth types was not intended to be site specific. Once detailed site options are known, then the will be assessed in more detail through the ongoing sustainability partial process.

Appendix 8 provides a summary of all comments received, together with a response to key issues and whether or not any changes are required to the Scoping Report as a result of the feedback. Some additional clarification changes will also be made to the document as a result of suggestions from Officers from the JSP partner authorities.

Some further changes will also need to be made to the SA Scoping to reflect the proposed changes to the vision and objectives outlined in Appendix 9. An updated SA Scoping

Report will be issued in advance of the JSP reaching its next Regulation 18 stage, which is scheduled to consider a draft set of spatial options (see Figure 2).

6. Summary of changes proposed in response to feedback on the R18 document

Contextual information

Whilst many helpful comments and suggestions have been provided relating to the 'SW Herts today,' 'Shaping the future' and 'Making it happen' sections of the consultation document, it is not proposed to update this text at the current time. This information was provided as context for the consultation and to ensure that those involved in the JSP programme had a full understanding of the issues and challenges faced in the area. The wording will not be carried forward into the next iteration of the JSP document in its present form. However, as set out in Appendix 9, it is recommended that many of these suggestions are noted and taken forward through:

- Information being passed on to relevant consultants to inform technical work;
- Amending / updating the Topic Papers that will continue to accompany and inform future iterations of the JSP;
- Reflecting the points in the wording of future iterations of the JSP itself; and/or
- Influencing responses to consultation documents published by third parties.

Draft vision

The sections of the R18 document that will be directly carried forward are the vision statement and associated objectives. It is important that any necessary changes to this text is made as soon as possible so that a final version, endorsed by all of the JSP partner authorities, is available to inform technical work and help shape consideration of the next plan preparation stage. This next stage is scheduled to be another Regulation 18 document setting out spatial options for growth (see Figure 2).

Some small but significant changes are suggested to the both vision statement itself and the objectives that sit below the six pillars. These recommended changes are set out in Appendix 9, and summarised below:

- **Vision:** Amend wording to include reference to 'healthy' and make sure that the vision seeks to make the future better for both people and the environment.
- **Pillar: Living green in a healthy natural environment:** A minor wording change to the objective 'Commit to net zero carbon' to ensure its phrasing matches that of the other objectives, and the addition of reference to the protection of water resources under the 'Create sustainable buildings and infrastructure' objective.
- **Pillar: Growing opportunities to work locally:** Add clarification to 'Create space to growth' objective to make sure it is clear that it applies to employment sectors in both urban and rural areas.
- **Pillar: Living in healthy, thriving local communities:** Add a new objective to refer to the need to improve air quality.
- **Pillar: Moving easily in connected places:** A minor wording change to refer to 'neighbourhoods' in the plural under the 'Create walkable neighbourhoods' explanatory text.
- **Pillar: Building homes and places that people are proud of:** Add a new objective to refer to the historic environment.

The fact that the list of proposed changes is relatively short is in part due to the fact that the consultation was closely informed by the informal 'Your Future' poll carried out in 2020⁵. This asked a number of questions about what respondents liked about the SW Herts area and what were their concerns for the future. This provided a good basis for formal work on

⁵ <https://www.swhertsplan.com/what-you-have-already-told-us>

the JSP to progress. The vision and objectives were also drawn up following a series of stakeholder workshops held in early 2022 involving a Youth Forum, Officers, elected Members and key stakeholders⁶. This previous informal engagement has helped ensure key issues and challenges were appropriately reflected within the 'Realising our Potential' document and reinforces the importance of maintaining a regular, open dialogue with those who the plan will most impact.

⁶ <https://www.swhertsplan.com/sw-herts-vision>



SWHERTS
Joint Strategic Plan

South West Hertfordshire 2050

Realising our Potential



Consultation Report

Part 2: What you said (Appendices)

June 2023

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Correlation between poll and online survey questions

Survey question	Correlating poll question(s)
SW HERTS TODAY	
Our World is changing	
(1) <i>Are there any other national or global issues or trends that we should take account of when preparing the Joint Strategic Plan?</i> Y/N	N/A
SW Herts today (a) - Our environment	
(2) <i>Do you agree with our summary of the current issues relating to OUR ENVIRONMENT in SW Herts? Y/N</i>	What do you think is the biggest issue for the environment in SW Herts?* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling climate change • Protect important landscapes • Access to green spaces • Preserving our heritage • Improving biodiversity
(3) <i>Are there any issues or opportunities (relating to OUR ENVIRONMENT in SW Herts) we have missed? Y/N</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other
SW Herts today (b) - Living	
(4) <i>Do you agree with our summary of the current issues relating to LIVING in SW Herts? Y/N</i>	What do you think is the biggest issue for those living in SW Herts?* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to healthcare • Rising house prices • Ageing population • Being close to key services • The need for new homes

<i>(5) Are there any issues or opportunities (relating to LIVING in SW Herts) we have missed? Y/N</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other
SW Herts today (c) - Working	
<i>(6) Do you agree with our summary of the current issues relating to WORKING in SW Herts? Y/N</i>	<p>What do you think is the biggest issue for those working in SW Herts?*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring a skilled workforce • Keeping unemployment low • Support for agile working • Supporting creative industry • Supporting research
<i>(7) Are there any issues or opportunities (relating to WORKING in SW Herts) we have missed? Y/N</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other
SW Herts today (d) - Playing	
<i>(8) Do you agree with our summary of the current issues relating to PLAYING in SW Herts? Y/N</i>	<p>What do you think is the biggest issue for those playing in SW Herts?*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attractiveness of town centre • Poor walking / cycling links • Lack of visitor attractions • Low quality sports facilities • Lack of vibrant nightlife
<i>(9) Are there any issues or opportunities (relating to PLAYING in SW Herts) we have missed? Y/N</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other
SW Herts today (e) - Moving	
<i>(10) Do you agree with our summary of the current issues relating to MOVING in SW Herts? Y/N</i>	<p>What do you think is the biggest issue for those moving in SW Herts?*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor public transport links • Congestion • Reliance on cars • Congested links to London

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor cycle connections • Other
(11) <i>Are there any issues or opportunities (relating to MOVING in SW Herts) we have missed? Y/N</i>	
Planning for infrastructure	
(12) <i>Are there any long term infrastructure challenges or opportunities that you would like to make us aware of as we begin work on the plan? Y/N</i>	N/A
	What one change would you like to see happen?
VISION PILLARS AND OBJECTIVES	
The draft vision	
(13) <i>Does the draft vision statement summarise your aspirations for the future of South West Hertfordshire to 2050? Y/N</i>	Do you agree with this vision statement for the future of SW Herts?
(14) <i>Are there any changes you would like to see to the vision statement? Y/N</i>	N/A
Pillar: Living green in a healthy natural environment	
(15) <i>Do you support the draft objectives relating to LIVING GREEN IN A HEALTHY NATURAL ENVIRONMENT? Y/N</i>	N/A
Pillar: Growing opportunities to work locally	
(16) <i>Do you support the draft objectives relating to GROWING OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK LOCALLY? Y/N</i>	N/A
Pillar: Living in healthy, thriving local communities	
(17) <i>Do you support the draft objectives relating to LIVING IN HEALTHY, THRIVING LOCAL COMMUNITIES? Y/N</i>	N/A
Pillar: Moving easily in connected places	
(18) <i>Do you support the draft objectives relating to MOVING EASILY IN CONNECTED PLACES? Y/N</i>	N/A
Pillar: Building homes and places that people are proud of	
(19) <i>Do you support the draft objectives relating to BUILDING HOMES AND PLACES THAT PEOPLE ARE PROUD OF? Y/N</i>	N/A
Pillar: Delivering robust and sustainable infrastructure	
(20) <i>Do you support the draft objectives relating to DELIVERING ROBUST AND SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE? Y/N</i>	N/A
Pillar priority	

<p>(21) Which of the six topics covered by the 'pillars' is of most importance to you?</p>	<p>What should be the highest priorities for SW Hertfordshire in the next 30 years?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural and green living • Local employment opportunities • A healthy and thriving community • Well-connected living • Quality homes and places • Sustainable infrastructure
<p>SHAPING THE FUTURE</p>	
<p>Shaping the future</p>	
<p>(22) Which option or options do you think is the most appropriate way to shape future growth in SW Herts?</p> <p>(a) Growth within existing large settlements (b) Outwards growth of existing large settlements (c) New settlements (d) Growth of groups of settlements (e) Growth along key transport corridors (f) Growing the best connected places (g) Scattered growth</p>	<p>What do you think is the best way to achieve sustainable growth in SW Herts:</p> <p>(a) Expansion in large settlements (b) Outward growth of settlements (c) Establish new settlements (d) In settlement groups (e) Growth on transport corridors (f) In best connected settlements (g) Scattered settlement</p>
<p>(23) Are there any other growth types we have not mentioned that you think should be considered? Y/N</p>	<p>(h) Other</p>
<p>MAKING IT HAPPEN</p>	
<p>Making it happen</p>	
<p>(24) Are there any other 'good practice' examples you feel should be considered for SW Herts? Y/N</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>(25) Are there any further comments you would like to make on the SW Herts Joint Strategic Plan? Y/N</p>	

Summary tables for online survey questions

The following tables provide a summary of the comments received via the online survey. This includes responses received via the full survey and those via individual questions within the interactive document.

Please note that:

- It was not always easy to distinguish which category a respondent fell into, as only an email address and username was provided when completing survey responses.
- Any duplicate responses are excluded, as are any responses where no specific answer was given.
- Comments were sometimes received that were not specifically relevant to the question being asked or were not directly planning related issues. Where relevant, these comments have been considered in relation to other questions in the consultation document, whilst in other cases they have been noted but not directly responded to in the summaries below.
- Responses that included any inappropriate language have been excluded for the summary text, although responses to Yes / No questions have been included.

Our world is changing

Q1. Are there any other national or global issues or trends that we should take account of when preparing the Joint Strategic Plan?

Source of response	YES	NO
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies (6)	2	4
General consultation bodies (7)	6	1
Residents / individuals (130)	106	24
Landowners / developers (5)	3	2
Total	117	31
	148	

The following specific consultation bodies responded to this question:

- Hertfordshire County Council
- Wigginton Parish Council
- Herts Police
- Redbourn Parish Council

- Croxley Green Parish Council
- Aldbury Parish Council

The following provides a summary of key points raised, both by people who agreed and disagreed with the question. Those points raised more than once are shown by asterisks to denote the number of times an issue was mentioned by different respondees.

Summary of key issues raised	Response	Recommended change(s)
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should identify key comparative advantages that SW Herts has in terms of skills, infrastructure and location. • Need to improve our food and energy security by producing more in the UK and relying less on other countries. • The main points omit sustainability and decline in all species which will have consequences for human sustainability. The plan should address the fundamental challenges which will affect all communities as we attempt to live within renewable sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision document provides contextual information relating to SW Herts as well as presenting opportunities for the future. • The proposed objectives that sit below the draft vision include reference to green energy generation • The JSP is ambitious in putting the environment and sustainability at the heart of its vision, but it is deliberately high level. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. 	<p>Add a more explicit reference to farming and food security. This would logically sit under the 'Living green in a healthy natural environment' pillar.</p>
General consultation bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need for improved sports and leisure facilities • Climate change- JSP needs to embrace net zero carbon and set clear policies for dealing with climate change *** • Biodiversity Crisis • Herts housing figures are over inflated and should be revised. ** • All authorities should update their brownfield registers. • JSP needs to address and identify solutions to nature recovery. • Conservation sites such as Chilterns Beechwoods SAC should be protected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The JSP is ambitious in putting the environment and sustainability at the heart of its vision but it is deliberately high level. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • The responsibility for updating brownfield registers is for individual local authorities and not the JSP. • Agree that water resources should be more explicitly referenced in the objectives. 	<p>Amend the '<i>Create sustainable buildings and infrastructure</i>' objective under the 'Living green in a healthy natural environment' pillar to add the words '<i>.... <u>and protect water resources</u></i>' to the end of the explanatory text.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New development should provide a biodiversity net gain of at least 10% with 20% in the Chilterns AONB. • Water usage, water quality and reducing the risk of flooding need to be fully addressed as a key priority in the JSP and should be a strategic approach to providing wastewater treatment facilities. • Sustainability should be an overarching aim of the whole plan. • Housing development should respect the Green Belt.** • Should recognise the impacts of HS2 and compensate for the impacts on biodiversity and landscape. • Protecting the environment, better transport links, business rates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed growth strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan with regard to quantum, location or type of housing– these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. 	
<p>Residents / individuals</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change a major or the most important issue ***** • Enhancement and protection of biodiversity and nature given high priority. ***** • Stop building on Green Belt and make more use of brownfield land. ***** • Deliver truly affordable housing. ***** • Include issues of food security and supplies. ***** • Should plan for increased use of green energy production and energy efficient homes as well as the required infrastructure e.g. EV charging points. ***** • Importance of creating communities with high levels of social capital and social mobility. *** • Need to improve broadband connectivity. *** • Should recognise that environment is not just about climate change. ***** • Green spaces should be left alone to nature. **** • Flood risk should be given greater emphasis** • Improvements to transport infrastructure should be proposed. *** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The JSP is ambitious in putting the environment and sustainability at the heart of its vision but it is deliberately high level. As it is a strategic plan. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • The ‘Building homes and places that people are proud of’ pillar already includes reference to the need for homes people can afford. • The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed growth strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan with regard to quantum, location or type of housing– these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • The JSP will allow for flexibility within individual districts’ Local Plans. • Agree that water resources should be more explicitly referenced in the objectives. More 	<p>Add a more explicit reference to farming and food security. This would logically sit under the ‘Living green in a healthy natural environment’ pillar.</p> <p>Amend the ‘<i>Create sustainable buildings and infrastructure</i>’ objective under the ‘Living green in a healthy natural environment’ pillar to add the words ‘.... <u>and protect water resources</u>’ to the end of the explanatory text.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan should reflect traffic issues and the air pollution and congestion that comes with it as the area will always be through route. ** • Increase the capacity for health and education infrastructure (including when new housing is built so the infrastructure can cope). **** • Housing needs should be based on latest information in the Census and ONS data, they should also be worked out in a SW Herts specific way and not using the Governments standard method. • The Plan should be strategic and should allow for flexibility at a local authority level. • Self-efficiency /self-generation for energy should be encouraged (less reliance on other regions and from abroad including food production).***** • More on ensuring a durable water supply.** • Should plan for more homes for smaller families and single persons. • Any proposals should include input from children and young people. • Bridle paths need to be regulated. • Effect of Brexit / not being in the EU. **** • Challenging global and UK economy. *** • Energy costs and cost of living crisis. *** • Levelling up agenda/changes to planning strategies and local implications on people being priced out the area **. • Illegal immigration. ** • Effect of pandemic e.g. changing employment and work patterns. 	<p>detailed proposals to help tackle this issue will be considered as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation activities have specifically sought to target young people to ensure that they have input into the process and that their views have been taken into account. • It is accepted that changing work patterns has created a demand for different technologies across the whole area. The objectives incorporate a desire to enhance digital infrastructure across the area to ensure connectivity for everyone. • Acknowledge the changes to energy demands and costs since the consultation document was published. The vision incorporates an objective for green energy generation. The pillar ‘moving easily in connected places’ includes high level vision objectives relating to improving public transport connectivity and creating walkable neighbourhoods. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation • The JSP will take a strategic approach to infrastructure (including transport) across SW Herts. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • Many of the issues related to Brexit, the national economy and national policies on issues such as energy are matters that the JSP and wider planning system can reflect, but cannot control. 	
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Landowners / developers / consultants		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a significant need to build more homes in SW Herts and the UK. • Housing delivery in SW Herts faces challenges making viability different to other areas- construction costs, supply chain issues, onerous planning regulations, delays in planning system, costs of financial contributions sought by County Council which are not being viability tested. • Plan should support growth of online retail and the need for warehouse and distribution floorspace in key locations. • Herts has an expanding sector of science, technology and research and development and links should be made to education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed growth strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan with regard to quantum, location or type of housing or employment floorspace– these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • Matters such as development viability will be tested as the JSP progresses, and also through more detailed district-level Local Plans. 	None.

SW Herts today

Q2. Do you agree with our summary of the current issues relating to OUR ENVIRONMENT in SW Herts?

Source of response	YES	NO
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies (4)	2	2
General consultation bodies (8)	4	4
Residents / individuals (105)	65	40
Landowners / developers (3)	3	0
Total	74	46
	100	

The following specific consultation bodies responded to this question:

- Herts Police
- Redbourn Parish Council
- Croxley Green Parish Council
- Aldbury Parish Council

The following provides a summary of key points raised, both by people who agreed and disagreed with the question. Those points raised more than once are shown by asterisks to denote the number of times an issue was mentioned by different respondents.

Summary of key issues raised	Response	Recommended change(s)
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage more emphasis on how the environment can encourage and enable more physical activity. • Suggest reference to ‘access to green space’ added to ensure that physical activity and health are considered. Networks of open space provide key opportunities for sport and physical activity. These networks provide opportunities for informal activity and children’s play encouraging families to visit and engage with the environment. • Not enough emphasis on protecting the Green Belt where it performs well against the purposes in the NPPF. • Quality farmland should not be built on. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The JSP vision is ambitious in putting the environment and sustainability at the heart of its vision but it is deliberately high level. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed growth strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan with regard to quantum, location or type of housing – these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • The pillar ‘Living in healthy, thriving local communities’ already references the objective, ‘provision of healthy places for people to live that support physical and mental wellbeing’. • The pillar ‘Living green in a healthy natural environment’ already includes an objective relating to ‘Bring people closer to nature’ which encompasses protecting the area’s green spaces, integrating nature into all new development and improving existing links. 	None.
General consultation bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document omits discussion of demand and supply of green infrastructure. • Refers to green assets in an outdated way and neglects to stress the importance of green infrastructure to offering functionality for people, wildlife and water. • 2050 as a target date is too far away. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2050 target date for Net Zero is a national target that is reflected in the SW Herts authorities’ declaration of a climate emergency. • The JSP vision is ambitious in putting the environment and sustainability at the heart of 	None.

	<p>its vision but it is deliberately high level. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving green links, and connecting new and existing biodiversity and ecological networks are clearly referenced under the 'Living green in a healthy natural environment' pillar. 	
Residents / individuals		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Claim to protect wildlife and environment for future generations but no mention of it in the Plan. **** Destroying environment and green spaces increasing urban sprawl will ruin what makes living in the area special. There is no need for further growth ** No mention of protecting agricultural land to protect food supplies. **** Net zero by 2050 is not feasible and more specific actions needed to achieve it. *** Why are houses being built when there are not enough water supplies or enough space to serve them? There is a need for a new reservoir. *** Must protect the Green Belt, the housing crisis should not be used as an excuse to not protect green spaces and Green Belt land. ***** Build on brownfield before building on Green Belt Assessment should take account of different types, quality and use of land in Green Belt. Carefully considered, well designed development that is appropriate to its context is capable of enhancing the environment. No mention is made of Luton Airport's impact. Hemel Hempstead is falling behind St Albans and Berkhamsted and needs more effort to make it look better. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The JSP vision is ambitious in putting the environment and sustainability at the heart of its vision but it is deliberately high level. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. The 2050 target date for Net Zero is a national target that is reflected in the SW Herts authorities' declaration of a climate emergency. The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed growth strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan with regard to quantum, location or type of development – these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. Luton airport is not located within the SW Herts area and so its future growth is not within the scope/ control of this Plan. The JSP is intended as an overarching strategic vision for SW Herts as a whole. Detailed policies relating to individual settlements will be within individual authority Local Plans. 	<p>Amend the 'Create sustainable buildings and infrastructure' objective under the 'Living green in a healthy natural environment' pillar to add the words '.... <u>and protect water resources</u>' to the end of the explanatory text.</p> <p>Amend the 'Create space to grow' objective under 'Growing opportunities to work locally' pillar to read 'Support the delivery of a wide range of quality workspaces, where new and existing businesses from different sectors, <u>in both urban and rural areas, can grow and flourish.</u>'</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important to connect habitats and ecosystems to increase biodiversity and support species expansion. ** • Disingenuous to call Grand Union Canal an asset given issues of fly-tipping. • Cost of living remains high and economy challenges. ** • Climate and global changes are becoming more acute. • Lack of public transport to access landscapes. • Sewage is transported long distances to be treated. • Should be more ambitious. • The current natural environment is in poor state and is rapidly worsening. • Elstree & Borehamwood are a different proposition than most of Herts, they are really London with all the services. • Too much pollution caused by people. ** • Chilterns AONB under threat from applications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree that water resources should be more explicitly referenced in the objectives. More detailed proposals to help tackle this issue will be considered as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • The pillar ‘moving easily in connected places’ includes high level objectives relating to improving public transport connectivity and creating walkable neighbourhoods. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • Topic Paper 4 ‘Supporting Economic Growth’ notes the requirements of the NPPF which states that planning policies should support the rural economy. Whilst it is not considered appropriate to refer to specific economic sectors such as agriculture within the objectives, it is recommend that the wording of the ‘Create space to grow’ objective can be clarified to ensure it is clear that it applies to economic sectors in both urban and rural areas. • 	
Landowners / developers / consultants		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comment 		None.

Q3. Are there any issues or opportunities (relating to OUR ENVIRONMENT in SW Herts) we have missed?

Source of response	YES	NO
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies (4)	2	2
General consultation bodies (7)	6	1
Residents / individuals (109)	81	28
Landowners / developers (2)	0	2

Total	89	33
	122	

The following provides a summary of key points raised, both by people who agreed and disagreed with the question. Those points raised more than once are shown by asterisks to denote the number of times an issue was mentioned by different respondees.

Summary of key issues raised	Response	Recommended change(s)
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no mention of the importance of agriculture both to support the human population and to support the wider environmental objectives. The need to manage the land to be both productive and support bio-diversity. • Not enough emphasis on protecting the Green Belt where it performs well against the purposes in the NPPF. Quality farmland should not be built on. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed growth strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan with regard to quantum, location or type of housing– these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • Topic Paper 4 ‘Supporting Economic Growth’ notes the requirements of the NPPF which states that planning policies should support the rural economy. Whilst it is not considered appropriate to refer to specific economic sectors such as agriculture within the objectives, it is recommend that the wording of the ‘Create space to grow’ objective can be clarified to ensure it is clear that it applies to economic sectors in both urban and rural areas. 	Amend the ‘Create space to grow’ objective under ‘Growing opportunities to work locally’ pillar to read ‘ <i>Support the delivery of a wide range of quality workspaces, where new and existing businesses from different sectors, <u>in both urban and rural areas</u>, can grow and flourish.</i> ’
General consultation bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No mention of the importance of sport and leisure facilities. • Access to open space is important but so is environment within which people live - high rise flats do not provide the right environment • Not fully incorporated existing work within the Hertfordshire Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The JSP vision is ambitious in putting the environment and sustainability at the heart of its vision but it is deliberately high level. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. 	None.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Plan should be much more visionary and seek real long term change in attitudes towards the environment. • The JSP should establish links between nature recovery through biodiversity net gain and enhancements to farmland through the Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS). • JSP should include a positive vision for the Green Belt, opportunity to use Green Belt more positively to aid nature recovery and provide SANGs for local recreation. • Little attention shown towards carbon reducing assets such as trees / hedges. • The interpretation of environment is too narrow, should be about more than constructing buildings, with more attention to materials and pollution during construction and manufacturing process, also need more focus on emissions, noise, traffic, vibration during the construction process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific needs for sports and leisure facilities will be determined in individual authorities Local Plans. However the pillar 'Living in healthy, thriving local communities' references the objective, 'provision of healthy places for people to live that support physical and mental wellbeing'. • The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed growth strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan with regard to quantum, location or type of development, or provision of SANGs. These proposals and policies will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • The pillar 'Living green in a healthy natural environment' includes an objective relating to 'Green Construction' which encompasses materials, pollution and emissions during the construction process. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. 	
<p>Residents / individuals</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific expert advice required to ensure nature conservation is maximised on each site. • Should not allow Radlett airfield to be used for development and not protecting environment/wildlife. • Prioritise protection of Green Belt and green spaces needed. ***** • Accessibility for disabled residents leaves a lot to be desired. • Make more use of green spaces and think about how these spaces will be used by different groups. ** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The JSP is ambitious in putting the environment and sustainability at the heart of its vision but it is deliberately high level. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed growth strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan with regard to quantum, location or type of 	<p>Add an air quality objective under Pillar: 'Living in healthy, thriving local communities,' with the new objective '<u>Improve air quality</u>' and the explanatory text '<u>Maximise opportunities to maintain and</u></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouragement for sustainable transport - safe and segregated bike lanes, bike storage facilities, electric buses, solar panels.*** • Need a joined up, environment first approach to council decisions. • Impacts of rail freight. • Should be a mix of recreation and wild places within towns-hedgerows and road verges. • Preservation of Aldenham reservoir for public use should be supported. • The countryside should be divided into Protection Areas and Revival Areas. In the former, there should be protection for high grade agricultural land and woodlands. In the latter, the emphasis should be on landscape improvements and tackling urban fringe problems. • Coalescence and the potential for development to increase these issues. • Air pollution should be a priority in battle against climate change.***** • More attention to waste water management and water infrastructure and storage. ***** • No mention of renewable energy*** • The exclusion zone around Ashridge. • Assessment does not give sufficient weight to positive impacts that sensitive development can have on the Environment. • More street trees and increased tree planting overall ** • Focus on developing brownfield land rather than greenfield. ***** • Connecting ecosystems • No mention of protecting agricultural land for food production. ** • Hospital. 	<p>housing or other types of development – these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pillar ‘Living in healthy thriving communities’ includes an objective to <i>‘ensure safe and inclusive places and spaces’</i>. • The need to reduce pressures on water use and quality is picked up under ‘create sustainable buildings and infrastructure’ under the ‘Living green in a healthy natural environment’ pillar. It is also picked up under the ‘Promote circular economies’ objective under the ‘Delivering robust and suitable infrastructure’ pillar. However it is agreed that water resources more generally should be picked up in the objectives. More detailed proposals to help tackle this issue will be considered as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • The vision is intentionally high level and so does not include any site specific considerations at this stage. • The pillar ‘moving easily in connected places’ includes high level objectives relating to improving public transport connectivity and creating walkable neighbourhoods. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • The pillar ‘Delivering robust and sustainable infrastructure’ includes high level objectives relating to the delivery of key infrastructure required to support new and existing growth, 	<p><i><u>enhance air quality standards.</u></i></p> <p>Amend the ‘Create space to grow’ objective under ‘Growing opportunities to work locally’ pillar to read <i>‘Support the delivery of a wide range of quality workspaces, where new and existing businesses from different sectors, <u>in both urban and rural areas</u>, can grow and flourish.’</i></p> <p>Amend the ‘Create sustainable buildings and infrastructure’ objective under the ‘Living green in a healthy natural environment’ pillar to add the words <i>‘.... <u>and protect water resources</u>’</i> to the end of the explanatory text.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic and congestion issues due to badly designed road junctions – leading to air pollution *** • How the school run can be tamed and managed and how education is spread out so there is less traffic and pollution *** • Unsure of the benefits of using drones. • What support is need from those who live in the countryside presently - the thinking seems skewed to town dwellers. • Ensure environment for future generations ** • More focus on wildlife needed. • More focus on overall infrastructure and services • Community Forest: Watling Chase Community Forest should be added to the list of important landscapes. • Permitted erosion or degradation of existing environmental assets • All new build should maximise floorspace, including basements, grey water recycling, solar hot water tubes & rainwater harvesting & SUDS so as to minimise our use of the limited space available. • Protecting environment in general not just Green Belt. • No mention of horse riders. • Improved cycling and walking routes need to be properly managed to ensure they are safe to use for all users. 	<p>to meet local needs and adapt to the effects of climate change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pillar ‘Living green in a healthy natural environment’ includes high level objectives relating to sustainable buildings and infrastructure, using nature-based solutions that are resilient to the effects of climate change. • Agree that air quality is a significant issue in the area and should be explicitly referenced in the objectives. It is suggested that a new objective is added to the Pillar ‘Living in healthy thriving local communities. • Topic Paper 4 ‘Supporting Economic Growth’ notes the requirements of the NPPF which states that planning policies should support the rural economy. Whilst it is not considered appropriate to refer to specific economic sectors such as agriculture within the objectives, it is recommend that the wording of the ‘Create space to grow’ objective can be clarified to ensure it is clear that it applies to economic sectors in both urban and rural areas. 	
Landowners / developers / consultants		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comment 		None.

Q4. Do you agree with our summary of the current issues relating to LIVING in SW Herts?

Source of response	YES	NO
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies (4)	4	0
General consultation bodies (6)	3	3
Residents / individuals (97)	62	35
Landowners / developers (6)	4	2
Total	73	40

The following specific consultation bodies responded to this question:

- Herts Police
- Redbourn Parish Council
- Croxley Green Parish Council
- Aldbury Parish Council

The following provides a summary of key points raised, both by people who agreed and disagreed with the question. Those points raised more than once are shown by asterisks to denote the number of times an issue was mentioned by different respondents.

Summary of key issues raised	Response	Recommended change(s)
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage to better understand the physical activity inequalities present within SW Herts in order to provide the infrastructure and opportunities to everyone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) will be prepared alongside the Sustainability Appraisal for the JSP which will ensure that health-related issues are integrated into the plan-making process. 	None.
General consultation bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SW Herts is highly constrained with areas of Green Belt and AONB, there should be an opportunity to reduce housing numbers below national calculations. • New development should prioritise brownfield sites.** • Government imposed targets are based on out of data. • Green Belt must be preserved.** • Preserving environment and ecosystems must be the priority. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed growth strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan with regard to quantum, location or type of housing – these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • The JSP vision is ambitious in putting the environment and sustainability at the heart of its vision but it is deliberately high level. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. 	None.
Residents / individuals		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little to no mention of social housing, • Too much focus on house prices and not renting availability and costs. • Public transport needs to be improved - cycling unsafe and a lack of dedicated cycle lanes. • Too many age restricted homes in Dacorum at expense of affordable housing. • Lack of access to healthcare facilities in Hemel and St Albans. • Public transport is getting worse not better. • Need for better access means new Watford hospital should not be progressed. • Attempting to make area more affordable by building will make the area far less attractive. • Hertsmere is twice as dense as the national average. • Summary doesn't note the importance of good transport links in identifying sites for development. • The preservation of the Green Belt must be seen as one of a range of considerations to be balanced, and appropriate weight must be given to other considerations driving the need for development. • Need for housing could be met by smaller social housing units easier to build on brownfield sites instead of building to satisfy top down pressure from Government. • Demands for housing need to be balanced with environmental concerns.** • It's too expensive and overcrowded.** • St Albans also has areas of deprivation. • Insufficient doctors, dentists and services to support further development** • Green Belt and countryside needs protecting.*** • Population figures are outdated. • Main roads blocked at most times and cars parked on pavements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 'Building homes and places that people are proud of' pillar already includes reference to the need for homes people can afford. • The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed growth strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan with regard to quantum, location or type of housing– these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • The pillar 'moving easily in connected places' includes high level objectives relating to improving public transport connectivity and creating walkable neighbourhoods. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • The Plan will take a strategic approach to infrastructure (including health and education facilities) across SW Herts. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • The pillar 'Living in healthy, thriving local communities', recognise that there are areas of deprivation and includes high level objectives relating to the provision of healthy places to live, the provision of local facilities to support safe community and social interaction. 	<p>None.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No acknowledgement of the enormous significance of the countryside for recreation, health and well-being as well as limited sustainable development. • Need for walking paths to get to green spaces including green corridors linking up wildlife areas 		
Landowners / developers / consultants		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are many Green Belt sites suitable for housing development including infill sites. Many of these adjoin existing settlements that are capable of accommodating more housing. ** • Sites of a range of sizes should be considered to meet housing needs not just those of a strategic scale. • The topic paper on housing does not fully reflect national policy / advice on older persons housing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed growth strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan with regard to quantum, location or type of housing – these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation • The Topic Paper on Housing refers to Planning Practice Guidance in the round rather than to the individual housing-related PPG notes e.g. Housing for older and disabled people; Housing needs of different groups etc). As noted above detailed policy approaches will be developed further as the plan progresses. 	None.

Q5. Are there any issues or opportunities (relating to LIVING in SW Herts) we have missed?

Source of response	YES	NO
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies (4)	2	2
General consultation bodies (6)	4	2
Residents / individuals (95)	65	30
Landowners / developers (5)	4	1
Total	75	35
	110	

The following provides a summary of key points raised, both by people who agreed and disagreed with the question. Those points raised more than once are shown by asterisks to denote the number of times an issue was mentioned by different respondents.

Summary of key issues raised	Response	Recommended change(s)
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage inclusion of a section on physical inactivity inequalities to the current issues. Reports are available online to download and will be key information to determine if there are stubborn inequalities within the region around physical inactivity which can be used for helping to inform policy development. New development should be on brownfield sites, possibly building up not spreading out onto greenfield sites. Development should not be on Green Belt where it performs well against the purposes in the NPPF or is quality agricultural land. The analysis makes it clear that SW Hertfordshire is already overpopulated. Therefore an increase in population should be resisted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) will be prepared alongside the Sustainability Appraisal for the JSP which will ensure that health-related issues are integrated into the plan-making process. The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed growth strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan with regard to quantum, location or type of new development – these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation 	None.
General consultation bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable design of new and existing houses is essential and requires a programme of insulation and retrofitting. JSP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan will take a strategic approach to infrastructure (including health and education facilities) across SW Herts. More detailed 	None.

<p>provides an opportunity to co-ordinate this across a wider area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green spaces are an essential part of living in SW Herts. • Need more medical facilities to cope with projected older population. • Need more starter homes to attract young people to area. • Should preserve what we have and not build more and new. • Use TPOs and plant trees around public buildings. 	<p>proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed growth strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan with regard to quantum, location or type of housing – these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • The ‘Building homes and places that people are proud of’ pillar already includes reference to the need for homes people can afford and that are flexible and adaptable to different lifestyles and work patterns. • The JSP vision is ambitious in putting the environment and sustainability at the heart of its vision but it is deliberately high level. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. 	
<p>Residents / individuals</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable housing should be encouraged. *** • Encouraging more Council built and controlled social housing**** • Not building on the Green Belt. **** • There are opportunities for development on local high streets where shops have closed down. • No mention of social care. • Majority of new homes are flats, people are moving out of the area due to affordability but also for houses. • Housing growth exacerbating traffic issues without improvements to public transport. *** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ‘Building homes and places that people are proud of’ pillar already includes reference to the need for homes people can afford and that are flexible and adaptable to different lifestyles and work patterns. • The Plan will take a strategic approach to infrastructure (including health and education facilities) across SW Herts. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed growth strategy or detailed policy 	<p>None.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New housing could be built anywhere with no regard to local infrastructure. • Housing should be more affordable for Herts residents not London commuters. • Population density in Watford is too high - all high rise and high density development that needs to stop. *** • Existing infrastructure and services would not support large population increases. ***** • Councils should be able to build houses at a rent suitable for local incomes. • Green Belt is used as an excuse to block most new housing. Not all Green Belt is valuable and should be built on to support affordable housing. ** • No joined up thinking on transport between individual boroughs. • Cultural diversity is not mentioned. ** • Does not place sufficient emphasis on proximity of the area to London. • Lifelong residents should have priority for housing. • Serious reconsideration of Green Belt boundaries to enable substantial housing/employment development to meet local need. • Housing should only be built using sustainable materials and that have sustainable utility systems. • Cannot keep building houses as urbanisation of land is far too high, should focus on flats. • footpaths and cycle paths and no mention of bridle paths • Apsley and surrounding road and amenities. • Need to review the support for (and encourage) country life. • Size and design of new housing should be adequate to people's needs not only to fund builder's profits including on-site parking. • In the list of major transport routes in the area, the M25 is not listed. In addition, there is the Grand Union canal which 	<p>approaches to be taken in the plan with regard to quantum, location or type of housing– these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The JSP vision is ambitious in putting the environment and sustainability at the heart of its vision but it is deliberately high level. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • Reference to social care is noted but this is not directly a planning issue. • Reference to cultural diversity is noted. The pillar 'Living in healthy thriving communities' includes an objective to 'ensure safe and inclusive places and spaces'. • The pillar 'Moving easily in connected places' includes high level vision objectives relating to improving public transport connectivity and creating walkable neighbourhoods. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. Section 3, SW Herts today, refers to the M25 and other major roads in commenting on the good north-south links serving the area. • The 'Building homes and places that people are proud of' pillar already includes reference to the need for homes people can afford and that are flexible and adaptable to different lifestyles and work patterns. • Police presence and staffing numbers is not a planning issue in itself, although the police 	
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<p>(with suitable improvements) could carry bulk cargo through the area. This could utilise up to date technology of electric automatic vehicles to carry loads day and night.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No up to date population figures. • The levelling up agenda should see greater employment growth in more deprived parts of the country leading to a less demand for growth in SW Herts. • The gradual but on-going reduction in police numbers and police presences in the various communities. • Joined up transport is not available, cycling is not suitable for the elderly, where they would use a car to visit multiple destination to shop • Over-emphasis on the built environment rather than the natural environment.** 	<p>force is an important consultee in the plan-making process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the Vision consultation took place, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has started to publish the results of the 2021 Census. These figures, which provide valuable, up-to-date information about the area's population, will be taken into account during the next stages of the plan-making process. 	
Landowners / developers / consultants		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to allow some parts of the Green Belt to be developed for housing. • Meeting the housing needs of younger people is important for sustaining local economy and social balance. • The housing pressures, accurately articulated, are a reason for the Green Belt requiring to be reviewed. This should be clearly stated at the outset. • It is important to ensure enough specialist housing to meet the needs of older people are delivered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed growth strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan with regard to quantum, location or type of housing – these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. 	None.

Q6. Do you agree with our summary of the current issues relating to WORKING in SW Herts?

Source of response	YES	NO
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies (4)	2	2
General consultation bodies (3)	1	2
Residents / individuals (80)	54	26
Landowners / developers (2)	2	0
Total	59	30
	89	

The following specific consultation bodies responded to this question:

- Herts Police
- Redbourn Parish Council
- Croxley Green Parish Council
- Aldbury Parish Council

The following provides a summary of key points raised, both by people who agreed and disagreed with the question. Those points raised more than once are shown by asterisks to denote the number of times an issue was mentioned by different respondents.

Summary of key issues raised	Response	Recommended change(s)
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not enough information on how 8,000 jobs will be generated in the new enterprise zone. More detail required about high quality jobs creation and the mix of jobs in general. • There is no analysis of the extent to which people living in SW Hertfordshire commute to work elsewhere. Or of the extent to which those working within SW Hertfordshire commute into the area from elsewhere. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The South West Herts Economic Study Update (2019) is currently being updated and will inform the JSP as it progresses. Updating will need to take account of changing working patterns and demand for different kinds of floorspace arising from the impact of the Covid pandemic. • Since this consultation took place, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has started to publish the results of the 2021 Census, which will be taken into account in progressing the JSP and will provide additional information about travel to work and commuting patterns. 	None.

General consultation bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JSP needs to be more visionary and consider different future scenarios for work patterns. • Should seek to create new jobs in the local area to reduce commuting. • Needs to be a focus on green jobs. • More connectivity between train lines is needed. • Safe cycle routes required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to respond to different work patterns is noted. The pillar 'Growing opportunities to work locally' acknowledges that the area must embrace new and growing sectors and new models of working. • The pillar 'Moving easily in connected places' includes high level objectives relating to improving public transport connectivity and creating walkable neighbourhoods. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. 	None.
Residents / individuals		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No mention of council homes to rent. • No acknowledgement of available corporate space being converted to residential. ** • Not many work opportunities for the over 50s. • Working in Herts is directly related to transport and this link should be emphasised. • Infrastructure will not take the level of expansion being proposed. • No provision for disabled employment. • Dacorum has no provision for young people. • JSP must not be used to push more Green Belt development. • We need to look at better land use, not increased use of land. • Lack of reference to education and lack of recognition of childcare. • Failed to make mention of threats to retail environments. • No mention of farming or agricultural businesses. • Need to provide affordable housing and key worker accommodation. • Local jobs for local people to save commuting costs and pressures • Area is losing its appeal as an area of natural beauty. • Need for better transport options. • The Levelling up agenda should lead to focusing employment growth in more deprived parts of the country. • Questions to what extent has the increased size of the local economy been a product of increased economic activity per capita vs an increase in the number of people. • Some building in unproductive Green Belt may need to happen. • Need for more local small light industrial units that people can work and live in the same community if they chose to do so. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed growth strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan with regard to quantum, location or type of employment or housing – these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • Office to residential conversions can occur under ‘permitted development rights’ and are therefore not something that can easily be controlled through planning policy. The district / borough councils are however exploring how Article 4 Directions can be used to limit the loss of the most valuable employment floorspace. • The pillar ‘Growing opportunities to work locally’ includes a high level objective relating to supporting town centres and high streets. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation • The Plan will take a strategic approach to infrastructure (including health and education facilities) across SW Herts. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • The pillar, ‘Moving easily in connected places’ includes high level objectives which aim to address issues of traffic congestion and to encourage fast, efficient and affordable public transport and helping people, businesses, visitors and goods to move around easily. 	<p>Add a more explicit reference to farming and food security. This would logically sit under the ‘Living green in a healthy natural environment’ pillar.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage big tech firms and finance to move here, that's where the big wages are, retail/hospitality won't pay for a mortgage here. Transport to work is a major cause of pollution. The plan needs to enable for local working opportunities that can be accessed via active routes. Need more analysis of the extent to which people living in SW Herts work within the area, or the extent to which they work within each of the 5 constituent authorities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since this consultation took place, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has started to publish the results of the 2021 Census, which will be taken into account in progressing the JSP and may provide additional information about travel to work and commuting patterns. 	
Landowners / developers / consultants		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment 	None.	None.

Q7. Are there any issues or opportunities (relating to WORKING in SW Herts) we have missed?

Source of response	YES	NO
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies (4)	2	2
General consultation bodies (3)	1	2
Residents / individuals (81)	53	28
Landowners / developers (2)	1	1
Total	57	33
	90	

The following provides a summary of key points raised, both by people who agreed and disagreed with the question. Those points raised more than once are shown by asterisks to denote the number of times an issue was mentioned by different respondees.

Summary of key issues raised	Response	Recommended change(s)
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not enough information on how 8000 jobs will be generated in the new enterprise zone. More detail required about high quality jobs creation and the mix of jobs in general. The rise in "home working" with people only required to travel to a base office occasionally (not every day) and be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The need to respond to different work patterns is noted. The pillar 'Growing opportunities to work locally' acknowledges that the area must embrace new and growing sectors and new models of working. 	None.

<p>expected to provide adequate workspace at home (changing requirements for workspace within homes).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is accepted that changing work patterns have created a demand for different technologies across the area. The pillars that sit below the draft vision reference the need to enhance digital infrastructure to ensure connectivity for everyone and also reference new models of working. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. 	
<p>General consultation bodies</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More specific courses and education for mature and older people required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is noted but is not directly a planning issue. The pillar 'Growing opportunities to work locally' references the need for appropriate education and training. 	None.
<p>Residents / individuals</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring corporate space into public ownership and convert into residential uses on brownfield sites. Train links to London are excellent but car parking costs at stations are excessive. *** Need to take into account area specialisms in employment e.g. Borehamwood and accept that what works in one area might not work in others. Need better and more frequent public transport routes between urban areas. ***** Concern about the level of support for non-service industries. Need for high speed broadband. **** Insufficient emphasis on agile working. *** Infrastructure would not support great increases in industry. Green Belt sites should not be developed to provide additional commercial sites. Employment trends should be monitored to assess sector vulnerability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed growth strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan with regard to quantum, location or type of employment – these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. The pillar 'Moving easily in connected places' includes high level vision objectives relating to improving public transport connectivity and creating walkable neighbourhoods. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. It is agreed that that changing work patterns have created a demand for different technologies across the whole area. The vision incorporates the need to enhance digital infrastructure to ensure connectivity 	None.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need clusters of small studios, workshops or light industrial units.** • Need to create opportunities to work locally and not rely on London. *** • Childcare is not mentioned in the education section. ** • Preserve and enhance quality of office workspace rather than converting to housing. • Provide safe means of active travel to employment. To encourage a reduction in car use. ** • Homes, including flats, should include space for working. *** • Residential development should not be built on employment allocations. • Need more small scale facilities. • Small businesses should not be subject to high business rates. • Encourage businesses catering for older people. • Build and support rail freight terminal. • Need to explain what Herts Innovation Quarter Enterprise Zone is. • Traffic issues. • Link schools and business closely. • A large part of the skilled workforce mentioned do not work in SW Herts but commute into Greater London. The role of the SW Herts as base for commuters needs to be considered. *** • Need summary of division of workforce between sectors. • Need ways to increase income e.g. attract big employers ** • Need for a new fit-for-purpose LHNA which measures the affordable housing needs of the most valuable members of our community (who, by definition, must live and work locally) and to create policies to meet those needs. 	<p>for everyone. The pillars that sit below the draft vision reference the need to enhance digital infrastructure to ensure connectivity for everyone and also reference new models of working. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reference to childcare is noted although this is not directly a planning issue. • The corporate strategy for employment space, and the setting of business rates are a matter for each individual local authority and is not directly a planning issue. • Comments on car parking costs are noted but they are not directly a planning issue. • The Plan will take a strategic approach to infrastructure across SW Herts. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • The pillar, 'Growing opportunities to work locally' includes high level vision objectives relating to the retention of talent in the area which supports and promotes the provision of facilities, funding and links to business for education and training. • The need to consider key worker housing to support the local economy is noted. The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed growth strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan with regard to quantum, location or type of housing– these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The South West Herts Local Housing Needs Assessment is currently being updated and will inform the JSP as it progresses. 	
Landowners / developers / consultants		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic employment proposals required in the JSP that clearly identifies suitable growth locations. Likely to need a Green Belt release and in a sustainable location for employment. SW Herts has several key transport corridors with links to education and employment, should identify key locations now. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed growth strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan with regard to quantum, location or type of employment – these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. 	None.

Q8. Do you agree with our summary of the current issues relating to PLAYING in SW Herts?

Source of response	YES	NO
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies (4)	2	2
General consultation bodies (5)	2	3
Residents / individuals (89)	64	25
Landowners / developers (2)	2	0
Total	70	30
	100	

The following specific consultation bodies responded to this question:

- Herts Police
- Redbourn Parish Council
- Croxley Green Parish Council
- Aldbury Parish Council

The following provides a summary of key points raised, both by people who agreed and disagreed with the question. Those points raised more than once are shown by asterisks to denote the number of times an issue was mentioned by different respondents.

Summary of key issues raised	Response	Recommended change(s)
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to acknowledge the inequalities when it comes to physical activity that may exist. • It is important to better understand the data behind specific groups and represent this in this section. These would include inequalities among: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Different ethnic groups - Gender gaps - Older adults access sport and physical activity - Children and young people. • The Nickey Line is not a high quality cycle route. • There is nothing about the two most important aspects of informal recreation: walking and children playing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pillar, 'Living in healthy, thriving local communities' notes that whilst the area's population is generally healthy, there are areas of deprivation. It is important to help both new and existing communities achieve the highest quality of life and support their physical and mental health and wellbeing. The high level objectives seek to support the timely delivery of facilities to support the local community and the creation of environments where individuals and communities feel safe and supported. • A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) will be prepared alongside the Sustainability Appraisal for the JSP which will ensure that health-related issues are integrated into the plan-making process. • Since the Vision consultation took place, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has started to publish the results of the 2021 Census. These figures, which provide valuable, up-to-date information about the area's population, will be taken into account during the next stages of the plan-making process. • The quality and maintenance of existing cycle ways and bridleways is not a direct planning issue that can be dealt with through the JSP. 	None.
General consultation bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Omitted a full assessment of the recreational potential of green infrastructure as set out in Herts Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pillar 'moving easily in connected places' includes high level objectives relating to improving public transport connectivity and creating walkable neighbourhoods. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the 	None.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are few safe cycle routes to exit towns (Radlett/Shenley). There needs to be more joined up cycling opportunities. • More support needed for arts and theatre 	<p>plan progresses and be subject to further consultation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan with regard to quantum, location or type of green infrastructure – these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • The request for more support for the arts and theatre is noted. The pillar, ‘Living in healthy, thriving local communities’ includes high level vision objectives relating to the location of facilities to support the local community including cultural, leisure and community facilities. 	
Residents / individuals		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No cycle lanes in Shenley and poor bus services. • All proposals are for the young, should also take account of older residents needs for sport- multi use facilities are the answer.** • Cycle friendly and walking friendly routes required. ** • Disagree with inclusion of Grand Union Canal as a cycle way when it is a footpath. • Cycle networks are poorly maintained and badly marked. • Variety of shops is declining. • Not enough fitness centres. • Sports facilities predominantly focused on men rather than women. • Not enough leisure or swimming facilities. • Need to ensure that open spaces for sports and recreation are retained.** • Parts of the area are a rat run between the M1 and M25 so not appropriate for cycling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pillar ‘moving easily in connected places’ includes high level objectives relating to improving public transport connectivity and creating walkable neighbourhoods. Improvements to connections between towns and villages, will also support connections into the open countryside. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • The quality and maintenance of existing cycle ways and bridleways is not a direct planning issue that can be dealt with through the JSP. • Specific needs for sports and leisure facilities will be determined in individual authorities Local Plans. The pillar ‘Living in healthy, thriving local communities’ references the 	None.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JSP only refers to football clubs. What about rugby, hockey, cricket, tennis, martial arts, dance, yoga, pilates. • Activities required for young, elderly and disabled. • Facilities catering for mental health issues - quiet and non-contact sport for people with autism. • Horse riding is a big sport and hobby and there is no mention of bridle paths, which should not be turned into cycle tracks but should be renovated according to the British Horse society recommendations. ** • To keep Hertsmere safe open spaces and Green Belt must be preserved. • In this section attracting younger people is a goal but this goal also creates even greater challenges with housing. • Need to recognise that a major asset for leisure activities for many people in the county is countryside with public access as well as nature reserves. • St Albans football ground is in the wrong place making it difficult for visitors, more space is needed, preferably out of town. • There isn't anything about walking for exercise and recreation, and there isn't anything about children playing out of doors. 	<p>vision objective, 'provision of healthy places for people to live that support physical and mental wellbeing'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no sports or age groups specifically included or excluded from the JSP - it provides a high level vision for the support of all leisure facilities. • The 'Our Environment' section of the consultation document refers to the important landscapes in the area and access to green space which support outdoor recreation, including walking and can have a positive impact on well-being. 	
Landowners / developers / consultants		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comment 	None.	None.

Q9. Are there any issues or opportunities (relating to PLAYING in SW Herts) we have missed?

The following provides a summary of key points raised, both by people who agreed and disagreed with the question. Those points raised more than once are shown by asterisks to denote the number of times an issue was mentioned by different respondees.

Source of response	YES	NO
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies (4)	2	2
General consultation bodies (6)	5	1

Residents / individuals (87)	47	40
Landowners / developers (2)	0	2
Total	54	45
		99

Summary of key issues raised	Response	Recommended change(s)
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycling networks should be separated and well-connected to services so they are accessible for all ages and abilities. • JSP needs to note where improvements could be made so that the network of cycle routes are well-connected and accessible. • Encourage the consideration of how 'Streets and Public Spaces' can provide excellent opportunities for physical activity and social connections. • Needs to be provision for walking and cycling routes to and from the town centre to encourage active modes of transportation • Consideration of scale, function and layout of regenerated town centres should be considered to attract the greatest number of mix of uses. With a greater number of mixed use within a town centre, the greater number of pedestrian traffic through an area encouraging physical activity. • More detail required on how improvements will be made, such as what exactly is the east-west rapid transport scheme. • The facilities must be protected and enhanced, particularly access to open spaces and open countryside as well as provision of free playgrounds and sports grounds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pillar 'moving easily in connected places' includes high level vision objectives relating to improving public transport connectivity and creating walkable neighbourhoods. Improvements to connections between towns and villages, will also support connections into the open countryside. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • As stated in the consultation document, the proposed east-west link (known as the HERT) is still in the planning stages. Further consultation on options will be carried out by Hertfordshire County Council in due course. • The quality and maintenance of existing cycle ways and bridleways is not a direct planning issue that can be directly dealt with through the JSP. 	None.
General consultation bodies		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong evidence that Dacorum lacks high quality sports facilities unable to meet a growing need. • Omits a full assessment of the recreational potential of green infrastructure as set out in Herts Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan particularly rights of way and problem that severance of routes create for functionality of play- this needs to be dealt with at the strategic level. • More cycle paths needed and more pedestrian access to city centres and more public transport. • Park and ride schemes required. • More joined up cycle routes between towns to allow cycling to theatre, shops, leisure centres etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific needs for sports and leisure facilities will be determined in individual authorities Local Plans. The pillar 'Living in healthy, thriving local communities' references the objective, 'provision of healthy places for people to live that support physical and mental wellbeing'. • The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan with regard to quantum, location or type of green infrastructure – these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • The pillar 'moving easily in connected places' includes high level vision objectives relating to improving public transport connectivity and creating walkable neighbourhoods. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. 	<p>None.</p>
<p>Residents / individuals</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better public transport. ** • Opportunities for fishing activities. • Opportunities to turn closed golf courses into accessible country parks and wildlife areas rather than housing developments. • Build more and better cycle routes. **** • Empty shops could be improved even if it meant changing their use. ** • Important to support markets. • Maintenance of existing cycle paths- Nickey Line. ** • Opportunities for swimming including open water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pillar 'Moving easily in connected places' includes high level objectives relating to improving public transport connectivity and creating walkable neighbourhoods. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • The quality and maintenance of existing cycle ways and bridleways is not a direct planning issue that can be dealt with through the JSP. • There are no sports or age groups specifically included or excluded from the 	<p>None.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No reference to range of countryside sport and recreation available. • Improve town centre environments - give priority to cycling and walking in town centres, planting and greenery. ** • Open space to connect with nature helps with physical and mental health. • Lack of co-ordinated cross boundary thinking with regards to bike schemes, park and ride, chains. • Increasing use of bike hire schemes and better signage to promote cycling. • Protect retail units from change of use to commercial offices or housing. • Importance of creating new green spaces in urban areas. ** • New development can improve quality of local resources and have positive benefits for the community. • Promote the importance of natural environment to developing tourist industry. • No reference to walking. *** • Protect existing playing fields and improve indoor sports facilities. • Prevent development on sports facilities within the Green Belt like golf courses. • Horse riding and bridle ways ****. • Improve cycle network in rural areas to make it safe. • No mention of active 60+. The statements are all about youth. • Rugby, football, cricket and golf facilities. *** • Improving "Green Corridor" public footpaths. *** • Need to work with landowners particularly in rural areas to facilitate access to the countryside** • Lack of comments on general sporting diversity, new sports etc. • Engagement of young people of all means. 	<p>JSP - it provides a high level vision for the support of all types of leisure facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The JSP vision is ambitious in putting the environment and sustainability at the heart of its vision but it is deliberately high level. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan with regard to quantum, location or type of green infrastructure of growth – these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • The pillar 'Growing opportunities to work locally' includes a high level vision objective relating to supporting town centres and high streets. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation • The pillar, 'Living in healthy, thriving local communities' high level vision objectives seek to support the timely delivery of facilities to support the local community and the creation of environments where individuals and communities feel safe and supported. 	
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe places needed where younger people can "hang out" informally and safely, both indoors and out of doors. 		
Landowners / developers / consultants		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment 	None.	None.

Q10. Do you agree with our summary of the current issues relating to MOVING in SW Herts?

Source of response	YES	NO
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies (4)	4	0
General consultation bodies (2)	2	0
Residents / individuals (102)	65	37
Landowners / developers (2)	2	0
Total	73	37
	110	

The following specific consultation bodies responded to this question:

- Herts Police
- Redbourn Parish Council
- Croxley Green Parish Council
- Aldbury Parish Council

The following provides a summary of key points raised, both by people who agreed and disagreed with the question. Those points raised more than once are shown by asterisks to denote the number of times an issue was mentioned by different respondents.

Summary of key issues raised	Response	Recommended change(s)
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. 	None.	None.
General consultation bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment 		None.
Residents / individuals		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development on Green Belt land and new Sky Studios will increase congestion on existing roads. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The pillar 'moving easily in connected places' includes high level objectives relating to 	None.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too much emphasis on cycling. The needs of motorists and motorcyclists need to be considered. • Reliance on private cars is high because of lack of alternatives like Zip cars. • Need a consistent cross boundary approach to bike schemes - Watford has one but Three Rivers doesn't. • Poor bus network. **** • Public transport too expensive. *** • Public transport sparse in rural areas, focused on London and large towns.** • No acknowledgment of vehicle emissions and any progress towards reducing them. • Cycling only a solution for part of the population.** • One mass transit cross route will not fix the problem unless it passes through all significant settlements (say above 15,000 population). • The bus routes in the area are in decline but this would be the fastest and lowest cost way to improve east west links. • The move to electrical vehicle is mentioned but the state of the infrastructure to recharge them is not. ** • How to cope with increased demands on commuting to London, infrastructure at railway stations. • Noise from aircraft is mentioned, but should also refer to helicopters. • Important to provide public transport to health facilities. • Revival of Croxley to Watford Junction should be a priority. • No mention of parking issues of various railway stations. • Walking and cycling would not be a solution for people wanting to access supermarkets and some workplaces.** • Need help from Central Government to address the issue of through traffic. Too much congestion and pollution *** • Shortage of public transport opportunities in Redbourn for older residents, 	<p>improving public transport connectivity and creating walkable neighbourhoods. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The comments on planning for vehicles as well as cycling and walking is noted, as are the comments that cycling and walking is not a realistic option for some sections of the community. • The comments relating to east west travel, particularly by bus are noted. As stated in the consultation document, the proposed east-west link (known as the HERT) is still in the planning stages. Further consultation on options will be carried out by Hertfordshire County Council in due course – this includes whether it is a bus-based solution and where it will connect to. • References to specific schemes, modes of transport and comments on specific towns and routes have been noted but any non-strategic issues will be dealt with in individual authority Local Plans. • The use of planning obligations (known as Section 106 agreements) and the community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) or its successor are used to capture some of the value arising from the granting of planning permission for new development. Those funds are then used to provide key items of infrastructure and facilities to support the new community and residents. 	
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about delays to promised A414 upgrade promised. Many poorly designed junction contributing to traffic. The cost of building new developments should include the appropriate development of infrastructure to cope. Already over populated for services and schools available Not enough TFL links. Until it is confirmed that there will be no impact on Green Belt, it is not possible to support the east-west mass rapid transport proposal. The plan needs to encourage and promote walking for short distances which would link in well with playing in SW Herts section. High speed electric scooters are very dangerous. We need more cycling lanes. Availability and safe storage of bikes is important. Need to reduce speed in built up areas, with speed control traps. 		
Landowners / developers / consultants		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment 	None.	None.

Q11. Are there any issues or opportunities (relating to MOVING in SW Herts) we have missed?

Source of response	YES	NO
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies (4)	2	2
General consultation bodies (21)	1	1
Residents / individuals (99)	67	32
Landowners / developers (2)	1	1
Total	71	36
	107	

The following provides a summary of key points raised, both by people who agreed and disagreed with the question. Those points raised more than once are shown by asterisks to denote the number of times an issue was mentioned by different respondees.

Summary of key issues raised	Response	Recommended change(s)
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The plan is light on detail e.g. how will buses and rail access be improved. Car dependency is the crucial problem – current employment patterns, retail and service industries are predicated on private transport. With the rising cost of energy and the need to reduce carbon emissions much more substantial changes will be required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the first stage of preparation of the JSP. More detailed proposals and policies will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. The pillar ‘Moving easily in connected places’ includes high level objectives relating to the transformation of travel, encouraging a shift away from car travel by providing accessible, and affordable alternatives. Objectives also include improving public transport connectivity and creating walkable neighbourhoods. 	None.
General consultation bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roads are too dangerous for cyclists and pedestrians, infrastructure needed to reduce need for cars - cycle ways and public transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns noted The Plan will take a strategic approach to infrastructure (including transport) across SW Herts. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. 	None.
Residents / individuals		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road surfaces are poor quality. ** Stop building on Green Belt and putting pressure on transport infrastructure.** Being able to use a car is still essential and need infrastructure for electric cars. Borehamwood needs a tube extension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The pillar ‘moving easily in connected places’ includes high level objectives relating to the transformation of travel, encouraging a shift away from car travel by providing accessible, and affordable alternatives. Objectives also include improving public transport connectivity and creating walkable neighbourhoods. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the 	None.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several towns like Potters Bar, Cuffley have major traffic issues - plans should include bypasses not just cars and buses but bikes, e-scooters and mobility scooters. • Impact of rail freight. • Cycling still unsafe until completely joined up network. *** • Need cycle lanes in the town centre. • Bypass around Radlett • Electric vehicle infrastructure and transport needed. **** • Cycling is not for everybody- unrealistic for ageing population and for shopping. ***** • Need much better and more frequent public transport to get out of cars ** • Not just about cars, spaces for them are becoming scarcer. • Reference to cycle way between St Albans and Luton is incorrect. Southern half is poorly designed and poorly maintained and is underused as a result. • Need for key junctions to be designed for cyclist and pedestrian priority as well as reducing speed of roads and reallocating road space. *** • Many people feel unsafe walking especially in the dark. • Issue of school run traffic and safe walking initiatives - need a strategy to deal with this. ** • The HERT should be extended beyond Hemel Hempstead. • Provision of a passing loop on Abbey line needed to allow more frequent trains. • Bus journeys need to be faster. • Thinking about rapid transport ignores fact that most journeys are short and made by an ageing population. • Need more bus routes. • No mention of ULEZ extension in London. • Consider cycling lanes between Borehamwood to Radlett and Shenley and to London Colney and St Albans. • Transport needs to be low cost and convenient. 	<p>plan progresses and be subject to further consultation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of road surfaces is not directly a planning issue. • The Plan will take a strategic approach to infrastructure (including transport) across SW Herts. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • The comments on planning for vehicles as well as cycling and walking are noted, as are the comments on the value of bridleways and that cycling and walking opportunities are not realistic for some sections of the community. • References to specific schemes and comments on specific towns and routes have been noted, but any non-strategic issues will be dealt with in individual authority Local Plans. • The pillar, 'Living in healthy, thriving local communities' has high level objectives seeking to support the timely delivery of facilities to support the local community and the creation of environments where individuals and communities feel safe and supported which would help to make people feel safe when walking and making journeys. 	
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlikely to be the funding available to address the issues identified. • Plan needs to make best possible use of existing transport links. • Travel options for disabled people need to be considered. • Need new and improved cycle ways.** • Use disused railways to make new cycle ways - Croxley Link. • Improving facilities for walkers is important. • No mention of Met line extension at Watford. • Electric trams on the old St Albans to Hatfield branch line would allow students to get to Uni of Herts and commuters to De Haviland Business Park. • Bakerloo line extension to Watford would be a huge improvement to Watford's connections to London. • Rural areas are as important as towns when developing cycling networks. By upgrading appropriate footpaths to bridleways you immediately increase the (safe, off-road) options a cyclist has with the potential to reduce car reliance. • North South rail congestion will ease when capacity released due to completion of HS2. • No mention of active 60+ ages – its all about youth. • Serious congestion on roads. • Using existing infrastructure must be a first step rather than developing which takes up important Green Belt. • Need more stopping points such as seats to rest if you want to encourage people to walk. • Need cheaper and more frequent bus services. • Existing roads are often too narrow for today's larger vehicles • Local investment decisions should favour public transport provision in line with other access obligations rather than large-scale and costly infrastructure projects. | | |
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Landowners / developers / consultants		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan must recognise current transport links and not ignore ongoing need for employment growth in suitable locations. Distribution floorspace is needed at key transport nodes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed growth strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan with regard to quantum, location or type of employment – these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. 	None.

Planning for infrastructure

Q12. Are there any long term infrastructure challenges or opportunities that you would like to make us aware of as we begin work on the plan?

Source of response	YES	NO
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies (4)	4	0
General consultation bodies (5)	4	1
Residents / individuals (118)	94	24
Landowners / developers (4)	1	3
Total	102	28
	130	

The specific consultation body who replied were:

- Aldbury Parish Council
- Herts Police
- Redbourn Parish Council
- Croxley Green Parish Council

The following provides a summary of key infrastructure issues raised. Those points raised more than once are shown by asterisks to denote the number of times an issue was mentioned by different respondees.

Summary of key issues raised	Response	Recommended change(s)
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footpath and cycle way between Aldbury and Tring Station which would allow visitors who travel by train get to the Ashridge Estate. • Car parking provision in Aldbury Parish. • No specific reference made relating to emergency services. • Consider a new rail link/tram way/direct bus route from Hemel Hempstead to Harpenden and/or St Albans. • The Croxley Rail link (metropolitan line extension) should be resurrected and extended towards Amersham & Aylesbury via Rickmansworth and to St Albans crossing beneath the West Coast main line and then widening the track to St Albans. This would provide enhanced access to the West Herts hospital site in Watford. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns noted but too detailed for inclusion in JSP. • As it progresses, the JSP will be supported by a longer term delivery plan which will set out the types of infrastructure that will be needed, where and when, and how they will be paid for. This will include provision for emergency services amongst others. • The Herts Essex Rapid Transit (HERT) will run from Hemel Hempstead, just south of St Albans and on to Harlow and Stansted Airport. • The reference to the resurrection of the Croxley Rail Link is noted. The Plan will take a strategic approach to infrastructure (including transport) across SW Herts. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. 	<p>None, although responses to be passed to consultants preparing a Strategic Infrastructure Baseline for the JSP.</p>
<p>General consultation bodies</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HS2 is a concern, especially the potential expansion to Luton and Heathrow airports, • Unclear if HERT route would use existing roads and therefore reduce encroachment on greenfield land. Also need clarity if it would be electric or hybrid. • Green infrastructure is key and it needs to be defined more broadly to include things like urban trees, hedgerows, garden, green walls and sustainable drainage systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns re HS2 noted – although the current route does not pass through the SW Herts area and there are no known plans for any airport links at this stage. However the JSP team will keep an eye out for any consultants relating to potential extensions to HS2 which may affect the SW Herts area. • The precise nature and route of the HERT is currently being considered by Hertfordshire County Council, so no further details are available. There will be further consultation in due course. • The need to consider a wide interpretation of green infrastructure is agreed. However, due to the strategic nature of the JSP it will 	<p>None, although responses to be passed to consultants preparing a Strategic Infrastructure Baseline for the JSP and JSP team to keep an eye out for any consultations relating to potential extensions to HS2 which may affect the SW Herts area and respond accordingly.</p>

	<p>not consider detailed issues such as the provision of green walls and urban trees – these are matters better dealt with through more detailed Local Plan policies and supplementary planning document for development sites.</p>	
<p>Residents / individuals</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe, well maintained cycle and pedestrian routes with better links to rail station and services. **** • Spending money on public transport / the HERT that people won't use isn't a good use of public money – better to spend it on road improvements. ** • Safe, reliable, affordable public transport that connects with the right places and serves the rural area. ***** • Better mobile signal and more reliable broadband. ** • HERT seems a good idea but need more detail and to be sure it will connect with where people live. ***** • On-street electric charging points for area of terraced housing. • Prioritise buses, cyclists and pedestrians over cars. • On-street cycle storage. ** • There is inadequate infrastructure provision of all types in rural area. • Hospital – concerns about the proposed redevelopment of Watford hospital instead of provision of a new facility, due to poor accessibility to current site and poor location of car parks for those with mobility issues. ***** • Current state of the roads is very poor. • Sewerage and water infrastructure – including concerns about the impact of increased abstraction on local chalk streams. • Consider ways to get parents taking children to school off the road i.e. more school buses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many of the issues and challenges highlighted in the responses reflect those mentioned in the consultation document and the JSP will seek to address the more strategic of these as it progresses. • The precise nature and route of the HERT is currently being considered by Hertfordshire County Council, so no further details are available. There is however a proven need for improved east-west public transport links within the area. • The concerns re the local hospital are noted, but this is a matter for the Government and NHS to as the JSP will have no control over such decisions. • The need for new infrastructure to be delivered in a timely manner is recognised in the pillar 'Delivering robust and sustainable infrastructure.' • Many of the issues raised are local in nature and not something that the JSP can address, as its focus is at the strategic planning level. Issues such as the quality of local high streets and local transport schemes would be addressed by the relevant borough or district council. • Concerns about traffic congestion, the need for improvements to bus and train services 	<p>Amend the 'Create sustainable buildings and infrastructure' objective under the 'Living green in a healthy natural environment' pillar to add the words '.... <u>and protect water resources</u>' to the end of the explanatory text.</p> <p>Responses on infrastructure concerns to be passed to consultants preparing a Strategic Infrastructure Baseline for the JSP.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to improve local health facilities i.e. GPs and walk-in clinics. *** • Infrastructure needs improving before any more people live or work in the area. ** • Schools – these should be built near the demand. The lack of spaces means children have to travel long distances which worsens congestion. **** • No proven or likely requirement for major East-West route like the HERT in the area – buses could meet the need. • Worsening North-South rail congestion and access to London. • Better cultural and social facilities required and need to protect those that already exist. • Concern about the impact of planned Luton airport expansion. • Apsley High Street is a neglected run down and looks left behind, the road system cannot support the amount of people living in the area, • No bins for people to use for dogs. • Need to work with commercial undertakers to get an understanding of the quality and sustainability of water, electricity, gas and telephonic infrastructure. Power cuts are frequent *** • Insufficient drainage capacity. • Need to identify the roads that are inadequate for their purpose. • Problems when M1 or A5 is blocked in anyway when Redbourn is brought to a standstill. • Need more frequent bus services. • Any new development needs to be tied in with associated infrastructure including cycleways and pathways *** • Need to revisit Elstree Crossroads traffic light scheme • More people means accelerated adverse impact on the environment. 	<p>are noted. The Plan will take a strategic approach to infrastructure (including transport) across SW Herts. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree that water resources should be more explicitly referenced in the objectives. • As it progresses, the JSP will be supported by a longer term delivery plan which will set out the types of infrastructure that will be needed, where and when, and how they will be paid for. The need to address energy capture and digital infrastructure at a strategic level is noted. 	
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new infrastructure should impact Green Belt. *** • Consider the appetite for energy capture (the mass deployment of solar panels, more wind turbines) and energy storage (gas tanks, electrical power resiliency) • Consider Midland mainline upgrade and the introduction of high-speed trains. • Insufficient quality high schools, and general insufficient infrastructure for influx of additional residents living in high rise developments. • Should adopt a real pioneering digital mind-set, fibre everywhere, with digital skills hubs for every age group to learn about tech. • The Metropolitan line should be extended to Watford Junction. **** • The Watford to St Albans railway should be upgraded to allow more frequent trains but not converted to either a tram or bus lane. • The need to improve car traffic flow and reduce congestion through and around Watford. • New policy that could be cited when responding to planning applications that encouraged or mandated the provisions of contributions towards a SW Herts wide Greenway. 		
Landowners / developers / consultants		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. 	None.	None.

The draft vision

Q13. Does the draft vision statement summarise your aspirations for the future of South West Hertfordshire to 2050?

Source of response	YES	NO
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies (4)	2	2
General consultation bodies (3)	1	2
Residents / individuals (83)	39	44
Landowners / developers (5)	4	1
Total	46	47
	93	

The following specific consultation bodies responded to this question:

- Herts Police
- Redbourn Parish Council
- Croxley Green Parish Council
- Aldbury Parish Council

Q14. Are there any changes you would like to see to the vision statement?

Source of response	YES	NO
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies (4)	2	2
General consultation bodies (3)	2	1
Residents / individuals (80)	56	24
Landowners / developers (5)	4	1
Total	64	28
	92	

The following provides a summary of key points raised, both by people who agreed and disagreed with the draft vision. Those points raised more than once are shown by asterisks to denote the number of times an issue was mentioned by different respondents.

Summary of key issues raised	Response	Recommended change(s)
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs less emphasis on growth and more on improving the life of existing communities. It should be about quality not quantity. Can either have true sustainability, or can have growth, but we cannot have both. The rest of the vision is overly ambitious. The core of the vision should be sustainability, rather than growth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Introduction to the consultation document recognises that the JSP provides an opportunity for the individual councils to work together to strengthen their ability to deliver and help pay for the essential local transport links, health services, educational facilities, homes and employment that local people need and want to see, as well as ensuring that this part of Hertfordshire is sustainable, cleaner, greener and healthier. By planning ahead, it will be possible to ensure that the delivery of infrastructure can go hand in hand with new development. It is agreed that the vision should be amended to make it clear it is about both people and the environment. 	<p>Recommend wording of vision is changed to '<i>...it will be a place where sustainable growth provides a better future for everyone <u>both people and the environment.</u></i>'</p>
<p>General consultation bodies</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to give more attention to looking the environment as it currently is i.e. replant lost trees and hedges. Vision should be more closely linked to the 3 elements of sustainability - i.e. social, economic and environmental. Currently no reference to addressing climate or nature emergencies. Plan must make very clear that the Green Belt and green spaces won't be built on. ** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vision is intentionally high level, with more detailed pillars and objectives sitting below it. These embrace all three elements of sustainability. The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed growth strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan – these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. 	<p>None.</p>
<p>Residents / individuals</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hemel Hempstead doesn't seem like a community any longer. Need to refer to the need for respect for heritage and securing a lifestyle that is safe, supportive and enjoyable. Boundaries need changing – anything inside the M25 should be considered a part of Greater London and the vision doesn't apply to this area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vision is intentionally high level, with more detailed pillars and objectives sitting below it which pick up many of the issues raised such as diversity of place, inclusivity, personal safety, the need for a wide range of workspaces and ensure the specific characteristics of SW Herts are reflected. 	<p>Amend the 'Create space to grow' objective under 'Growing opportunities to work locally' pillar to read '<i>Support the delivery of a wide range of quality</i></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term vision is good but needs more short term fixes first. • Area is full up and services / infrastructure are at capacity already. ** • The plan for more open green spaces is compromised by building new homes on Green Belt and farmland. Need to state that SW Herts are committed to preserving GB ***** • Sceptical that the words will be implemented. • Words are too vague and generic and seems to be the aspirations of someone who doesn't live in the area. *** • Nothing wrong with the statement but the narrative has some gaps – namely the end for the authorities to work properly together, to make space available for small creative workshops and bring the narrow demographics doesn't limit opportunities for others. • Some of the words are good but they can mean different things to different people, so depends on how they are delivered. ** • Public transport won't work when it takes so much longer to get to work / services than it does by car, and walking / cycling not always practical. • Need more focus on genuinely affordable housing.*** • Infrastructure must be put in at same time as new homes. • Need to promote tall buildings to prevent urban sprawl. ** • Needs to include some reference to personal responsibility for protecting the area for the good of everyone. • Basic premise of significant future growth is inappropriate – the area's potential has already been reached.** • Vision needs to be more responsive to changing trends not past activities or deliver 'more of the same.' • Need to add reference to 'maintaining our cherished character.' • Abolish the five authorities and replace with a unitary, or county council plan for the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed growth strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan – these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation, • One of the reasons for preparing the JSP is to ensure there is collaborative panning across the five authorities that make up SW Herts. • It is accepted that the vision and associated pillars will contain some potentially conflicting objectives. It is the role of the more detailed policies within the plan to help seek an appropriate balance between these. • Boundary reviews and the structure of local government are not matters that a planning document such as the JSP can address. • Regarding concerns raised about infrastructure, the vision is supported by a pillar on 'Delivering robust and sustainable infrastructure.' This clearly seeks to <i>'Identify the infrastructure required to support new and existing growth, work with partners to deliver it in a timely manner and ensure it meets local needs.....'</i> • The six pillars of the Vision address many of the issue raised here including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The delivery of new, high quality homes ('Building homes and places that people are proud of') – Delivering new job opportunities ('Growing opportunities to work locally') 	<p><i>workspaces, where new and existing businesses from different sectors, <u>in both urban and rural areas</u>, can grow and flourish.'</i></p> <p>Add a new objective under Pillar 'Building homes and places that people are proud of' to read <u>'Value the historic environment'</u> and the explanatory text to say <u>'New development to reflect and respect the historic environment.'</u></p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to refer to farming and food security. • Focus on housing and work opportunities. • Reduce population in the area to more sustainable level.** • Address traffic problems in Redbourn • Greater focus on providing opportunities for cycling in rural areas • 'Local jobs for local people' to save on commuting. • More focus on ground level education. • Can either have true sustainability, or can have growth, but we cannot have both.** • Represent locals who are fed up of blocks of flats & trying to make using a car an impossibility. • Focus on tackling climate change, reduction in car traffic and modal shift to active travel. • Remove climate change references ** • There is no indication in this document of promoting future development which maintains and enhances high quality urban and rural environments. • The core of the vision should be about planning for truly sustainable future and developing sustainable communities. Investing in education and health, rather than simply planning to build without considering the eventual consequences. • Plan to meet the nationally and internationally agreed targets to protect our environment and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Addressing problems of congestion and poor connectivity ('moving easily in connected places') - Protecting and enhancing biodiversity, whilst bringing people closer to nature and acting to address the climate emergency ('Living green in a healthy environment') • Policies within the JSP will need to accord with all relevant Government targets and policies relating to climate change, environmental protection and greenhouse gas emissions etc. • Topic Paper 4 'Supporting Economic Growth' notes the requirements of the NPPF which states that planning policies should support the rural economy. Whilst it is not considered appropriate to refer to specific economic sectors such as agriculture within the objectives, it is recommend that the wording of the 'Create space to grow' objective can be clarified to ensure it is clear that it applies to economic sectors in both urban and rural areas. • It is agreed that character – especially historic character- should be explicitly referenced within the objectives. 	
Landowners / developers / consultants		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building homes will solve many of the issues raised. • Vision should be bold and innovative and make the area one to be proud of, that other areas seek to emulate. • Plan needs to make provision for sufficient open market and affordable homes. • New residential development must remain viable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed growth strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan – these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. 	None.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of a site south west of Redbourn. • There should be a reference to the area 'housing its population' in the future. 		
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Q15. Do you support the draft objectives relating to LIVING GREEN IN A HEALTHY NATURAL ENVIRONMENT?

Source of response	YES	NO
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies (4)	4	0
General consultation bodies (4)**	3	1
Residents / individuals (90)	66	24
Landowners / developers (3)	3	0
Total	76	25
	101	

The following specific consultation bodies responded to this question:

- Herts Police
- Redbourn Parish Council
- Croxley Green Parish Council
- Aldbury Parish Council

The following provides a summary of key points raised. Those points raised more than once are shown by asterisks to denote the number of times an issue was mentioned by different respondees.

Summary of key issues raised	Response	Recommended change(s)
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next stage of the plan needs to define specific targets. • Further thought should be given to how physical activity can be embedded throughout the three objectives or as an additional, standalone objective. Considerations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Create network of walking and cycling routes, networks of multi-functional open spaces, high quality streets and spaces for physical activity. – The co-location of facilities and services encourages people to choose active forms of transportation if the networks are safe and accessible to those services. – Infrastructure improvements to an area to encourage physical activity for different demographic groups including women, older adults and children and young people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pillar, ‘Living in healthy, thriving local communities’ includes the three high level vision objectives, to provide healthy places to live; to locate facilities to encourage community interaction and to ensure safe and inclusive places and spaces. The promotion of physical activity for all parts of the communities is implied in these three objectives. • The Pillar ‘Moving easily in connected places’ also pick up on the issues raised, referring to the need to create walkable neighbourhoods 	None.
General consultation bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to be informed by the work on Living Landscapes by Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust and adopt the Building with Nature Standard. • Support the emphasis on addressing climate change but need further commitment to nature recovery and conserving and enhancing the Chilterns AONB. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These are intentionally strategic-level objectives, so it is not appropriate to refer to specific designations that affect only parts of the SW Herts area within them. The importance of the Chilterns AONB is however reflected elsewhere in the document and will continue to be an important consideration when progressing the JSP. • The concept of nature recovery is reflected within the ‘enrich native biodiversity and ecology’ objective. 	None, but add reference to the Living Landscapes work and the need to take account of flood risk and agricultural land quality to relevant Topic Paper(s) when these are updated.

Residents / individuals		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All new planning applications must have heat exchange systems and solar panels fitted to garage roofs as a minimum.** • Stop building in the Green Belt and allowing private companies to build homes local residents cannot afford. • It is important that green spaces are protected local, especially as development gets denser. • Priorities don't go far enough – net zero needs to relate to all sectors including transport, agriculture, domestic heating etc, not just new development. • Net zero need to include methane gas emissions as well as carbon. • Need to subsidise micro energy generation and add solar panels to all housing association properties and developments. ** • Include cycle provision in all infrastructure planning. • Costs of improving carbon performance of existing housing is too high to be viable at present – need to be practical solutions and for them to be affordable. ** • There is tension between the environmental and commercial aspirations of the plan. ** • Support approach set out – pleased to see climate emergency is being taken seriously. ***** • Wellbeing is linked to issues of climate change and biodiversity. • Need to add reference to safeguarding water supplies and reduction in vehicle emissions and removing sewage discharge • Need to refer to flooding and water management i.e. a commitment not to build on sites at risk of flooding. • Help those on low incomes with insulating their homes. ** • Add reference to clean air and reducing pollution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst policies in both the JSP and Local Plans will need to strengthen the approach to renewable energy, it is not realistic to include a blanket requirement relating to specific modes of generation. For example, the efficiency of solar panels and wind turbines is determined by their location and orientation. They are not suitable in all situations. • The JSP needs to reflect established and externally agreed definitions of net zero. It also needs to be recognised that planning can only influence decisions on matters that come under planning control and can therefore only play a limited – albeit critical – role in meeting carbon reduction targets. The JSP cannot for example influence areas such as agricultural practices or require the retrofitting of energy efficiency measures to all existing buildings. However, the 'Commit to net zero carbon' objective does include reference to '<i>improving the carbon performance of our existing built environment.</i>' Wider approaches that fall outside of planning controls are also being considered by the SW Herts authorities through the Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership. • Amend text under 'Commit to net zero carbon' objective to refer to 'carbon performance of <i>the</i> existing built environment' rather than '<i>....our</i> existing environment' to reflect the way other objectives are worded. • National planning guidance set out in the NPPF already covers the issue of flood risk at the strategic level. It says that "<i>Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be</i> 	<p>Add reference to the need to take account of flood risk and agricultural land quality to relevant Topic Paper(s) when these are updated and ensure these factors are fully reflected in technical work to inform potential spatial options.</p> <p>Amend the '<i>Create sustainable buildings and infrastructure</i>' objective under the 'Living green in a healthy natural environment' pillar to add the words '<i>.... and protect water resources</i>' to the end of the explanatory text.</p> <p>Amend the 'Create space to grow' objective under 'Growing opportunities to work locally' pillar to read '<i>Support the delivery</i></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned important green spaces and Green Belt will be lost due to housing pressures – protection of green spaces needs to be a key objective. ***** • Growth to be achieved through urban regeneration and development of brownfield sites • Need to recognise that Green Belt cannot be sacrosanct due to level of housing and employment need. • Need to be clear what sustainable growth means as sceptical any growth can be sustainable. • Need to take practical action to meet net zero i.e. oppose further expansion of Luton airport. • Need to protect bats and bat roosts. • All good intentions but future planning decisions will be motivated by money and profit. • Loss of agricultural land will put food supply under pressure. ** • Reference to carbon performance needs to be broadened to include the transport system. • Objectives aren't SW Herts specific. • More detail is needed to demonstrate how green and blue infrastructure will be restored and enhanced – at present the plan is too focussed on meeting human requirements. • Overbuilding is a problem. • Reducing population of the area should be an objective. • Prioritisation between the 6 pillars is key. Need to decide the weightings between them. • Living green in as much as net zero will be far too expensive for the country • The objectives aren't measurable, therefore concerned they are not achievable** • We are already losing too much green space • Safety and security is not mentioned. • Unclear where the green energy is coming from. 	<p><i>avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk (whether existing or future). Where development is necessary in such areas, the development should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere.”</i></p> <p>The councils have also all prepared Strategic Flood Risk Assessments and this information will be fed into future policies and be used to assess potential growth locations. Reducing flood risk is suitably covered under this pillar under the ‘create sustainable buildings and infrastructure’ objective – which supports nature based solutions that are resilient to the effects of climate change. However it is agreed that water resources generally should be more explicitly referenced in the objectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic Paper 4 ‘Supporting Economic Growth’ notes the requirements of the NPPF which states that planning policies should support the rural economy. Whilst it is not considered appropriate to refer to specific economic sectors such as agriculture within the objectives, it is recommend that the wording of the ‘Create space to grow’ objective can be clarified to ensure it is clear that it applies to economic sectors in both urban and rural areas. • The issue of pollution is appropriately covered under the ‘<i>Living in healthy, thriving local communities</i>’ pillar, under the objective of ‘<i>Provide healthy places to live.</i>’ • The 6 pillars are not mutually exclusive, nor are they intended to be prioritised one against the other. All reflect the principles of sustainable development and like this concept require 	<p><i>of a wide range of quality workspaces, where new and existing businesses from different sectors, <u>in both urban and rural areas</u>, can grow and flourish.’</i></p> <p>Amend text under ‘Commit to net zero carbon’ objective to refer to ‘carbon performance of <i>the</i> existing built environment’ rather than ‘....<i>our</i> existing environment’</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The pillars do not relate directly to the five policy areas outlined in the introduction. No mention of specific services for disabled/ageing people. 	<p>pressures to be managed and balanced in the most appropriate way.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The concern regarding measurable objectives is noted. It is expected that the final version of the JSP will need to include a series of indicators which will be used to monitor the success of its objectives and policies over time. The concern regarding safety and security is noted. The Pillar, 'Living in healthy, thriving local communities' includes the high level vision objective to ensure safe and inclusive places and spaces. 	
Landowners / developers / consultants		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The countryside needs to be specifically mentioned. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objectives intentionally refers more broadly to 'green spaces' rather than 'countryside' – as the former also covers parks, open spaces etc spaces within urban areas that are also of great importance when talking about biodiversity, ecology and bringing people close to nature. 	None.

Q16. Do you support the draft objectives relating to GROWING OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK LOCALLY?

Source of response	YES	NO
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies (4)	4	0
General consultation bodies (2)	2	0
Residents / individuals (68)	51	17
Landowners / developers (5)	4	1
Total	61	18
	79	

The following specific consultation bodies responded to this question:

- Herts Police

- Redbourn Parish Council
- Croxley Green Parish Council
- Aldbury Parish Council

The following provides a summary of key points raised. Those points raised more than once are shown by asterisks to denote the number of times an issue was mentioned by different respondees.

Summary of key issues raised	Response	Recommended change(s)
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More of a mix of jobs needed. • These are rather vague aspirations. Creating space to grow implies switching land use from agriculture and the environment to buildings. The statement: “We must embrace new and growing sectors, new models of working, and new ways of shopping and accessing services. There must be opportunities for everyone” does not seem to be reflected in the objectives that follow. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each pillar is accompanied by some explanatory text which helps to provide context for the more detailed objectives that follow. Creating space to grow aims to support the creation of a wide range of workspaces which will help new and existing businesses across a range of different sectors to grow and flourish, which in turn will increase job opportunities for all. • The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed growth strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan with regard to quantum, location or type of employment– these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. 	None.
• General consultation bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More training opportunities in crafts - masonry, furniture making etc - where expertise is needed. There are several stately homes in the area which could promote such skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training, in itself, is not a planning matter. The JSP will however help support the delivery of necessary strategic infrastructure, which will include education and training facilities. • The pillar ‘Growing opportunities to work locally’ already includes objectives which support the creation of a wide range of workspaces, which could support sectors including crafts and restoration and also supports and promotes the provision of facilities to support re-skilling. 	None.

Residents / individuals		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern about increasing visitor numbers as area is already busy. • Need to create and retain skills for local employers. • Concerns infrastructure will not support a large increase in commercial uses. • Important Green Belt should not be used. • Need to reference social and cultural activities as well as commercial ones. • Towns should all contain what they need to serve their residents' main needs. • Issue is where does new talent you bring in live and how do they travel around? • Need to take more account of rapid changes in working practices i.e. remote working away from where notionally employed. • Visitor economy could be further developed. • Area is already a place where investors, innovators etc choose to come together. • Agree need to transform town centres and support high streets. • Objectives not really specific to SW Herts area. • Need to make better use of skills held by older residents and encourage volunteering and sharing of experience. • Less car travel less emissions • Agree with the objectives but concerned that current planning permissions are sending town centres the opposite way. • Environmental issues are just words not enacted on. • Only if it involves development of existing brown field sites and no Green Belt or Countryside at all. • No mention of farming, agriculture or rural based activities and their contribution to the area's economic base. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The objectives already reference the importance of town centres and high streets, and their importance for cultural as well as commercial activities. • There is already a suggested objective regarding strengthening the visitor economy – but accept how this is done needs to be carefully considered. • Agree there are important linkages to other pillars i.e. regarding housing and sustainable travel. The pillar 'moving easily in connected places' includes high level objectives relating to the transformation of travel, encouraging a shift away from car travel by providing accessible, and affordable alternatives. Objectives also seek to improve public transport connectivity and create walkable neighbourhoods. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • Topic Paper 4 'Supporting Economic Growth' notes the requirements of the NPPF which states that planning policies should support the rural economy. Whilst it is not considered appropriate to refer to specific economic sectors such as agriculture within the objectives, it is recommend that the wording of the 'Create space to grow' objective can be clarified to ensure it is clear that it applies to economic sectors in both urban and rural areas. • The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed growth strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan with regard 	<p>Amend the 'Create space to grow' objective under 'Growing opportunities to work locally' pillar to read <i>'Support the delivery of a wide range of quality workspaces, where new and existing businesses from different sectors, <u>in both urban and rural areas</u>, can grow and flourish.'</i></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting to work by non-motorised routes would further improve this section. • Too vague to be meaningful. Unclear how this can this be achieved in practice. ** • Need to bring corporate space back into public ownership and use for affordable homes, rather than use the Green Belt. • Greater emphasis needs to be given to quality early years and school education, apprenticeships and childcare, as well as higher education, to ensure people have the right skills. • Over-expanding businesses could lead to a poorer environment due to increased traffic and pollution. • Need to introduce concept of circular economy, by ensuring everyone has access to basic needs by protecting the ecosystem. • Area is currently far too crowded. • The objectives are not measurable in relation to an acceptable impact on the environment. • Objectives are not bold / ambitious enough. ** • Levelling up policies are likely to lead to employment growth in other parts of the country leading to less demand in SW Herts. Indications are that demand for workspace will decline over coming years with changes in work patterns. There is already a significant amount of empty office space in the area. • SW Herts will always be an area providing a labour force working in London - it is a commuter area. • Objectives imply taking land from agriculture, forestry and "green space" and building on it. • Unclear how will the plan provide either affordable homes for those in low wage employment or sufficient remuneration for those people to afford the local cost of 	<p>to quantum, location or type of employment– these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education, apprenticeships and re-skilling for all is already covered by the draft objectives. • Concept of ‘Circular Economy’ supported, but not explicitly referenced due to consultation document trying to avoid terminology that is not understood by all. • Accepted that economic growth needs to be carefully managed in terms of both scale and location. • The concern regarding measurable objectives is noted. It is expected that the JSP will include a series of indicators which will be used to monitor the success of its objectives and policies over time. • The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed growth strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan with regard to quantum, location or type of housing – these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. 	
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living i.e. where will the health service workers, school teachers and local government employees live?		
Landowners / developers / consultants		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggests inclusion of reference to 'green jobs.' • Agree need to transform town centres and support high streets. • Need to encourage small businesses and start-ups – not just big companies. • Need to recognise emerging trends and sectors i.e. online retailing needs to be supported by distribution floorspace. • Need employment sites near learning centres of excellence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept of 'green jobs' supported by objectives relating to net zero carbon and creating sustainable buildings and infrastructure, and green construction under the 'Living green in a healthy natural environment' pillar. • Document already recognises the move to new models of working, shopping and accessing services and the need to support a wide range of quality workspaces. 	None.

Q17. Do you support the draft objectives relating to LIVING IN HEALTHY, THRIVING LOCAL COMMUNITIES?

Source of response	YES	NO
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies (4)	4	0
General consultation bodies (2)	2	0
Residents / individuals (72)	60	12
Landowners / developers (2)	1	1
Total	68	13
	80	

The following specific consultation bodies responded to this question:

- Herts Police
- Redbourn Parish Council
- Croxley Green Parish Council
- Aldbury Parish Council

The following provides a summary of the issues raised by those who agreed and disagreed with the question. Those points raised more than once are shown by asterisks to denote the number of times an issue was mentioned by different respondees.

Summary of key issues raised	Response	Recommended change(s)
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Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These are all aspirations, not objectives. • There is very little emphasis on building the social networks that create truly sustainable communities. This is all about spatial planning and has nothing about how communities actually develop. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The concern about the need to build social networks in order to create and support sustainable communities is noted. This pillar seeks the delivery of places and infrastructure where communities can come together and feel safe and supported. The provision of funding for community mobiliser/ community development workers and resources would be a matter for the individual district and borough councils when planning for growth allocations and when negotiating S106 agreements for major new developments. • The concern regarding measurable objectives is noted. It is anticipated that the JSP will include a series of indicators which will be used to monitor the success of its objectives and policies over time. 	None.
General consultation bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. 	N/A	None.
Residents / individuals		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worried that they are nice sounding words, but offers no real plan or solution. • Very broad ambitions, which are good - there is nothing to dislike ** • Objectives are not specific enough to SW Herts. • Objectives seem achievable but would like to see more reference to accessibility, especially for those with disabilities. • Considers there to be a fundamental shortcoming in the objectives as healthy thriving communities are dependent on good access to a range of services and facilities. • Last objective would bet better if the word 'feel' was changed to 'are.' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is considered that the objectives below this pillar are pitched at the correct level of detail for a strategic-scale plan. The pillar / objectives themselves will provide the framework for the plan itself – which will include a range of planning policies covering key matters. It is through the implementation of these policies that the plan will primarily be delivered, supported by the next iteration of Local Plans for each council area. • Careful consideration has been given to the suggestion that the final objectives is amended from <i>'Create and protect environments where individuals and</i> 	Add a new objective under Pillar 'Building homes and places that people are proud of' to read <i>'<u>Value the historic environment</u>'</i> and the explanatory text to say <i>'<u>New development to reflect and respect the historic environment.</u>'</i>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There needs to be more focus on street cleaning and patrols to discourage anti-social behaviour. • Well-kept parks, open spaces and woodlands encourage better wellbeing. ** • Need to create places where people feel proud of their environment and so will look after it. • Proposed Hemel Garden Communities development will destroy Redbourn and should not be allowed as local communities need to be preserved. • Supports the upgrading of existing housing stock to make it more sustainable. • Health services need to be assessed in a more forward thinking way. • In Hertsmere, there need to be more community facilities outside of Borehamwood. • More outdoor exercise equipment needed in parks. • Bovingdon is being swamped by traffic and new development and nothing is being done to help the village. • Need to take account of issues like noise pollution from Luton airport. • Bovingdon and Hemel Hempstead already have good access to green spaces. • Not ambitious enough. **** • Banbury, as an example, kept historic shop fronts whilst providing modern buildings behind - this should be replicated in St Albans. • Need proper medical facilities and access to achieve this – current facilities are terribly over stretched. • Needs to be explicitly stated that this will be achieved through urban regeneration and development of brownfield sites and not through use of valuable Green Belt land. Without explicit commitment to protecting the Green Belt it is not possible to support these objectives. 	<p><i>communities feel safe and supported’ to ‘Create and protect environments where individuals and communities are safe and supported.’ On balance the reference to ‘feel’ is considered appropriate – as it is how people perceive their areas that is of greatest importance. They may be well managed and policed, but if people don’t feel safe then that affects feelings of personal safety. The intention of the objectives explanatory text is made clear by the objective’s title, which is to ‘Ensure safe and inclusive places and spaces.’</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of the comments express valid concerns and suggestions, but these are more relevant for consideration through the district / borough Local Plans rather than the strategic plan such as this. Others are matters that are not controlled / delivered through planning strategies i.e. street cleaning regimes. • The Plan will take a strategic approach to infrastructure (including health and education facilities) across SW Herts. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed growth strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan with regard to quantum, location or type of housing– these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. 	
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Might need to consider side aspects such as the balance between enabling people to stay in their own homes longer if capable versus anticipating provision of affordable, residential care facilities. • Future development of Potters Bar golf course must be given careful consideration and not used just for housing • This pillar is all about land use planning and has very little about how communities actually develop. • For healthy places to live there should be more emphasis on green spaces and trees, within and near the development and developers should provide this. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The concern about the need to build social networks in order to develop and support sustainable communities is noted. This pillar seeks the delivery of places and infrastructure where communities can come together and feel safe and supported. The provision of funding for community mobiliser/ community development workers and resources would be a matter for the individual district and borough councils when planning for growth allocations and when negotiating S106 agreements for major new developments. • It is agreed that character – especially historic character- should be explicitly referenced within the objectives. 	
Landowners / developers / consultants		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the focus on local communities. 	Noted.	None.

Q18. Do you support the draft objectives relating to MOVING EASILY IN CONNECTED PLACES?

Source of response	YES	NO
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies (4)	4	0
General consultation bodies (4)	3	1
Residents / individuals (76)	49	27
Landowners / developers (3)	3	0
Total	59	28
	87	

The following specific consultation bodies responded to this question:

- Herts Police
- Redbourn Parish Council
- Croxley Green Parish Council

- Aldbury Parish Council

The following provides a summary of key points raised, both by people who agreed and disagreed with the question. Those points raised more than once are shown by asterisks to denote the number of times an issue was mentioned by different respondees. Compared to other questions, relatively few respondees provided an explanation for their answer.

Summary of key issues raised	Response	Recommended change(s)
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome this objective and encourage consideration around how each of these objectives enable and encourage physical activity through moving around the more connected communities. Noted that cycling or walking to work is not an option for many, so a good public transport system is needed Consider these to be worthy aspirations, but lack the targets to be called objectives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The pillar 'Moving easily in connected places' includes high level objectives relating to improving public transport connectivity and creating walkable neighbourhoods. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. The comments on planning for vehicles as well as cycling and walking is noted, as are the comments that cycling and walking are not realistic options for some sections of the community. The concern regarding measurable objectives is noted. It is anticipated that the JSP will include a series of indicators which will be used to monitor the success of its objectives and policies over time. 	None.
General consultation bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add reference the 'Reconnect' project in the Hertfordshire Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan, which seeks to reconnect strategic public rights of way. Use existing trains -but improve links-a bus between Abbey and St Albans stations and one between Watford Junction and Watford hospital as parking is so difficult at Watford Hospital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted re the Hertfordshire Strategic GI Plan. This is too detailed for the strategic objectives but should be referenced in the relevant Topic Paper(s). The public transport point is covered by the 'Connect Towns and Villages objectives which seeks to <i>'Make travel between new and existing communities easier by strengthening public</i> 	Non, but add reference to the Hertfordshire Strategic GI Plan to relevant Topic Paper(s) when these are updated.

	<i>transport, cycle and walking networks and promoting on-demand services.'</i>	
Residents / individuals		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not support new development on greenspace / Green Belt sites. • Need improved public transport before reliance on cars can be reduced. ** • Over-reliance on cars will not change until car ownership becomes unaffordable – idea of getting cars off roads isn't realistic. • There must be a commitment to both cars and car use – other options are not feasible for the majority of places, especially rural areas. ** • Blocking off access to create low traffic area just shifts vehicles to other areas and causes greater overall congestion and pollution. • Encouragement and the provision of attractive alternatives are the only successful ways to effect change – it cannot be forced on a population which does not find it a practical fit with their lives. • Need to consider wider initiatives such as car clubs, increased supermarket deliveries, impact of mail order and working from home. • Objectives not specific to SW Herts. • Does not cater fully for those living in rural areas. ** • Need for more frequent and cheap buses. **** • Cannot see how these objectives will have measurable target achievements or how this helps the environment. • Not ambitious enough. ** • It needs to be explicitly stated that this will be achieved through urban regeneration and development of brownfield sites and not through use of valuable Green Belt land - without explicit commitment to protecting the Green Belt it is not possible to support these objectives. • East to West connections need to be improved. • The need to reduce congestion for cars and vans in Watford should be prioritised. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 'Transform Travel' objective accepts that to encourage a shift away from car travel there need to be '<i>accessible, efficient, safe and affordable alternatives.</i>' • With regard to wider initiatives, the objectives already support moves towards more sustainable delivery networks and the creation of neighbourhoods where people can access all of their daily needs. Shared travel options such as car clubs are specifically mentioned in the 'Moving' section of the consultation document. • The 'Connect Towns and Villages objective which seeks to '<i>Make travel between new and existing communities easier by strengthening public transport, cycle and walking networks and promoting on-demand services</i>' would help to cater for those living in rural areas. • The plan will take a strategic approach to infrastructure (including transport) across SW Herts. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. 	<p>When reviewing this section it was noted that the 'Create walkable neighbourhoods' objective refers to '<i>Create a neighbourhood full of activity...</i>' This sentence should read in the plural rather than singular i.e. '<i>Create neighbourhoods full of activity....</i>'</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No mention is made of Greenway connectivity as demonstrated in Hertsmere under the Greenways Steering Group. Buses are slow and journeys long. ** No achievable without significant funding and substantial changes in road space allocation. 		
Landowners / developers / consultants		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No reasons given 	N/A	None.

Q19. Do you support the draft objectives relating to BUILDING HOMES AND PLACES THAT PEOPLE ARE PROUD OF?

Source of response	YES	NO
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies (4)	4	0
General consultation bodies (2)	2	0
Residents / individuals (82)	48	34
Landowners / developers (4)	3	1
Total	57	35
	92	

The following specific consultation bodies responded to this question:

- Herts Police
- Redbourn Parish Council
- Croxley Green Parish Council
- Aldbury Parish Council

The following provides a summary of key points raised, both by people who agreed and disagreed with the question. Those points raised more than once are shown by asterisks to denote the number of times an issue was mentioned by different respondees.

Summary of key issues raised	Response	Recommended change(s)
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe and vibrant communities needed. Not sink estates full of social problems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This pillar includes the objective to Design Attractive Places where people are proud to live. This, together with the objectives in the pillar, 	None.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These are worthy aspirations, but lack the targets to be called objectives. 	<p>‘Living in healthy, thriving communities’, convey the aspirations to deliver places that contribute to a high quality of life, and to people’s physical and mental health and wellbeing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The concern regarding measurable objectives is noted. It is anticipated that the JSP will include a series of indicators which will be used to monitor the success of its objectives and policies over time. 	
General consultation bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This section could be improved if the authorities were to adopt the Building with Nature Standard where there is to be new development: https://www.buildingwithnature.org.uk/ • Only if on brownfield sites or replacing empty offices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference to the Building with Nature Standard is too specific a requirement to be set out within high level plan objectives. It is more suitable for consideration as part of relevant policy wording or supporting text, either within the JSP or associated Local Plans. • The vision and objectives are not intended to articulate either the detailed growth strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan with regard to quantum, location or type of home – these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. 	<p>Amend the ‘Create space to grow’ objective under ‘Growing opportunities to work locally’ pillar to read <i>‘Support the delivery of a wide range of quality workspaces, where new and existing businesses from different sectors, <u>in both urban and rural areas</u>, can grow and flourish.’</i></p>
Residents / individuals		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to minimise impact on Green Belt and greenspaces. ***** • More affordable housing is needed – especially via social housing and housing associations. ***** • New development dominates the landscape and erodes local character. • Both old and new housing stock needs to be more sustainable and reflect challenges of climate change. **** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most matters raised are already covered either under the objectives of this pillar or one of the other suggested pillars. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Housing affordability and the need for adaptable homes is covered under this pillar. – The need for the timely delivery of new infrastructure is covered under this pillar, 	<p>Amend the ‘Create space to grow’ objective under ‘Growing opportunities to work locally’ pillar to read <i>‘Support the delivery of a wide range of</i></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to consider scale / location of new development to reflect local infrastructure capacity. *** • Do not support more houses – should make better use of existing space. ***** • Key issue is where new homes will be built – overwhelming response to Hertsmere Local Plan consultation was that it should not be in existing settlement and the JSP seems to go against this. • Issue is that too many development proposals are opposed by local NIMBY groups. • Due to scarcity of land, any that is built on needs to be of highest possible quality and make a positive contribution to the area • Objectives don't seem specific to SW Herts. • High rise development provide more homes but don't fit in with the local environment. ** • Agree need to provide more affordable housing opportunities, but need to be careful on location to ensure infrastructure can cope. • Concerned by assumption that growth must happen – the concept of sustainable growth needs to be meaningful and not a greenwash. • Homes need to be built in places where people feel safe and secure, with infrastructure that allows residents to walk to facilities. • Need to restrict second homes or properties just bought by investors and left empty – there needs to be more rental accommodation that is affordable. • Building more homes is a threat to current high quality of life that SW Herts enjoys. • Need to provide homes for younger people and downsizing opportunities for older people, including care facilities and flexible housing. ***** • Houses need to be big so people have enough space. 	<p>with further principles under the 'Delivering robust and suitable infrastructure' pillar.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The need to ensure buildings are sustainable is picked up under the 'Living green in a healthy natural environment' pillar, under the objectives of 'create sustainable buildings and infrastructure' and 'green construction.' - The need to protect green spaces is also picked up under the 'Living green in a healthy natural environment' pillar. - The 'Moving easily in connected places' pillar covers the issue of walkable neighbourhoods. - The need to design attractive places, with high quality buildings and public spaces. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Plan will take a strategic approach to infrastructure (including transport) across SW Herts. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • Since this consultation took place, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has started to publish the results of the 2021 Census, which will be taken into account when progressing the JSP. • Topic Paper 4 'Supporting Economic Growth' notes the requirements of the NPPF which states that planning policies should support the rural economy. Whilst it is not considered appropriate to refer to specific economic sectors such as agriculture within the objectives, it is recommend that the wording of the 'Create space to grow' objective can be clarified to ensure it is clear that 	<p><i>quality workspaces, where new and existing businesses from different sectors, <u>in both urban and rural areas</u>, can grow and flourish.'</i></p> <p>Amend the 'Create sustainable buildings and infrastructure' objective under the 'Living green in a healthy natural environment' pillar to add the words '... <u>and protect water resources</u>' to the end of the explanatory text.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There aren't enough local jobs. • Something should be added here about distinctive environments.** • Need to stop building flats. • Housing needs to be well designed and take into consideration the need for open space for recreation and leisure and most importantly of all infrastructure, such as adequate road access that does not cause bottlenecks and congestion. Properly structured cycles lanes would be helpful. • This section is silent on farming and agriculture. • Insufficient focus on water resources including the need to address the high number of sewerage overflows and the need to protect our rare chalk streams. • Not ambitious enough. • All new homes should have at car parking for at least one car. • Using out of date data on population and real housing need. • There needs to be massive investment in infrastructure and facilities to support the current housing stock, even before more homes are built. ** 	<p>it applies to economic sectors in both urban and rural areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree that water resources should be more explicitly referenced in the objectives. 	
<p>Landowners / developers / consultants</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a significant need to build more homes (including affordable homes) in the SW Herts area and these should be of a high quality. • Reference to design and quality should refer to sustainable housing - carbon neutral. • Distribution of homes across the area should reflect the challenges that have emerged following the issues affecting the Chiltern Beechwoods SAC. • Housing the area's future population from the youth, families and the elderly is critical. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact that the Chilterns Beechwood SAC could have on the JSP will be considered through the Habitats Regulations Assessment work which will be carried out for the next stages of plan preparation. • This pillar recognises the need to deliver flexible and adaptable homes that can accommodate current and future residents with varying needs. 	<p>None.</p>

Q20. Do you support the draft objectives relating to DELIVERING ROBUST AND SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE?

Source of response	YES	NO
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies (4)	3	1
General consultation bodies (2)	2	0
Residents / individuals (81)	64	17
Landowners / developers (3)	3	0
Total	72	18
	90	

The following specific consultation bodies responded to this question:

- Herts Police
- Redbourn Parish Council
- Croxley Green Parish Council
- Aldbury Parish Council

The following provides a summary of key points raised, both by people who agreed and disagreed with the question. Those points raised more than once are shown by asterisks to denote the number of times an issue was mentioned by different respondents.

Summary of key issues raised	Response	Recommended change(s)
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better public transport links and better community facilities and open spaces required. • Robust and sustainable infrastructure is required to support the current pattern of development and should not simply be about “growth”. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This pillar recognises the increasing demand on resources and the need for investment in new infrastructure. The high level objective ‘Deliver key infrastructure’ recognises the need to identify the infrastructure required to support both new and existing growth. • The Plan will take a strategic approach to infrastructure (including public transport, education and community facilities) across SW Herts. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. 	None.

General consultation bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support commitment to the circular economy, but should be applied across all development, not just infrastructure. • Links need to be made with the Minerals and Waste Local Plan to maximise opportunities to reuse and recycle materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is agreed that the principle of the circular economy needs to apply across all development – not just related to infrastructure. This principle could be moved to sit under another pillar, but is considered to fit best in this location. • It is agreed that there is a need to acknowledge the link between the JSP and the Minerals and Waste Plans prepared by Hertfordshire County Council. This is currently missing from the graphic entitled 'How the Joint Strategic Plan links to other key document' within the appendix of the consultation document. 	None, but amend the 'How the Joint Strategic Plan links to other key document' graphic if this is used in further iterations of the JSP to include reference to Minerals and Waste Plans alongside Local Plans.
Residents / individuals		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No definition provided of what infrastructure is or where it would be built, • Shouldn't be building in places that only the rich can afford. • Issue is the national governments failure to force developers to provide sufficient funding for the timely provision of needs – this is why so many people oppose new development.** • Need to encourage renewable energy generation – including small scale schemes. ** • The Councils could set an example by installing solar panels on council properties and ensuring all planning applications meet vigorous standards. • Without infrastructure all the other ideas start to stall. • Would like to see some examples to illustrate the detail. • Carbon impact of whole life of projects must be considered. • Need more electric vehicle charging points. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a section within the consultation document titled 'What do we mean by infrastructure?' which explains what the term covers. What isn't set out is precisely what types of infrastructure will be provided where, as this is not yet known. It will depend upon both the scale and location of growth ultimately proposed, combined with the future strategies of key infrastructure providers regarding how they plan to provide their services in the future. The consultation document however states that the aim will be to plan new infrastructure so that it brings benefits to existing as well as new residents and employers. However, in many cases new infrastructure cannot be provided without growth to support and fund it. • Some examples of current and proposed large-scale infrastructure projects are included within the consultation document - namely the 	None.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to actually deliver the infrastructure as well as identify it. ** • They are broad objectives, so little to object to. • Digital infrastructure should include fibre internet and education. • Local government infrastructure will prevent progress being made on infrastructure delivery. • Scale and costs of needs are so high they are unlikely to be deliverable without a new settlement. • Consider the burning of plastic to generate energy. • Objectives not sufficiently specific to SW Herts. • All transport should be electric. • New housing should be truly affordable and existing buildings re-used and retrofitted. • Suggests second objective is redrafted to exclusively promote local energy generation through renewable sources. • First objective shouldn't tie infrastructure to growth – infrastructure should be improved for existing residents. • Providing advanced digital infrastructure is essential in the modern world. • Not aspirational enough ** • Not enough infrastructure. • It needs to be explicitly stated that this will be achieved through urban regeneration and development of Brownfield sites and not through use of valuable Green Belt land. Without explicit commitment to protecting the Green Belt it is not possible to support these objectives • The phrase 'sustainable infrastructure' is ambiguous. Installing a mass transit system, for instance, might seem sustainable because it reduces car use, but it might equally seem unsustainable if it still produces some emissions or involves emissions in its construction which 	<p>improvements planned to local hospitals by the West Herts Hospital NHS Trust and the Hertfordshire Essex Rapid Transit (HERT) proposal. The document makes clear that these indicate the type and scale of infrastructure investment that will be required to support long term sustainable growth in the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The document acknowledges that Councils will not be able to deliver all future infrastructure needs and aspirations, as they are not responsible for the direct delivery of many key elements i.e. health facilities. However, they have an important role to play in working with the relevant providers to ensure these services and facilities are provided at the right time and in the right place. Councils also have a key role in supporting the funding of such projects, be this via money collected through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), S106 agreements with developers, or by supporting funding bids to Government. • The councils within the JSP partnership are already exploring how best they can support the climate change / sustainability/ renewable energy agenda through proactive action. In addition to updating planning policies in the Local Plans and considering what the policy approach in the JSP should be, action is also being taken through the Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP). Recent actions include supporting a scheme to encourage small scale renewable energy production and seeking ways to ensure the councils themselves are as 'climate friendly' as possible. 	
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<p>are not counter-balanced by those which it causes not to occur in the course of its working life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported with the proviso that it does not remove productive farming. • Need to mandate new buildings to be energy efficient and for example come with energy generation (solar panels or mini wind turbines or other such technology) to be delivered as standard. • The problem is going to be finding the money to pay for it. Relying on inward investment and growth simply will not work to provide a sustainable future. There has to be a concerted effort to fund the investment based on the current economy, not simply try to "grow" our way out of the problem. 	<p>https://www.hccsp.org.uk/hertfordshire-climate-change-and-sustainability-partnership.aspx</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further consideration has been given to the wording of the second objective under this pillar – <i>‘Promote local energy production with an increased focus on renewable sources.’</i> Whilst renewable sources are likely to be the main focus, the objective should not be so tightly worded so that it would preclude other energy generation where this may be considered appropriate. For example, if managed carefully, energy from waste may have a role to play in preventing material going to landfill. 	
<p>Landowners / developers / consultants</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure delivery is key to the JSP – too many plans and strategies have failed in the past because they haven’t been coupled with a realistic and deliverable infrastructure programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted. 	<p>None.</p>

Q 21. Which of the six topics covered by the 'pillars' is of most importance to you?

Source of response	<i>PILLAR: Living green in a healthy natural environment</i>	<i>PILLAR: Growing opportunities to work locally</i>	<i>PILLAR: Living in healthy, thriving local communities</i>	<i>PILLAR: Moving easily in well connected places</i>	<i>PILLAR: Building homes and places that people are proud of</i>	<i>PIULAR: Delivering robust and sustainable infrastructure</i>
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies	1	0	2	0	0	1
General consultation bodies	2	0	0	0	0	0
Residents / individuals	41	2	14	7	6	9
Landowners / developers	0	1	0	0	1	0
Total*	44	3	15	7	7	10
	87					

*Note: one respondent considered all pillars to be of equal importance.

The following specific consultation bodies responded to this question:

- Herts Police
- Redbourn Parish Council
- Croxley Green Parish Council
- Aldbury Parish Council

Not all those answering the question explained their response, but the following provides a summary of key points raised. Those points raised more than once are shown by asterisks to denote the number of times an issue was mentioned by different respondents.

Summary of key issues raised	Response	Recommended change(s)
<i>PILLAR: Living green in a healthy natural environment</i>		
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies		
• None.	N/A	None.

General consultation bodies		
• None.	N/A	None.
Residents / individuals		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seem to have understood needs of the area well. Having declared a Climate Emergency, it is important to do something about it. Objectives are good and cover all key areas.** Influential groups seem to want to block all development and live in the past. 	• Noted.	None.
Landowners / developers / consultants		
• The objectives must be clearly linked to the overall aim of sustainable development – the most important elements are the circular economy and green energy.	• Noted.	None.
PILLAR: Growing opportunities to work locally		
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies		
• None.	N/A	None.
General consultation bodies		
• None.		None.
Residents / individuals		
• Successful local businesses ensure employment and self-worth for the population.	• Noted	None.
Landowners / developers / consultants		
• None.	N/A	None.
PILLAR: Living in healthy, thriving local communities		
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies		
• None.	N/A	None.
General consultation bodies		
• N/A		None.
Residents / individuals		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise facilities for existing housing stock should be a priority, to avoid over-stretching infrastructure and losing Green Belt and local character. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted 	None.
Landowners / developers / consultants		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. 		None.
<i>PILLAR: Moving easily in well connected places</i>		
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. 	N/A	None.
General consultation bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. 	N/A	None.
Residents / individuals		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. 	None.
Landowners / developers / consultants		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. 	N/A	None.
<i>PILLAR: Building homes and places that people are proud of</i>		
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. 	N/A	None.
General consultation bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. 	N/A	None.
Residents / individuals		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makes sense for people to live in places that provide for all their needs. Attractive homes in the right places are the fundamental building blocks for any community – the other facilities and amenities will follow once people have somewhere to live. This is the green solution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted. 	None.
Landowners / developers / consultants		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. 	N/A	None.
<i>PILLAR: Delivering robust and sustainable infrastructure</i>		

Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies		
• None.	N/A	None.
General consultation bodies		
• None.	N/A	None.
Residents / individuals		
• None.	N/A	None.
Landowners / developers / consultants		
• None.	N/A	None.

One respondent stated that all of the pillars were of equal importance and all needed to be interwoven, as the success of one depend on the success of the others.

Shaping the future

Q22. Which option or options do you think is the most appropriate way to shape future growth in SW Herts?

- (a) Growth within existing large settlements*
- (b) Outwards growth of existing large settlements*
- (c) New settlements*
- (d) Growth of groups of settlements*
- (e) Growth along key transport corridors*
- (f) Growing the best connected places*
- (g) Scattered growth*

Source of response	Number of responses
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies	4
General consultation bodies	3
Residents / individuals	95
Landowners / developers	9
Total	111

The following specific consultation bodies responded to this question:

- Herts Police
- Redbourn Parish Council
- Croxley Green Parish Council
- Aldbury Parish Council

The detailed figures for which growth types gained most support are as follows. Respondees could tick as many options as they wanted.

Source of response	(a) Growth within existing large settlements	(b) Outwards growth of existing large settlements	(c) New settlements	(d) Growth of groups of settlements	(e) Growth along key transport corridors	(f) Growing the best connected places	(g) Scattered growth
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies	2	1	0	0	1	2	0
General consultation bodies	3	0	1	0	0	0	1
Residents / individuals	50	6	10	5	24	23	13
Landowners / developers	6	7	1	3	3	1	1
Total	61	14	11	8	28	26	15

The following provides a summary of the issues raised by those leaving free text. Those points raised more than once are shown by asterisks to denote the number of times an issue was mentioned by different respondents.

Summary of key issues raised	Response	Recommended change(s)
(a) Growth within existing large settlements		
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Belt and quality agricultural land should be protected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The document acknowledges that it is a Government requirement to maximise the use of land that has 	No direct changes required. However, feedback will be
General consultation bodies		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The emphasis needs to be on brownfield first, making best use of PDL within existing settlements. • May be opportunities to increase densities to avoid pressure on surrounding Green Belt. • All existing large settlement have some capacity to grow internally, especially with more remote working and online shopping reducing demand for office and retail space. • Otherwise towns will all merge and we will lose the lungs of our countryside 	<p>been previously built on ('brownfield' sites), before considering using any undeveloped land ('greenfield' sites).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The consultation document also refers to the fact that the JSP will address cross boundary issues and set out high level policies covering matters including '<i>reflecting important designations such as the Green Belt...</i>' 	<p>discussed with consultants carrying out Strategic Growth Locations Study and Multi Modal Study to ensure pros and cons of each growth option are fully considered.</p>
<p>Residents / individuals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported by conclusions of Sustainability Appraisal Scoping report. • Need to protect the Green Belt and use brownfield sites.***** • Need to focus on 20 minute neighbourhood concept within existing settlements. • High destiny development in existing settlement sis very hard to achieve sustainably and risks creating slums of the future. • Can cause issues regarding density. • In most cases large settlement have acceptable levels of infrastructure and services and more brownfield sites available.***** • This is the ideal scenario, but it will not be possible to accommodate all new growth. • Needs to be in-keeping with existing areas. • Cramming existing settlements with more housing will make them less attractive places to live and work. • Supporting and nurturing what we have and can sustain. • All current settlements need to grow to support people's desire to live in these places. • Area needs a larger economic centre of gravity, especially with the relative of waning of London since 2016. Investing in key towns (Watford/St Albans/etc) seems like it would provide higher return on investment. Also these denser areas tend to have the larger pockets of deprivation as mentioned, and so addressing this makes sense. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision is intentionally high level, with more detailed pillars and objectives sitting below it. These embrace all three elements of sustainability. The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed growth strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan – these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial investment in greener technologies (e.g. electric vehicle infrastructure) will require high ROI to justify ongoing investment. Larger towns are ideal for this. Keeping green spaces and improve outdated buildings and modernise areas. The climate and environmental crises are so severe that need attach far more value than in the past to protecting green spaces and other sites which are environmentally valuable. The proposed Joint Plan assumes that there should be a very high level of growth in the local area over the next 30 years. Considers this is inappropriate and contrary to the government's levelling up strategy to redirect growth away from over-heated areas like Hertfordshire. 		
<p>Landowners / developers / consultants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing settlement have facilities, infrastructure and services and are sustainable locations. Support development of brownfield sites. ** Much of SW Herts is Green Belt, which is not mentioned in the document, so priority for growth must be in existing settlements where there is capacity. Limited scope and will require greater building height which impacts on heritage assets. 		
<p>(b) Outwards growth of existing large settlements</p>		
<p>Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments noted. 	<p>No direct changes required. However, feedback will be discussed with consultants carrying out Strategic Growth Locations Study and Multi Modal Study to ensure pros and cons of each</p>
<p>General consultation bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not a good option as it removes or degrades established green infrastructure. 		
<p>Residents / individuals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't support any urban expansion that will reduce the gap between areas and subsume villages into towns. Putting housing on the edge of settlement would generate traffic and increase isolation. 		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most settlements are surrounded by Green Belt, which outward growth would destroy. • An attractive option if done sensitively. • Would destroy the nature of the surrounding areas, which is what often attracted people to the area initially. ** • Contrary to Pillar – Living green in a healthy natural environment. • Would result in loss of green space. • New land urgently needs to be identified and allocated to meet local housing needs, including affordable housing. This will inevitably involve release of green field sites given the lack of sufficient previously developed land in SW Herts. Such land, on the edges of larger villages, towns and other urban settlements, is able to tap into and help to enhance/underpin existing local facilities and infrastructure. • It meets the objectives of using building to improve environment and infrastructure which are most in need of improvement, and which will enable growth as they are likely to be well connected. 		<p>growth option are fully considered.</p>
<p>Landowners / developers / consultants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numerous Green Belt sites on the edge of existing settlements are available that are suitable for housing. • Support use of brownfield sites in the Green Belt i.e. land South East of Redbourn. • This is next suitable option after growth within settlements. ** 		
<p>(c) New settlements</p>		
<p>Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments noted. 	<p>No direct changes required. However, feedback will be discussed with consultants carrying out Strategic Growth Locations Study and Multi Modal Study to ensure pros and cons of each</p>
<p>General consultation bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. 		
<p>Residents / individuals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would involve the loss of greenfield / Green Belt land but has potential to avoid more sporadic development in the countryside. • Would need to have a critical mass to support a full range of required facilities. 		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New settlement built with Government money – like Milton Keynes – would provide one answer, but would require countryside to be sacrificed. • Not supported as countryside and agricultural land would be lost. • Any new settlement should be located in less densely populated parts of the country. • Would increase car use. • This as the preferred approach that emerged from Hertsmeire’s Local Plan consultation as it was least controversial. • Doesn’t take advantage of existing infrastructure. • They are a way to deliver in volume as they will enable infrastructure to be fully and properly funded. • Modern ‘new towns’ are an opportunity to take advantage of up to date sustainability approaches, including sustainable transport. • Becoming harder to introduce new infrastructure to existing settlement due to their age - looking at new settlements will relieve pressure and create new corridors of opportunity and enable more environmentally friendly buildings. • No more in-filling in towns - need new developments out of town even if on Green Belt. • New settlements look like a good idea, but will be hard to find anywhere where it is seen as acceptable in the area. 		<p>growth option are fully considered.</p>
<p>Landowners / developers / consultants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. 		
<p>(d) Growth of groups of settlements</p>		
<p>Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments noted. 	<p>No direct changes required. However, feedback will be discussed with consultants carrying out Strategic Growth Locations Study and Multi Modal Study to ensure</p>
<p>General consultation bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. 		
<p>Residents / individuals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only supported if all existing communities support such development. • Would increase car use. 		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sprawl is not a good idea. Communities thrive with centres and satellite hubs reducing need for travel for essentials. 		pros and cons of each growth option are fully considered.
Landowners / developers / consultants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. 		
(e) Growth along key transport corridors		
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments noted. 	No direct changes required. However, feedback will be discussed with consultants carrying out Strategic Growth Locations Study and Multi Modal Study to ensure pros and cons of each growth option are fully considered.
General consultation bodies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. 		
Residents / individuals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported by the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping report. • Least impactful – build vertically not horizontally. • Important to have some public transport links to areas of countryside. • New transport links should not be an excuse for development that impinges on the countryside. • Connectivity along already established infrastructure is the preferable option. *** • Some potential north / south with good connections to London – no anticipated interest in east / west movement. • The plan will address the need for both more efficient transport links and more of them, growth should also be based along these key areas. 		
Landowners / developers / consultants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlikely to remove reliance on car altogether, so growth should take advantage of existing transport hubs and facilities. • An option if HERT is delivered. 		
(f) Growing the best connected places		
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is not the capacity for further growth within South West Hertfordshire without continuing to exceed the carrying capacity of the land. If growth is unavoidable, then it should be focussed on the “best connected” places, however defined. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments noted. 	No direct changes required. However, feedback will be discussed with consultants carrying out Strategic Growth
General consultation bodies		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. 			
<p>Residents / individuals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptable if limited in scale. • Could make better use of existing transport, walking and cycling opportunities without so much need for car infrastructure.** • Would not have such of an impact or exacerbate areas with limited infrastructure and amenities. • Supported by the consultation of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. • Have a very limited supply of land in the area; the part of it that is "green" needs to stay so as far as possible and thus growth should be channelled towards brown and grey land. • New growth and new infrastructure go together. • These have to be best connected by low energy transport and travel, to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.** 		<p>Locations Study and Multi Modal Study to ensure pros and cons of each growth option are fully considered.</p>	
<p>Landowners / developers / consultants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. 			
(g) Scattered growth			
<p>Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The choice of growth locations must be based on a clear and robust planning strategy and assessment of the suitability of sites – it cannot be based on a mathematical calculation to distribute growth based on existing settlement size. • The consultation document makes it clear that the scale of growth required over the JSP period is not yet known. Rather the consultation marked the first stage of beginning discussions about the future of the area. 	<p>No direct changes required. However, feedback will be discussed with consultants carrying out Strategic Growth Locations Study and Multi Modal Study to ensure pros and cons of each growth option are fully considered.</p>	
<p>General consultation bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 			
<p>Residents / individuals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would increase car use as would be hard to link together.** • Acceptable if limited in scale and doesn't affect the countryside. • Growth should be based on yearly increase in village size so it is organic and integrated. • This is the least bad option – but less emphasis should be placed on development as a necessity and some recognition placed on when an area has reached its limited, when the focus should turn to improving the quality (not size) of existing communities. • Potential to make everywhere 'built up.' • Doesn't take advantage of existing infrastructure. 			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that places don't become overcrowded by allowing growth of all settlements, with the level to be proportionate to the amount of people who desire to move to settlements, and those moving to these places already. • Important not to focus on cramming everything into existing large settlements - additional burdens should be shared to avoid creating over-dense ghettos • A mix of the ideas is most likely to work. Infill works. But not just growing settlements at the edges as then the opportunities for planning in parks, shops, health centres and schools within walking distance is lots. • Some scattered growth must be possible, but against a strategic plan and making use of identified brown field or suitable land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The document acknowledges that it is a Government requirement to maximise the use of land that has been previously built on ('brownfield' sites), before considering using any undeveloped land ('greenfield' sites). • The document also acknowledges that <i>'The pattern of sustainable growth eventually chosen for the Joint Strategic Plan is unlikely to be based on just one of the growth types outlined....Rather it will include a mix of types of growth that are best suited to the SW Herts area and reflect local constraints, opportunities and ambitions.'</i> 	
<p>Landowners / developers / consultants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. 		
<p>General comments</p>		
<p>Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The consultation document also states in its introductory section that the JSP will address cross boundary issues and set out high level policies covering matters including 'reflecting important designations such as the Green Belt and Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.' • The consultation document makes it clear that the scale of growth required over the JSP period is not yet known. Rather the consultation marked the first stage 	<p>No direct changes required. However, feedback will be discussed with consultants carrying out Strategic Growth Locations Study and Multi Modal Study to ensure pros and cons of each growth option are fully considered.</p>
<p>General consultation bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 		
<p>Residents / individuals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There shouldn't be growth at any price – need discussion with Government regarding numbers, as the area is already over-developed and is impacting quality of life for existing residents. **. • Need to take account of Green Belt and AONB.*** • Need to avoid SW Herts becoming a suburb of north London. • Cramming existing settlement with more houses will make them less attractive places to live. • Important to protect undeveloped sites – growth should be located where there is already development. 		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding the built footprint is the least sustainable way to grow – all evidence shows growth is most sustainably achieved by better use of resources. • There is no need for either population or economic growth – all options threaten human life on the planet and plans to shrink the economy and population would be more acceptable. • Growth is good, but not on the scale envisaged in this plan. • Tower blocks or flats are not suitable places for children to grow up and are not good for the environment. ** • No one will use public transport or cycle schemes. • One of the positives in SW Herts is the amount of green space – this will be lost if there are larger conurbations. • There is no ‘one size fits all’ solution – need a considered and balanced mix of approaches.** • Major centres are all overcrowded – so need to consider ‘quieter’ areas for growth. • Hopes the unified approach being taken by the local authorities will lead to a fairer distribution of development. • Approach chosen should help level up property values and allow lower paid and younger people to get on the property ladder. ** • Need to ensure a definite gap between town and countryside. • Whatever development is planned needs to meet the sustainability targets set out in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. • Councils are required by Government to take a ‘brownfield first’ approach and maximise the use of the sites before considering any greenfield sites. *** • There should not be a presumption of growth. The presumption should be a reduction of population and development. ** 	<p>of beginning discussions about the future of the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The document acknowledges that it is a Government requirement to maximise the use of land that has been previously built on (‘brownfield’ sites), before considering using any undeveloped land (‘greenfield’ sites). • The document also acknowledges that <i>‘The pattern of sustainable growth eventually chosen for the Joint Strategic Plan is unlikely to be based on just one of the growth types outlined....Rather it will include a mix of types of growth that are best suited to the SW Herts area and reflect local constraints, opportunities and ambitions.’</i> 	
<p>Landowners / developers / consultants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to consider sites of a range of sizes, not just those of a more strategic scale. • Need to look at a range of growth types/options in order to house the population** 		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Important that areas such as Kings Langley can benefit from growth – the allocation of new homes can bring infrastructure benefits to existing residents. 		
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Q23. Are there any other growth types we have not mentioned that you think should be considered?

Slightly fewer respondents answered this follow-up question.

Source of response	YES	NO
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies (4)	2	2
General consultation bodies (3)	1	2
Residents / individuals (77)	25	52
Landowners / developers (6)	1	5
Total	29	61
	90	

The following specific consultation bodies responded to this question:

- Herts Police
- Redbourn Parish Council
- Croxley Green Parish Council
- Aldbury Parish Council

Alternative growth options suggested are summarised below. Once again, some respondents suggested more than one option.

Suggested alternative(s)	Response	Recommended change(s)
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better quality industry, not just warehouses Zero growth – make the best use of the existing development and preserving as much as possible of the natural environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None of the suggestions put forward are considered to be practical alternative growth types. 'No growth' was intentionally not included as an option within the consultation, because even 	None.
General consultation bodies		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage schemes that incentive people to downsize from houses larger than they need. 	<p>without the JSP or other development plans, there will always be growth and change within the area over time. This could be as a result of developing small-scale infill plots and larger vacant or underused sites, or speculative applications being approved for greenfield sites. It is better to plan ahead for this growth as far as possible, rather than let it occur ad-hoc without any supporting infrastructure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is accepted that many of the growth types suggested overlap to a greater or lesser degree. For example, you could have growth along a sustainable transport corridor (Option E) that is also within an existing settlement (Option B). • All growth strategies will involve provision for homes, jobs and supporting services and infrastructure as required. • Section 6 of the consultation document makes it very clear that it is a Government requirement to ensure that maximum use is made of land that has been previously built on ('brownfield' site), before considering any undeveloped land ('greenfield' sites). • The issues of density and affordable housing provision and appropriate tenures will be important considerations for all growth types. • It is not the intention of the JSP to define the location of all future development sites. It will only focus on strategic growth locations, with the Local Plan prepared by each districts adding further smaller sites (if required) to meet more local needs. 	
<p>Residents / individuals</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No growth – reuse the land already available. **** • There appears to be mention of housing and work, but no social infrastructure such as health services. • Need to move to denser, more vertical building (5-6 storeys) to maintain greenspace and benefits a 20 minute neighbourhood. ** • Build council homes for rent. • Building any future housing next to homes of council members. • Need to make some reference to / provision for canal and river dwellers. • Build on brownfield sites first. • Location of new sites should not be left to developers to decide as they will always choose the most profitable. • No growth on existing Green Belt areas, i.e. Sky Studios and vast fields near Rowley Farm. • Retired people are not mentioned at all in a serious way within this document. • There should be no growth in the Green Belt. • Evolution as the populations move through natural lifespans and needs. • In addition to brownfield sites, urban redevelopment opportunities should be explored. *** • Due to the growth of London, the boundaries need a major correction. • Some people will promote strategies of 'no growth' or 'very limited growth' - please make it clear that NIMBYISM has no part to play in truly sustainable communities. • Minimal growth - making the best use of existing development whilst preserving as much as possible of the 		

natural environment and minimising the consumption of scarce resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The matter of meeting needs for river / canal boat dwellers is not a strategic matter and will therefore be one that Local Plans will address as appropriate. The pillar 'Building homes and places that people are proud of' recognises the need for homes that can be flexible and adaptable to meet different lifestyles and needs, such as those for elderly people. 	
Landowners / developers		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A successful growth strategy needs to be both top up and bottom down, with a selection of suitable sites. Consider that whilst the substantive basis for the strategy should be on existing settlement (Options A and B), individual Local Plans should include an element of other options. Not all options are necessary alternatives – many overlap. 		

MAKING IT HAPPEN

Q24. Are there any other 'good practice' examples you feel should be considered for SW Herts?

Source of response	YES	NO
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies (4)	1	3
General consultation bodies (6)	3	3
Residents / individuals (60)	28	32
Landowners / developers (5)	0	5
Total	32	43
	75	

*Figure excludes 3 duplicate responses and one response where no answers were given.

The following specific consultation bodies responded to this question:

- Herts Police
- Redbourn Parish Council
- Croxley Green Parish Council
- Aldbury Parish Council

The following provides a summary of key points raised by those who chosen to explain their response. Those points raised more than once are shown by asterisks to denote the number of times an issue was mentioned by different respondees.

Summary of key issues raised	Response	Recommended change(s)
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 10 principles of Sport England's Active Design Guidance can be embedded throughout the SW Herts Joint Strategic Plan. Essex Design Guide: Building activity into new development. Alconbury Weald: Delivering Active Design in New Communities. Evidence for decision making should be of the best quality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggestions noted. The JSP will take a strategic approach to the delivery of growth and infrastructure. The incorporation of Active Design guidance is likely to be most effective at the Local Plan scale and when developing masterplans or design codes for major new development. 	None.
General consultation bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expected to see more examples showing how green infrastructure investment could improve quality of life, biodiversity and better water management. Good practice examples include Scotney [Green] Bridge: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/green-bridges-safer-travel-for-wildlife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggestions noted 	None.
Residents / individuals		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stop building on the Green Belt** BedZED eco-village should be used as examples of successful building. Reduce parking restrictions and charges Improve public transport links like TFL Encourage people to start businesses in empty shop- example of Hinckley following 2008 financial crash. Nuneaton have built homes on the Green Belt and taken a view of being a commuter town for nearby cities- warning for areas like St Albans. There is a list of which councils have the most useful climate approaches on the Climate Scorecard website - see https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/scoring/district/ Copying large scale schemes unlikely to be successful but small scale initiatives may have transferable elements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parking charges are not a direct planning issue. Car parking standards will be set in individual authority Local Plans and not in the JSP. The case studies provided are noted and welcomed. The pillar 'moving easily in connected places' includes high level vision objectives relating to improving public transport connectivity and creating walkable neighbourhoods. More detailed proposals for strategic transport will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. Non-strategic transport issues will be dealt with through individual authority Local Plans. 	None.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rennes in France has a great metro service with free parking- scheme like this could reduce reliance on cars. Public transport needs to be cheaper. • Car clubs should be trialled that are sensibly affordable, in France they have 'co-voiturage' a free car share scheme with designated parking spaces. • Shared space model for highways as in Netherlands. • Make streets wide enough within large developments. • Hertsmere as it is now. • Approaches taken in Australian cities. • Look abroad and see what other countries are doing • More infrastructure. • The concept of Watling Chase Community Forest is an excellent model for future vision with increased tree planting and Green Belt protection throughout the area. • Fordham Research (amongst others) produced a Housing Needs Assessment which measured the housing needs of particular groups, including Key Workers - the SW Herts districts need to commission a new LHNA which measures the affordable housing needs of our essential local workers, too. • See Essex CC. • Those mentioned in the plan regarding cafes etc. and the need to meet the requirements that come with an aging population. • Any town with a decent high street such as Olney, Berkhamsted etc. • Scotland is opening new local rail lines and upgrading others. • Look at Hertsmere's Greenways Strategy for provision of routes between and around settlements. • Look at the British Horse Society's Ride UK plan for 'community circuits' and the 'national network.' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed growth strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan with regard to quantum, location or type of housing or employment floorspace– these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • The pillar, 'Living green in a healthy natural environment' includes the high level objectives to bring people closer to nature by protecting green spaces, integrating nature into all development and improving links to green space. It also aims to protect, enhance and improve connections to biodiversity and ecological networks. • A new Local Housing Needs Assessment for SW Herts has been commissioned as of May 2023. 	
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the Countryside Agency's design notes (2005) for shared non-motorised routes (as their studies found that there is no conflict between different user types as long as simple pitfalls were avoided, which was easily done). 		
Landowners / developers / consultants		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. 	N/A	None.

Q25. Are there any further comments you would like to make on the SW Herts Joint Strategic Plan?

Source of response	YES	NO
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies (4)	2	2
General consultation bodies (5)	3	2
Residents / individuals (72)	27	45
Landowners / developers (5)	3	2
Total	35	51
	86	

The following specific consultation bodies responded to this question:

- Herts Police
- Redbourn Parish Council
- Croxley Green Parish Council
- Aldbury Parish Council

The following provides a summary of key points raised by those who chosen to explain their response.

Summary of key issues raised	Response	Recommended change(s)
Specific consultation bodies / DtC bodies		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality food production land should not be developed on as the UK needs to be less reliant on importing food. New communities need to be small scale, not massive estates. Green Belt should not be built on if it performs well against NPPF purposes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topic Paper 4 'Supporting Economic Growth' notes the requirements of the NPPF which states that planning policies should support the rural economy. Whilst it is not considered appropriate to refer to specific economic sectors such as agriculture within the 	Amend the 'Create space to grow' objective under 'Growing opportunities to work locally' pillar to read 'Support the delivery of

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This whole approach is based on a false premise - ‘sustainable growth’ is an oxymoron. There are limits to growth and the current situation is unsustainable. • SW Herts is not self-sufficient in food, employment, nor in energy, other natural resources (raw materials) and future growth is likely to be limited by water resources. • The administrative area considered is not a separate geographic or economic area - there are three main poles (Hemel Hempstead, St Albans & Watford) and a number of smaller places (Borehamwood, Potters Bar, Harpenden, Berkhamsted, Rickmansworth, etc) and economic activity spills across the boundaries of these into the wider context. • Any longer term strategic plan should be set in the wider context of the Greater London conurbation and the rest of the south and east of England. What is the purpose of development, and the sustainable economic future, for SW Herts in that context? • The strategic goals should be survival (first) and then prosperity in the general sense of health and well-being, and not simply ‘economic growth.’ • The key issue in SW Herts is overpopulation within the existing geographic boundaries. • Need to plan for an age of scarcity, which means reducing consumption, and rationing scarce resources to reduce inequity. 	<p>objectives, it is recommend that the wording of the ‘Create space to grow’ objective can be clarified to ensure it is clear that it applies to economic sectors in both urban and rural areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government requires plans such as the JSP to ensure that it maximises the use of land that has been previously built on (‘brownfield’ sites), before considering using any undeveloped land (‘greenfield’ sites). • No growth’ was intentionally not included as an option within the consultation, because even without the JSP or other development plans, there will always be growth and change within the area over time. This could be as a result of developing small-scale infill plots and larger vacant or underused sites, or speculative applications being approved for greenfield sites. It is better to plan ahead for this growth as far as possible, rather than let it occur ad-hoc without any supporting infrastructure. • SW Herts has been independently assessed by specialist consultants (through the SW Herts Economic Study) to be a ‘Functional Economic Market Area’ (FEMA). However, this does not mean that there are not economic linkages with areas beyond. 	<p><i>a wide range of quality workspaces, where new and existing businesses from different sectors, <u>in both urban and rural areas</u>, can grow and flourish.’</i></p>
<p>General consultation bodies</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be more support for existing strategic projects such as Watling Chase Community Forest, The Chilterns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The JSP vision is ambitious in putting the environment and sustainability at the heart of 	<p>None.</p>

<p>AONB, Colne Valley Regional Park and proposed initiatives such as the Woodland Arc (in the Green Arc/Hertfordshire Strategic GI Plan).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need a new strategic GI initiative to populate SW Herts urban areas with Green Infrastructure • Insufficient joining up with London plans, cannot pretend that SW Herts can be planned in isolation from London and many associated GI links. 	<p>its vision, but it is deliberately high level. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The comment on the JSPs relationship with plans in neighbouring London boroughs is noted. It will be critical that the JSP is developed with cross boundary co-operation between neighbouring authorities including those in London. 	
Residents / individuals		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should stop building in the Green Belt. **** • 2050 is a long way off and need to see progress quicker than that. • Growth should be less of a priority, make what is already available more affordable instead. • Consider older people's needs more. • Public transport is unreliable, expensive and disjointed. • Stop trying to stop car use and car parking. • Living in the area is expensive. • Assuming the standard method will be dropped, housing needs should be calculated based on latest demographic information. • JSP should take an objective and strategic view of land use across the area, should not do a call for sites, alternative scenarios should be presented for consultation. • Should be a strategic review of the Green Belt but it should be high level and not examine individual sites. • Plan promotes growth over everything else, what about protecting agriculture. • Plan should encourage innovation and new initiatives. • Needs to recognise that the quality of growth is most important, encouraging neighbourhood plans and community involvement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2050 target date for Net Zero is a national target that is reflected in the SW Herts authorities' declaration of a climate emergency. • The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed growth strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan with regard to quantum, location or type of housing or other types of development—these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • The JSP vision is ambitious in putting the environment and sustainability at the heart of its vision but it is deliberately high level. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • Topic Paper 4 'Supporting Economic Growth' notes the requirements of the NPPF which states that planning policies should support the rural economy. Whilst it is not considered appropriate to refer to specific economic sectors such as agriculture within the 	<p>Amend the 'Create space to grow' objective under 'Growing opportunities to work locally' pillar to read <i>'Support the delivery of a wide range of quality workspaces, where new and existing businesses from different sectors, <u>in both urban and rural areas, can grow and flourish.</u>'</i></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity and connecting green spaces and habitats should be highest priority. *** • Only build on brownfield land. • Plan should support cycle super highways to connect major settlements and London. • Ensure that there are regular and well publicised updates for this work. • Provide more schools. • Try and build a community of old and young, look at designs in Shenley Neighbourhood Plan. • Should not be planning for growth, and Herts should not be targeted for huge amounts of additional greenfield housing.***** • Unclear how the proposals will be put into practice. • Some of the items are in Herts County Council plans but used here as new ideas. HERT is a waste of money even just to plan it, just improve existing bus links. • There is potential but it is not being utilised - plan needs more detail of targets. • The objectives are all very laudable but are also very generic. • This issue is all about the numbers and how they impact the wider environment. It is a detailed problem and needs to be data driven. • Would like to know the cost of preparing the plan. • There is far too little recognition of the potential conflicts and trade-offs between the different aims. • Too conservative and does not meet the immediate and important challenges faced today. ** • Need to support Key Workers. • Climate change is unproven. • The plan is all about built environment rather than the natural environment. • SW Herts is already 'unsustainable' as an entity. 	<p>objectives, it is recommend that the wording of the 'Create space to grow' objective can be clarified to ensure it is clear that it applies to economic sectors in both urban and rural areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The comment on providing regular and well publicised updates on the plan's development is noted. A 'Latest News on the JSP' page has been created on the JSP webpage for this purpose. • A Strategic Green Belt Baseline study is currently underway (as of May 2023). • The Plan will take a strategic approach to infrastructure (including health and education facilities) across SW Herts. More detailed proposals will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. • The next stage of the JSP process is scheduled to be another Regulation 18 consultation on a series of potential growth options. • It is agreed that it will be critical to prepare the JSP with cross boundary co-operation between neighbouring authorities including those in London. 	
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any longer term strategic plan should be set in the context of Greater London and the adjoining areas of south and east England. 		
Landowners / developers / consultants		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an opportunity to allow some parts of the Green Belt to be developed for housing. Should be a strategy of identifying exceptional circumstances that would allow Green Belt boundaries to be moved to allow growth. Site promoted for net zero dwellings in Potters Bar. Site promoted at Roehyde, Hatfield as a strategic employment site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vision is not intended to articulate either the detailed growth strategy or detailed policy approaches to be taken in the plan with regard to quantum, location or type of housing or other types of development– these will be drawn up as the plan progresses and be subject to further consultation. This is a high level strategic vision and it is not therefore considering specific sites for development at this stage. 	None.

Summary Report from poll questions

Appendix 3

See separate report appended

Summary tables from email / letter responses

See separate excel spreadsheet appended

Response by letter (address redacted)

①

S.W. HERTS IJSP TEAM

CORPORATE SUPPORT

31 OCT 2022

DEAR SIR/MADAM

CONSULTATION ON I. S. P.

- (1) Yes
Lifestyle and attitudes influences from the U.S.A. and social media sources. China will increasingly infiltrate industry, commerce, education, government for subversive reasons and strengthen its control of some vital raw materials.
- (2) YES
- (3) ~~YES~~
HCESSP to list its achievements and confirm that it has engaged with CHINA/INDIA/BRAZIL/USA. HCESSP to levy fines on water supply companies who continue to abstract water from local rivers. HCESSP to promote a national water supply network. Local parks/gardens/recreation grounds/allotments to be protected. Regional parks and AONBs should exclude car use visitors.
- (4) YES
- (5) YES
More than 4 million people are living in private rented accommodation, in England alone, plus there are council and housing association tenants.
- (6) YES
- (7) ~~YES~~
Key sectors to increase pay rates so that employees are able to live locally. The ENTERPRISE ZONE should actively promote more than 2 sectors and support small businesses. The University of Hertfordshire offers limited local support as it caters for students from throughout the UK and internationally. Further education involves travel - extra discounts on public transport to be provided.
- (8) YES
- (9) ~~YES~~
This area cannot compete with larger entertainment venues within Greater London. It is not feasible to provide public transport to all visitor attractions or entertainment venues. The future of the largest night time attraction in SW Herts is uncertain. Visitor attractions should be within attractive surroundings with hotels nearby - also

(9) (Continued)

parking availability for longer distance coach operators.
Cycling is mainly an option for those under 60s.
Cycle networks should be exclusively for cyclists as sharing with walkers is problematic. Cycle parking in town centres and at rail stations and surfacing repairs, clearance of overgrown vegetation, lighting and blockages caused by parked vehicles all need attention.

(10) Yes

(11) MRTS (HERT) will do little to increase the uptake of public transport - the county council does not have the technical ability to design/construct/operate the system. This will not be an efficient use of valuable space unless it operates at a high frequency whilst providing limited interchange points with existing bus services. Stansted Airport should be excluded.

(12) Yes

Prioritise progress at the 3 local hospitals and ensure that these are served by expanded bus service provision.

(13) No

(14) Yes

South West Herts will strive to be nationally recognised as a centre of progressive thinking, fair dealing and a genuine interest in all of its citizens. It will be known for encompassing all opinions whilst producing creative solutions for 21ST century living.

(15) Yes

Integrating nature into new development is not necessarily reducing energy use and the first use of materials such as sand and gravel is incompatible with current demolition and rebuild regimes.

(16) No

New employment sites must be identified and restrictions on permitted night development implemented. Not all town centre buildings can be adapted for new uses. It's essential that business rates are realigned.

(17) Yes

I find it very unlikely that it is possible to identify those people who have physical or mental health problems.

(17) (continued)

as a result of their housing or neighbourhood conditions. Safety is more often the result of perceived danger rather than actual danger. Local businesses need to be run viably - even leisure centres are privately operated. Community facilities which offer face to face interaction are becoming fewer in number.

(18) YES

Walkable neighbourhoods are going to be difficult to achieve. There are a long way from a radical travel transformation - in fact the trend is in the opposite direction. Public transport provision is limited by demand and usage. Cycling and walking are problematic - sharing creates unsafe conditions, poor surfacing and lighting, overgrown vegetation, vehicle parking and conflicts at road crossings all need attention.

(19) YES Far more people and businesses will occupy existing premises than 'new builds' - "found" in the wrong word "satisfied" is more appropriate for the majority. Energy efficiency is more important than architectural merit.

(20) YES

More public participation is required at the onset to achieve total waste delivery and efficient follow on processes.

(21) "Living in Healthy Thriving Communities" - as in FEEDBACK (17)

Existing communities should take priority over new growth particularly with regard to health aspects for those aged over 70.

(22) (A) Growth within existing large settlements by increasing densities - this means building up to 10 storeys in height - but not in close proximity to historic settings and conservation areas. Buildings to incorporate (1) all post 2017 safety requirements (2) district heating possibilities (3) fully reliable internal lifts.

(23) NO

(24) YES

Of the examples illustrated - the "1759 Collocated Community Service" could be worthwhile if adapted to be run by other "not-for-profit" enterprises.

→ (4)

- (25) Travel to school is a key factor in promoting car use
- (A) amongst the younger generations.
 - (B) We are powerless to prevent the loss of wildlife - fauna and flora in the ~~short~~ short term. But new species may settle from other continents.
 - (C) Flood prevention works must be fully completed within 5 years.
 - (D) airports should not be considered as realistic destinations.
 - (E) Farming practices are evolving in the transitional period since leaving the EU.
 - (F) Guidance is needed on uses for former landfill and mineral working sites after restoration has been completed.
 - (G) Large developers and builders are using public money to house on their own terms only.
 - (H) Most developments in the past 60 years incorporate little or no provision for public transport accessibility.
 - (I) "Build back better" will do little to benefit SW Herts
 - (J) Care Home Workers are a prime example of low paid people not receiving adequate public transport to access their employment
 - (K) The "intervention ladder" within the public health and lifestyle field is a slow process and will delay the introduction of suitable regulation
 - (L) Few workers over 40 years of age will cycle to and from work - no matter what incentives are provided.
 - (M) Public transport providers need to coordinate information for passenger benefit.
 - (N) The sum total funds available from council tax and government grants are completely insufficient to carry out all of these objectives.

Summary from sixth form event at Kings Langley School



SW Herts School Workshop Note

Wednesday 25th January 2023 – Kings Langley School

This note includes a summary of the event undertaken with young people in SW Herts in January 2023, outlining the activities undertaken and feedback received. Also included are images from the event.

Participants

In advance of the planned youth session scheduled for 25th January 2023, the team contacted over 40 education providers within the SW Herts area. This included a range of schools and colleges, with a mix of urban and rural locations, and spanning all five authority areas (Dacorum, St Albans, Hertsmere, Watford and Three Rivers).

Initial email correspondence outlined background to the JSP and set out why participation from students was important in helping to shape the future of the area. Following this, multiple telephone calls were made to each education provider to enquire if any students were interested and to identify any barriers to participation.

Despite interest from a number of schools and West Herts college, it became clear that due to staffing shortages most were unable to provide the necessary staffing cover to attend the in-person event alongside students. Staff attendance was a requirement of the host school, Kings Langley. The event did however still proceed, with a small group of Kings Langley sixth form students.

The workshop was facilitated by consultants Iceni Projects, supported by members of the JSP team.

Engagement Exercise

The workshop event was held at Kings Langley School on 25th January, after school hours, with a four students ranging in age from 17-18 years old. On arrival, the team outlined the background of the Joint Strategic Plan, why it was important the JSP heard the views of young people within SW Herts and set the objectives for the session.

The session was structured into five key elements:

1. **Icebreakers** – Using a large map displaying the SW Herts area and tracing paper, the team asked the group some ice-breaker questions. The students were asked to annotate on the map where they lived, noting if they liked or disliked the location and why. This was followed by some follow up questions to prompt discussion, for instance, asking if they expected to still live in that area in 10, 20, 30 years' time and why. The questions were intended to get the students thinking about their surroundings and the future of the area, and begin analysing their own viewpoints around what made a good 'place'.
2. **Priorities** – The team then set out a series of topics printed on individual sheets with associated images. The students were asked to rank these based upon their own interpretation of priorities for the next 30 years. The topics included 'Well Connected Places', 'Sustainable Infrastructure', 'Green Living', 'Healthy Thriving Community', 'Local Employment', and 'Quality Homes'. The team prompted the students to discuss their decision making process and if they would add or remove any options from the list.
3. **Spider Diagrams** – Using five separate diagrams, the students were asked to interrogate the themes of '*Living*', '*Moving*', '*Working*', '*Playing*' and '*Environment*'. Each theme was surrounded with various related subtopics and the students marked the diagrams with their personal priorities. A dedicated '*Other*' subtopic was included on each and students were encouraged to annotate with any additional priorities they felt had not been included.
4. **Quickfire Discussion** – The team posed the question "*If you could change one thing about SW Herts what would it be?*" and asked the students to explain their answers and opened up the discussion to the wider group for light debate between individuals.
5. **Next Steps** – The team summarised the feedback from the event and invited students to continue engagement with the JSP by joining the Youth Forum and telling friends/family about the wider consultation being undertaken.

Key Findings

Based upon the exercises undertaken, and discussions that followed, the following key findings emerged:

- The students were acutely aware of the threat of climate change and want to see immediate action to address it.
- Sustainability features should be a key component of any future development.
- Public transport is not viewed as a convenient or attractive mode of travel.
- Students are aware of how expensive it currently is to live in the area and do not imagine they will be able to afford their own property in the future.
- Health and wellbeing should be prioritised through year-round sport facilities and suitable spaces for living and socialising.
- There is a lack of suitable jobs for young people, and those that are available are difficult to access without a private vehicle.

Workshop Notes

The following notes were taken during the workshop. Words in italics indicate direct quotes from students.

Mapping Exercise:

- Difficult to get between places on a bus.
- Bus routes are confusing and expensive.

- Trains unreliable and expensive.
- *“I don’t imagine I will still be in this area in 20 years’ time.”*
- Would like to see better recycling facilities.
- Cycle routes that better connect places so people wouldn’t need to make short car journeys.
- Improved phone signal across SW Herts.
- Kings Langley is a nice place to live and has good Wi-Fi.
- Sarratt is a good place for outdoor walks but has bad phone signal.

Ranking Exercise:

- Student wants to stay living in the area and buy a home after university but believes it is too expensive – local people need more affordable houses.
- *“Buying my own home will only ever be a dream.”*
- Having access to greenspace and the countryside is good for your mental health.
- Air quality is very important.
- Its important housing design reflects local character and people feel proud of their area.
- New homes should have sustainability features and provide community benefits i.e. sustainable drainage systems.

Spider Diagram Exercise:

- LIVING
 - Students feel safe walking in Kings Langley at night.
 - Homes should be sustainable - could integrate solar panels to help lower energy bills.
 - *“Homes will always be built, but where they are built is the point that matters.”*
 - As fewer houses are built, it makes the rest of the homes more expensive.
 - People can’t always afford larger houses – there is a need for smaller homes too.
- ENVIRONMENT
 - We should protect local landscapes, such as the bluebell woods in Sarratt.
 - Need to keep the world clean and help it thrive.
 - More benches in green spaces to enable people to work/study outdoors.
 - Easy access to green space for a place to just breath and relax.
 - *“Tackling climate change incredibly important, if we don’t do anything now, we are all going to be doomed. Not doing anything is really irresponsible and I think it’s the most important aspect to improve.”*
- PLAYING
 - Not enough points of interest.
 - A lot of one-way roads without cycle paths, so there are fears of cars turning a corner when cycling.
 - A lot of places have closed down and littering on the streets.
 - Gyms are too expensive.
 - Not enough for teens to do – no festivals.
 - Homelessness on streets – more facilities to help individuals who are homeless.
 - A lack of indoor athletics facilities for year-round sports.
 - Too many people using cars for short journeys.

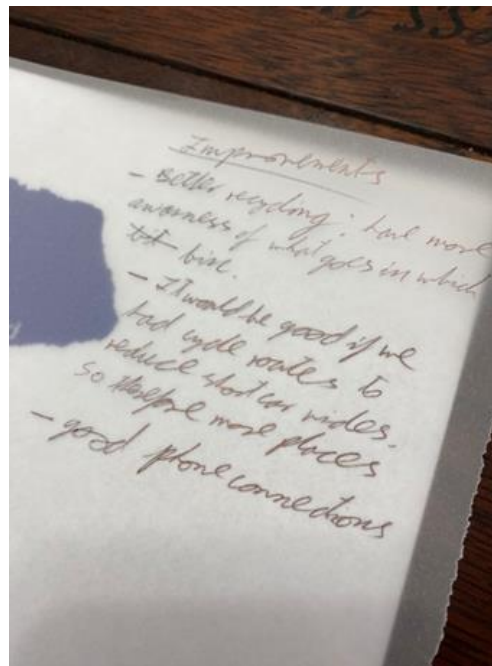
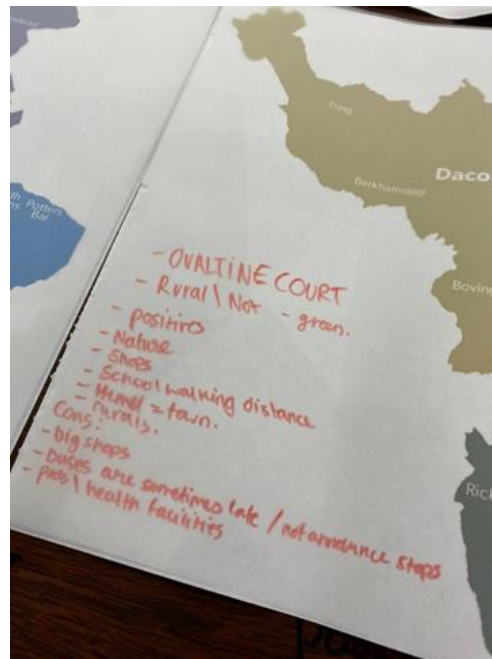
- Buses unreliable and routes are confusing – something like ‘City Mapper’ - it would be helpful and if each stop could be announced.
- MOVING
 - Want more interconnected transport options.
 - Improve quality of public transport design – people don’t want to use unattractive transport.
- WORKING
 - Not enough research jobs.
 - Not sure what jobs are available in the area.

‘If you can change one thing’ Exercise:

- Address climate change.
- More job opportunities for young people – *“I feel like I can’t flourish here.”*
- Balance between housing and greenspace – if housing is being developed, there must be enough greenspace preserved around it to retain the local character.
- Improve the sustainability and interconnectedness of public transport - *“I have never been on a bus in my life.”*

Workshop Photographs

Images 1 to 4: Annotated map of South West Hertfordshire



Images 5 to 7: Participants during the ranking exercise.

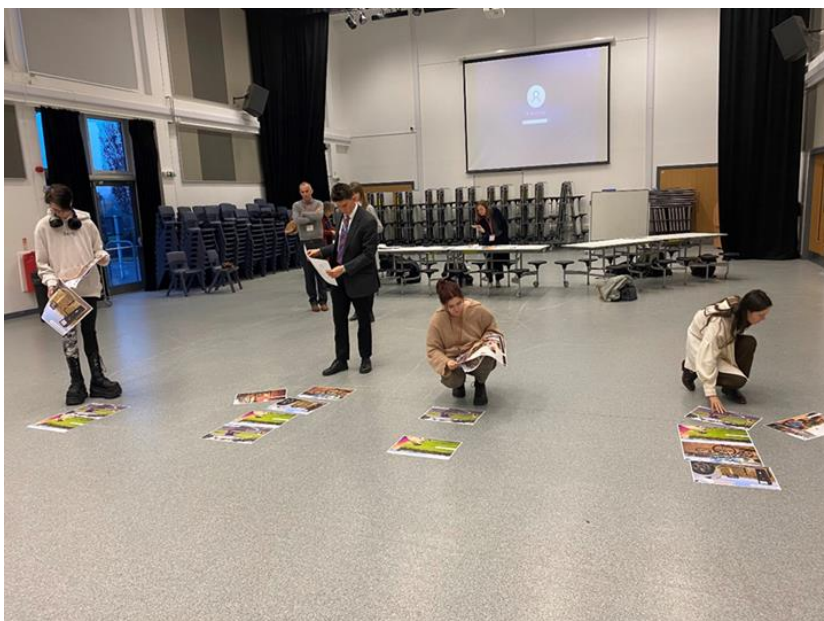
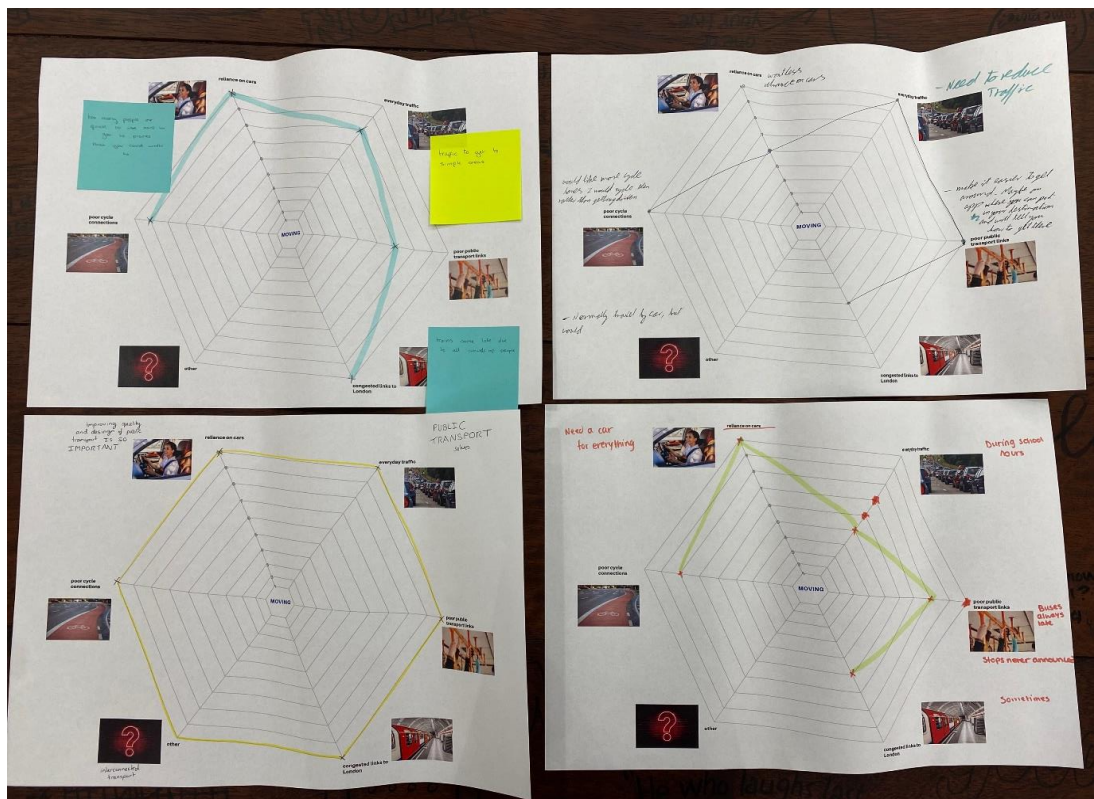
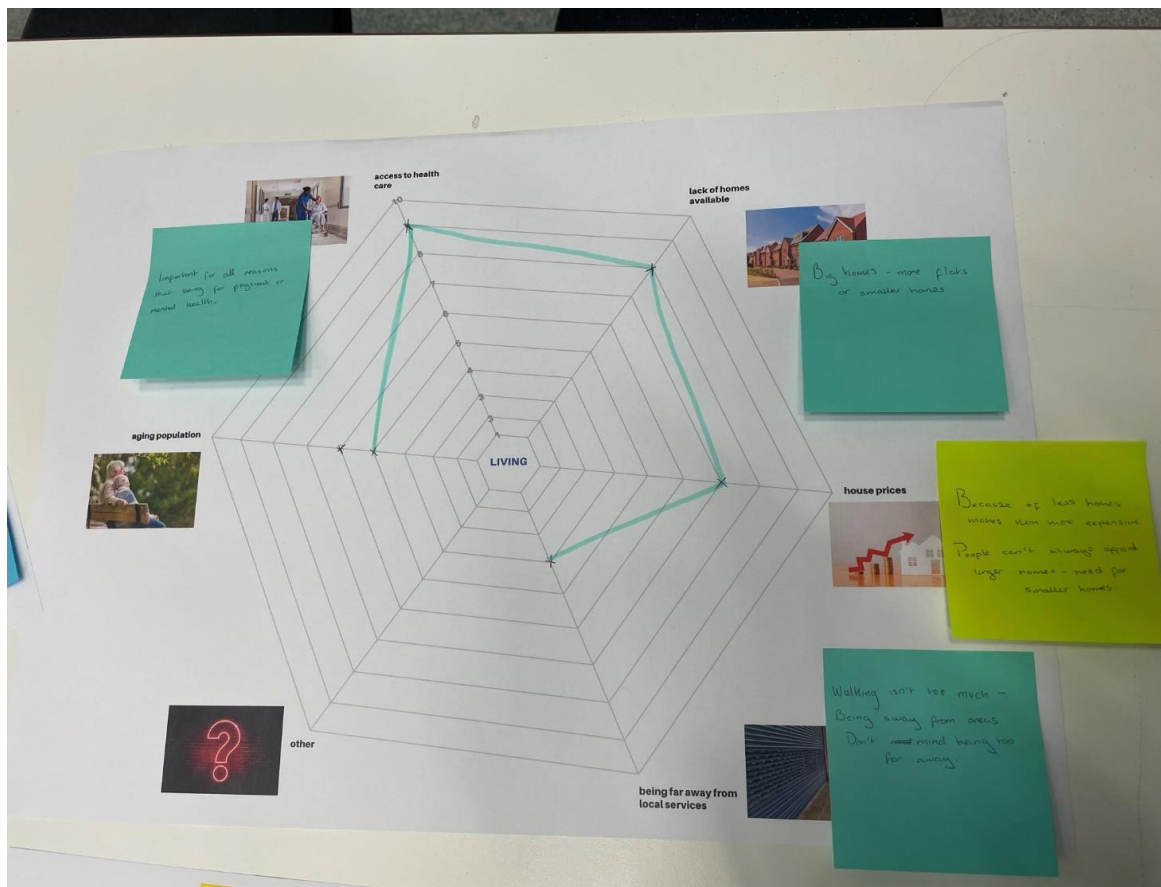


Image 8: An example of a ranking exercise.



Images 9 to 14: Output from the Spider Diagram Exercise



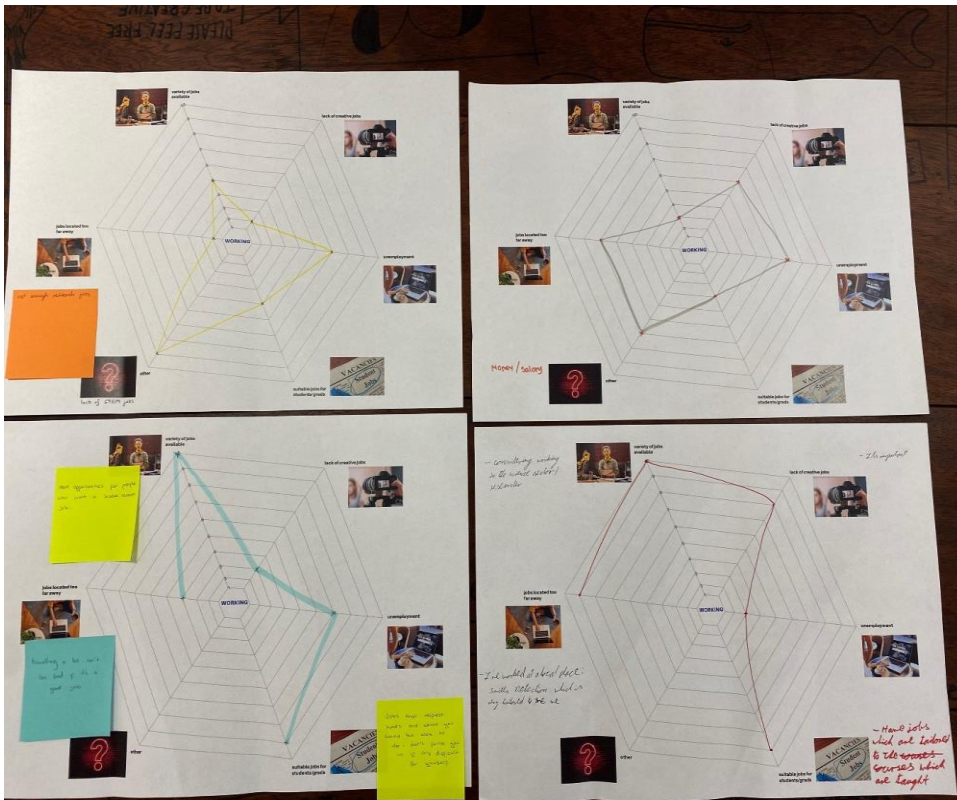
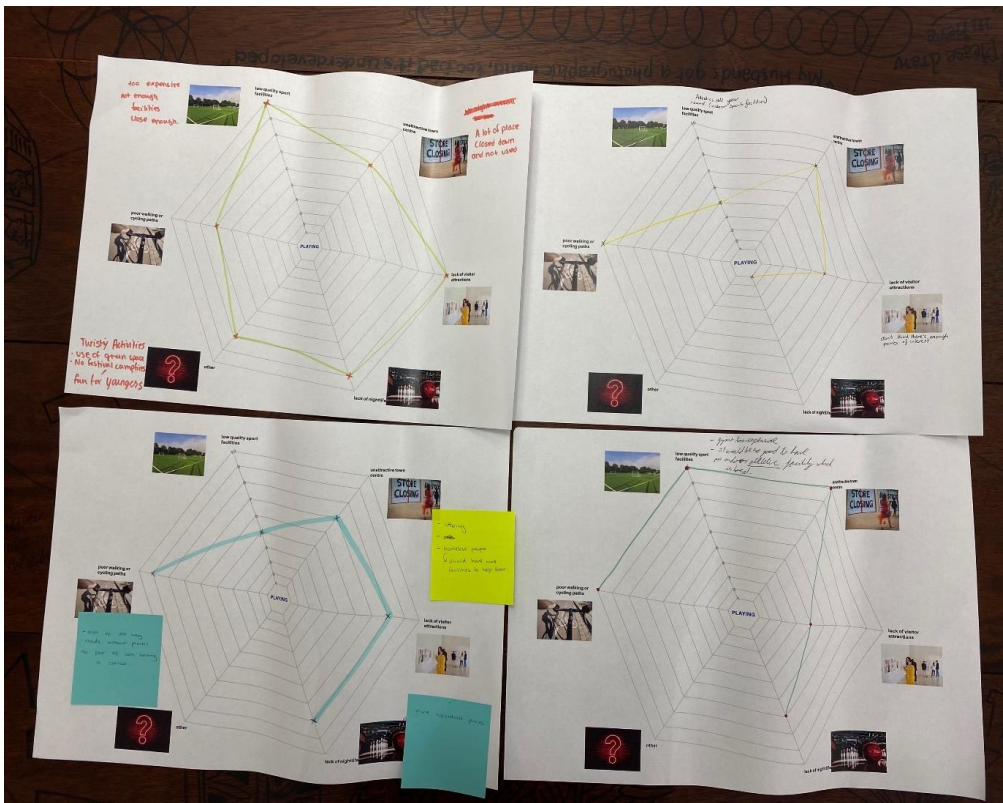
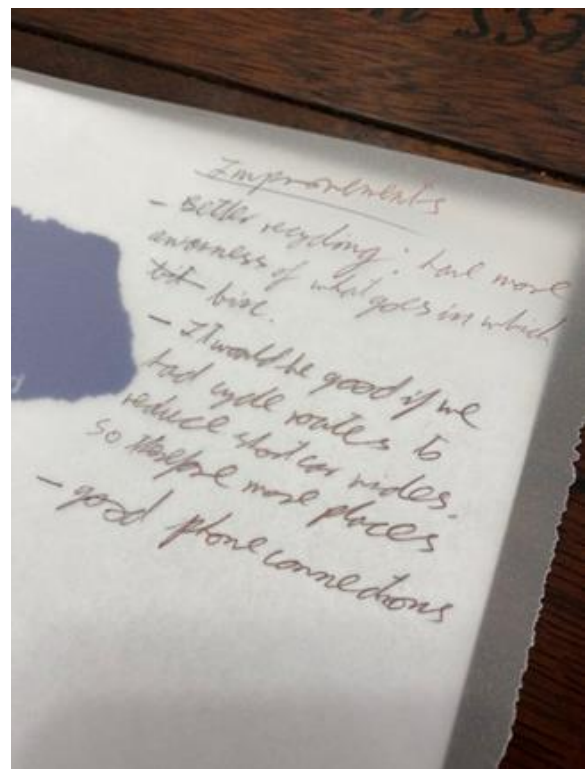
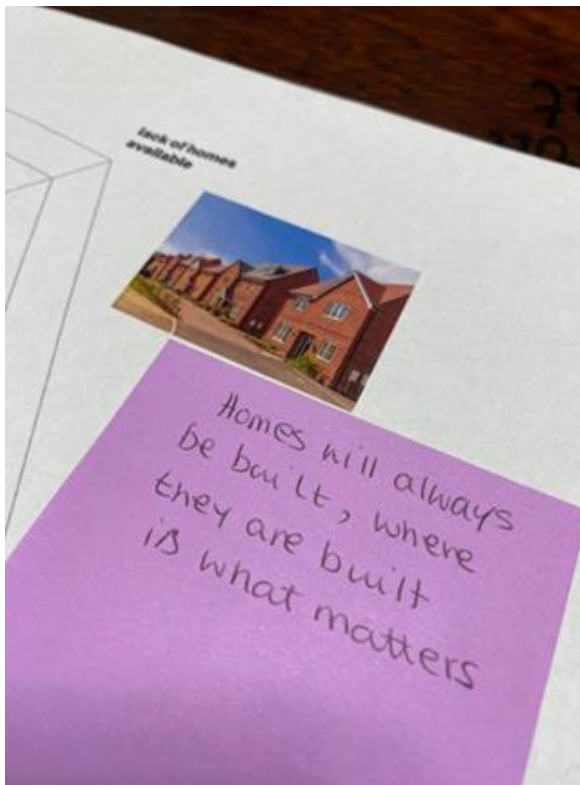
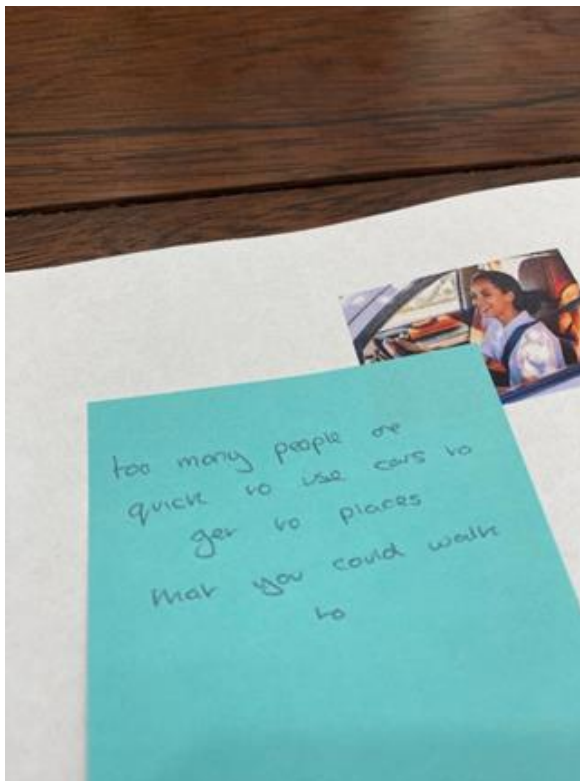




Image 15 and 18: Individual notes on the Spider diagrams.



List of promoted sites

Note:

1. The site denoted via an * was promoted via an online survey response. All other promotions were submitted by email.
 2. Submissions from landowners / developers are not referenced below when the responses were more general in nature and did not relate to a specific site or location.
-

Three Rivers

- Land east of the A412 in Maple Cross. Rep prepared by Stantec
- Land in the vicinity of Eastbury Pumping Station. Rep prepared by Studio LK on behalf of Affinity Water
- Stockers Farm Road. Rep prepared by Studio LK on behalf of Affinity Water
- Love Land, Abbots Langley. Rep prepared by Studio LK on behalf of Affinity Water
- Maple Cross South and West. Rep prepared by Savills on behalf of Guy's & St Thomas Foundation
- Land south of Chalfont Lane, West Hyde. Rep prepared by Nexus Planning on behalf of Inland Homes
- Land to the north of Chalfont Lane, Maple Cross. Rep prepared by Catesby Estates
- Land at Croxley Green. Rep prepared by RPS on behalf of Richborough Estates
- Batchworth Golf Club, Rickmansworth. Rep prepared by Turley on behalf of Crown Golf
- Warner Bros. Studios Leavesden. Rep prepared by TOR on behalf of Warner Bros. Studios Leavesden
- Land South of Little Oxhey Lane. Rep prepared by Lichfields on behalf of the Church Commissioners for England
- Land at Rickmansworth Sidings. Rep prepared by TFL.
- Land at Rickmansworth Station. Rep prepared by TFL
- Land at Croxley Station. Rep prepared by TFL
- Land at Chorleywood Station. Rep prepared by TFL
- Kings Langley. Rep prepared by Stantec on behalf of Urban & Civic.

St Albans

- Land to the north east of Harpenden. Rep prepared by Stantec on behalf of Crest Strategic Land
- North St Albans (Sandridge). Rep prepared by Lightwood Strategic
- Roestock Lane Depot. Rep prepared by Studio LK on behalf of Affinity Water
- London Road - 'The Greenway'. Rep prepared by Stantec on behalf of L&Q Estates
- Windridge Farm. Rep prepared by LDA Design on behalf of Catesby Estates
- Land at Appspond Lane, Potters Crouch and Smallford Works site. Rep prepared by Savills on behalf of Bellfield Park Limited and Hemel Business Park Ltd
- Verulam Golf Club and Adjacent Land, London Road, St Albans. Rep prepared by Carter Jonas on behalf of Beechwood Homes
- Radlett Strategic Rail Freight Interchange. Rep prepared by RPS on behalf of Helioslough Ltd
- North St Albans. Rep prepared by LRM Planning Ltd on behalf of Hallam Land Management Limited and St Albans School

- Land at Moor Hill (north). Rep prepared by Turley on behalf of Tarmac.
- Land at Moor Hill (south). Rep prepared by Turley on behalf of Tarmac.
- Land at Harper Lane (Radlett). Rep prepared by Turley on behalf of Tarmac.
- Land at London Colney. Rep prepared by Turley on behalf of Tarmac.
- Land north of Bowman's Lakes, Tyttenhanger. Rep prepared by Turley on behalf of Tarmac.
- Colney Heath. Rep prepared by Turley on behalf of Tarmac.
- Land at Wheathampstead. Rep prepared by Turley on behalf of Tarmac.
- Land SW of Redbourn (as previously identified in a draft of the Redbourn Neighbourhood Plan). Rep submitted by D2D Planning. *

Hertsmere

- Land at Little Bushey Lane, Bushey. Rep prepared by Stantec on behalf of Redrow Homes
- Land north of Barnet Lane, Borehamwood. Rep prepared by Planning Potential on behalf of Inland Homes
- Land south of Allum Lane, Borehamwood/Elstree. Rep prepared by Bidwells on behalf of Endurance Estates
- Potters Bar Golf Course. Rep prepared by Lichfields on behalf of CEG
- Land North of the A41 North West Avenue near Bushey. Rep prepared by Savills on behalf of Nolan Brothers Properties
- Land east of Cowley Hill, Borehamwood, land east and south of Rowley Lane, Borehamwood and land between Baker Street and Barnet Road, south of Potters Bar. Rep prepared by Woolf Bond Planning on behalf of Gilston Investments Ltd, the owners of the Wrotham Park Estate
- Land at 'Compass Park', northern edge of Bushey. Rep prepared by Montagu Evans on behalf of the Masonic Charitable Foundation
- Radlett extension. Rep prepared by Savills on behalf of The Crown Estate.
- Sky Studios Elstree South and Sky Studios Elstree North. Rep prepared by Lichfields on behalf of Sky Studios Limited
- Employment site? Rep prepared by Warner Planning on behalf of Griggs Homes and Regen Properties
- Tyttenhanger Quarry, North Orbital Road, St Albans and Harper Lane Asphalt Plant, Harper Lane, Radlett. Rep prepared by Heatons on behalf of Tarmac Trading
- Land at Elstree Hill. Rep prepared by TFL.
- Land at Stangate Crescent/Barnet by-pass. Rep prepared by TFL.
- Bowmans Cross. Rep prepared by Stantec on behalf of Urban & Civic.
- Land at Colney Street / Moor Mill. Rep prepared by Turley on behalf of Tarmac.
- Land at Salisbury Hall and surrounding land. Rep prepared by Turley on behalf of Tarmac.

Hertsmere / Watford

- Site on border at Stephenson Way Lane. Rep prepared by Studio LK on behalf of Affinity Water

Hertsmere / St Albans

- Land at Harper Lane, Radlett. Rep prepared by Pegasus Group on behalf of Bloor Homes and the Department of Health

Dacorum

- Piccotts End Road, Hemel Hempstead. Rep prepared by Studio LK on behalf of Affinity Water

- London Road, Markyate. Rep prepared by McLoughlin Planning on behalf of DB Land
- Land East of Tring ('Marshcroft GC'). Rep prepared by Ryan and May on behalf of Harrow Estates
- Land East of Berkhamsted Road, Hemel Hempstead. Rep prepared by Roebuck Land and Planning on behalf of Hallam Land Management
- Land at New Mill, Tring. Rep prepared by Pegasus Group on behalf of L&Q Estates
- Land south of Red Lion Lane, Nash Mills. Rep prepared by Crest Nicholson and Vistry Group
- Apsley Mills Retail Park. Rep prepared by JLL on behalf of Royal London Asset Management
- Land at Shendish Manor. Rep prepared by Carter Jonas on behalf of Apsley Developments Ltd
- Prologis Park, Hemel Hempstead. Rep prepared by Savills on behalf of Prologis UK Ltd
- Site at Berkhamsted. Rep prepared by Thakeham Homes
- Site at Nash Mills, Aspley. Rep prepared by Crest Nicholson Partnerships and Strategic Land and Vistry Group
- Site at Rossway Farm (land between Shootersway and A41), Berkhamsted. Rep prepared by Stantec on behalf of Croudace Homes
- Land to the north east of Hemel Hempstead (part of HGC). Rep prepared by Quod on behalf of Pigeon Hemel Hempstead
- Land to the north east of Hemel Hempstead (part of HGC). Rep prepared by Kitewood Estates
- HGC. Rep prepared by Sellwood Planning on behalf of The Crown Estate

Watford

- Orphanage Road (rail depot and concrete batching plant). Rep prepared by Firstplan on behalf of Aggregate Industries UK Ltd
- Atria Shopping Centre, Watford. Rep prepared by WSP on behalf of Watford Centre Ltd
- Land at Bushey Station. Rep prepared by TFL

Recommended responses to Sustainability Appraisal Scoping

Note: Further changes will be made to the Sustainability Scoping Report to reflect the changes recommended to the draft vision and objectives.

Respondent	Summary of Comments	Response
STATUTORY CONSULTEES FOR THE PURPOSES OF SA/SEA		
Environment Agency	<p>CHAPTER 3: BASELINE INFORMATION – CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION</p> <p>See the preparation of this Joint Strategic Plan, including the Sustainability Appraisal, as a key opportunity to strengthen the role that the planning system plays in mitigating and adapting to climate change, and to ensure a fair transition to a low carbon economy.</p> <p>Local evidence of climate change impacts will be valuable towards identifying location specific vulnerabilities. The Sustainability Appraisal should also include mitigation (i.e. net zero) policy measures that may be required to further limit climate change, and associated flood risk and water resource issues arising from the changing climate and that we need to be much better prepared for.</p> <p>Reference should be made to the Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (SFRA) for each Local Authority, which are crucial evidence documents for understanding the impacts of climate change on all sources of flood risk over the anticipated lifetime of any proposed development.</p> <p>The EA's climate change allowances for flood risk assessments should inform the SFRA(s) and have been updated to reflect the UK Climate Projections 2018 (UKCP18). This information is available at https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessments-climate-change-allowances</p> <p>For information, the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) and Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) have produced guidance on 'The</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The SA Scoping Report will be updated to include the additional publications referenced. In addition, the baseline information regarding flood risk, water and biodiversity will be updated based on the comments referenced.</p> <p>Flooding will be included as a separate sustainability issue and Sustainability Issue 13 will be updated to include reference to chalk streams.</p> <p>The Sustainability Appraisal framework will be updated to incorporate further appraisal questions as set out by the Environment Agency.</p>

Respondent	Summary of Comments	Response
	<p>Climate Crisis – A Guidance for Local Authorities on Planning for Climate Change’. Available at: https://www.rtpi.org.uk/media/9379/tcpa-rtpi-climate-guide_oct-2021_final.pdf</p> <p>CHAPTER 3: BASELINE INFORMATION - FLOOD RISK</p> <p>Welcome the inclusion of paragraph 3.13 concerning the impact of new development on flood risk. We recommend the inclusion of separate sections for the different types of flooding i.e., fluvial, surface water, and groundwater flooding.</p> <p>Fluvial flood risk</p> <p>In regard to fluvial flooding, it is important to note that flood risk mitigation can also be achieved by following a sequential approach as outlined in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). This is to steer new development to areas with the lowest risk of flooding and ensure that the most vulnerable developments are located in the areas with the lowest risk. This will also minimise the future necessity for new or improved carbon-intensive flood defences.</p> <p>Where development is deemed to be necessary, it should be safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere. Where possible, opportunities for betterments should be sort, for example adding more space for water and adding future attenuation areas.</p> <p>Additionally, properties at the highest risk are those situated within the functional flood plain (Flood Zone 3b). Only Essential Infrastructure or Water Compatible uses may be considered in Flood Zone 3b.</p> <p>Flood resistance and resilience</p> <p>If alternative sites are not available to locate development away from areas at risk of flooding, then developments need to enact appropriate flood resilient and resistant measures. Guidance on flood resistance and resilience can be found at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government guidance on flood resilient construction https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flood-resilient-construction-of-new-buildings • CIRIA Code of practice for property flood resilience 	

Respondent	Summary of Comments	Response
	<p>https://www.ciria.org/CIRIA/Resources/Free_publications/CoP_for_PFR_resource.aspx</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> British Standard 85500 – Flood resistant and resilient construction <p>https://www.floodguidance.co.uk/bs-85500/</p> <p>PPG – Flood Risk and Coastal Change</p> <p>The PPG guidance on Flood Risk and Coastal Change was updated in August 2022 and provides comprehensive advice on a number of considerations. For example, additional guidance has been provide to clarify the sequential test approach; how to use natural flood management techniques; and the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS). Additional advice is also available on the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and assessment of infrastructure needs, and how to take an integrated approach to flood risk management. This guidance is available online at https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-and-coastal-change</p> <p>Buffer zones</p> <p>In reference to paragraph 3.13, the EA are pleased to see the link has been made between the loss of greenfield land and the increase of flood risk. Development in the green belt leading to loss of habitat and flood water storage should be strongly resisted, and brownfield sites prioritised over greenfield. To strengthen this position, we recommend the inclusion of the following: 'leaving appropriate undeveloped buffer between river and development can reduce the flood risk of the development and its vicinity. This can also eliminate the need for a Flood Risk Activity Permit.'</p> <p>For development within close proximity to a main river, the EA would be looking for a commitment for a natural undeveloped 8 metre buffer between all new development and the top of riverbank / flood defence / culvert. This should be free from hard standing and structures.</p> <p>Note that Flood Risk Activity Permits are required for certain activities, such as works/development within close proximity to a main river. Full guidance is available at https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits</p> <p>CHAPTER 3 – BASELINE INFORMATION: WATER Water Framework Directive</p>	

Respondent	Summary of Comments	Response
	<p>In reference to paragraph 3.50, they are pleased to see that reference has been made to the Water Framework Directive and note that these regulations are also referenced in Appendix A (paragraph A.52). WFD requirements will need to be considered in the Sustainability Appraisal and throughout the development of the Joint Strategic Plan. Local Planning Authorities have an important role in implementing the WFD and making sure new development does not cause deterioration and whenever possible supports measures to improve waterbodies.</p> <p>Chalk streams and Chalk aquifers</p> <p>In reference to paragraph 3.51, the EA are pleased to see acknowledgement of the importance of Chalk Streams. However, paragraphs 3.47 - 3.51 do not identify the presence of the Chalk bedrock, which is a principal aquifer and the source of regional potable supply along with providing baseflow to surface waters, such as chalk streams.</p> <p>It is important to note that the Upper Colne and some of the smaller tributaries, such as the Mimmshall Brook, also run over the chalk bedrock and should be considered chalk streams. There are more than three chalk streams within South West Herts, the ones named are only the larger ones.</p> <p>The River Colne Catchment Action Network (ColneCAN) are the catchment hosts for the Colne, of which the Chilterns Chalk Streams Project are a partner/co-host with Groundwork South and the Colne Valley Regional Park. The partnership brings together stakeholders of all kinds to support the conservation and restoration of the Colne Catchment. There are six main goals identified across the catchment; control invasive species, involve people in their local waterbodies, improve wildlife corridors, improve water quality, manage flow, and work together. More information on ColneCAN is available at: http://www.colnecan.org.uk/.</p> <p>Localised evidence bases relating to water resources and quality</p> <p>Water Cycle studies and Infrastructure Delivery Plans are important for informing water resources and water quality policies. Guidance is available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/water-cycle-studies</p> <p>River Basin Management Plans - The Sustainability Appraisal should also consider the current classification of waterbodies and how to improve their</p>	

Respondent	Summary of Comments	Response
	<p>ecological health and chemical status, as set out by the objectives of the Thames River Basin Management Plan (TRBMP).</p> <p>Water Resources Management Plans (WRMPs) assess pressures on future water supplies. WRMPs are an essential evidence source for ascertaining water availability within the context of climate change. Water company drainage and wastewater management plans account for climate change, ensuring drainage infrastructure can cope with increased intensity of storms. The Environment Act (2021) has made these plans statutory, collaborative and they should be integrated into long term planning documents such as the JSP.</p> <p>Water stress areas – their evidence on water stress should be referred to in consideration of water efficiency requirements. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-stressed-areas-2021-classification</p> <p>CHAPTER 3 – BASELINE INFORMATION: BIODIVERSITY</p> <p>In reference to Chapters 3.57 - 3.61, we welcome comments referencing the main priority habitats within the area. However, we note no reference has been made to the main priority/protected species. For example, Water Vole (<i>Arvicola amphibious</i>) have been reintroduced to the St Albans District. Work by the combined effort of Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust and the Colne Valley Fisheries Consultative has shown that this species is more widespread than initially realised, with a good population found in the Rickmansworth area. This species is iconic to chalk streams and should be protected along with the priority habitat. Additionally, no reference has been made to the impacts of invasive species within the area. This information should be included in the Sustainability Appraisal.</p> <p>CHAPTER 4: KEY SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES AND THEIR LIKELY EVOLUTION WITHOUT THE JSP</p> <p>Agree with the numerous sustainability issues recognised in this chapter. However, they have the following comments to make in regard to Issues 1, 3 and 13.</p> <p>Sustainability Issue 1</p> <p>Note that flood risk is mentioned in Issue 1 in respect of the impacts of climate change. However, climate change should be linked more directly to an</p>	

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	<p>increase in flooding, especially since people who are not at risk now may become at risk in the future. Strongly recommend that flooding is put forward as being a separate sustainability issue, and the potential increase in the risk of flooding through development should be highlighted as a key concern. This is in line with paragraph 153 of the NPPF (July 2021).</p> <p>Sustainability Issues 3 and 13 Regarding Issue 3 which considers access to natural green space, and Issue 13 on the potential to harm local landscape, they recommend reference is made to the lack of connection to river corridors and engagement with communities and rivers and the wider water environment. Specifically in respect of Issue 13, adding a reference to the protection of chalk streams would be beneficial.</p> <p>CHAPTER 5: SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK This next section considers the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) objectives that fall within the EA's remit and that have been identified through this Scoping Report.</p> <p>SA Objective 1: To minimise SW Hertfordshire's contribution to climate change and build resilience for adaptation to the changing climate Pleased to see a strong vision and strategic objective on climate change mitigation and adaption. Significant climate impacts are inevitable, especially on several constraints within our remit, such as flood risks, water management, freshwater wildlife and industrial regulation. In regard to climate change resilience, we encourage the use of nature-based solutions (NbS) to support local environments in becoming more resilient to climate impacts, such as flooding, drought and overheating, and absorb and store greater quantities of carbon. Without that resilience, there is a risk that progress on net zero will be undermined.</p> <p>SA Objective 3: To improve the health and wellbeing of SW Hertfordshire's population Strongly support the consideration of maintaining, connecting and creating multifunctional open spaces and green infrastructure. We encourage that this is considered alongside natural flood management approaches, such as river restoration, the protection of existing assets, as well as the discouragement of culverting.</p>	

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	<p>In regard to encouraging and facilitating walking and cycling, they recommend consideration is given to enhancing green corridor networks and local nature recovery networks.</p> <p>For information, Public Health England have produced guidance on improving access to greenspace, in the context of protecting and improving health and wellbeing. This document is accessible online at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/904439/Improving_access_to_greenspace_2020_review.pdf</p> <p>SA Objective 7: To reduce the need to travel by car As mentioned in reference to Objective 3, the provision of new cycling and walking infrastructure should also seek to maximise opportunities to integrate connected green and blue infrastructure along transport corridors.</p> <p>SA Objective 8: To minimise air and noise pollution in SW Hertfordshire Recommend the inclusion of approaches to waste management when considering the reduction of air, noise, and odour pollution. For example, improved efficiency and compliance by regulated facilities will decrease emissions of pollutants, as well as greenhouse gas emissions, in particular carbon dioxide from combustion.</p> <p>SA Objective 9: To maintain and enhance water quality and quantity Considering the question of how to help safeguard the water quality and ecological integrity of waterbodies, they recommend consideration is given to the Thames River Basin Management Plan (TRBMP). The TRBMP requires the restoration and enhancement of water bodies to prevent deterioration and promote recovery, including that of groundwater bodies (GwB). This is consistent with the SA Objective 9. The relevant GwBs within the area of the JSP are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-Chilterns Chalk - Classification Poor • Upper Lee Chalk - Classification Poor • Radlett Tertiaries - Classification Poor • Chiltern Chalk Scarp - Classification Poor • Upper Bedford Ouse Chalk - Classification Poor <p>Welcome the acknowledgment in in SA Objective 9 regarding appropriate development in Source Protection Zones (SPZs). Particular care should be</p>	

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	<p>taken regarding the types of developments considered within SPZ1, which are generally the most sensitive locations with respect to potable supplies. It is important to note that the distribution of SPZ1s is not uniform, for example a significant area of Hertsmere District B lies within an SPZ1, as does Watford District B and Three Rivers District. Due to the scale of this JSP, they consider it to provide an excellent opportunity to identify the less sensitive groundwater areas to develop.</p> <p>SA Objective 10: To reduce the risk from all sources of flooding in SW Hertfordshire</p> <p>Welcome the questions put forward regarding flood risks. Please ensure that all flooding related guidance; including the relevant paragraphs of the National Planning Policy Framework and the relevant chapter of the planning practice guidance (PPG) are considered. In addition, up-to-date climate change data should be used to inform assessments and plans around flood risks.</p> <p>The EA have powers over and responsibilities for watercourse management, including working on main rivers and managing flood risk. Therefore, new development should not restrict access to main rivers and flood defence assets. As a minimum, we will be looking for an 8 metres undeveloped buffer zone to facilitate this access.</p> <p>Opportunities to de-culvert watercourses and remove obstructions to flow and fish passage should be pursued. Additionally, reconnecting to the floodplain by softening banks and allowing rivers to expand where possible and appropriate, may provide natural storage upstream of towns at risk.</p> <p>Considering the question of how to help promote the use of SuDS and flood resilient design, they agree there are multiple benefits from SuDs, including for water quality. However, careful consideration must be given to their location and design. Proposals involving infiltration SuDs in SPZ1 must be supported by a hydrogeological risk assessment. Whilst not mentioned explicitly, of particular concern are the use of deep borehole soakaways. They concentrate the discharge on location and bypass the soil layers, which limits the ability of the ground to attenuate pollutants and presents a greater risk of groundwater pollution. When considering drainage schemes, every effort should be made to ensure that alternative drainage options are used.</p>	

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	<p>SA Objective 11: To protect SW Hertfordshire’s soils and ensure efficient use of land</p> <p>Considering the question of how to take an appropriate approach to remediating contaminated land, they are happy to see the remediation of land acknowledged in SA Objective 11.</p> <p>Would like to clarify that remediation should ensure that it is ‘suitable for use’, which means suitable for the environment as a whole, and not just for use by people. Protecting groundwater and surface water may mean carrying out work on land affected by pollution over and above that required to make the land suitable for the proposed development and to protect human health. When dealing with land contamination the process set out in Land contamination risk management (LCRM) should be followed. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/land-contamination-risk-management-lcrm</p> <p>SA Objective 13: To conserve and enhance SW Hertfordshire’s biodiversity and geodiversity</p> <p>Strongly support the objectives to conserve, connect and enhance ecological networks, and to achieve biodiversity net gain. Biodiversity net gain offers considerable scope to help create resilient places, through maximising opportunities to improve the water environment, manage flood risk and addressing climate risks. This should be considered alongside efforts to help tackle climate change, such as nature-based solutions. Furthermore, it is expected that Local Nature Recovery Strategies will be used to help inform how and where biodiversity net gain should be delivered. As mentioned earlier in this response letter, we encourage the protection of the area’s chalk streams, which are a priority habitat, are considered and incorporated into the Sustainability Appraisal.</p>	
Natural England	<p>Natural England broadly agrees with the conclusions of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.</p> <p>The report assesses the potential impacts associated with six different growth types: The report states that “Growth types c, d and g are likely to have the most potential negative effects because they may result in more new growth across the more rural areas of the area, where environmental assets are more likely to</p>	<p>Support noted.</p> <p>The Scoping Report will be updated to include additional references to chalk streams and reference to the recreational pressure on the Chilterns Beechwoods SAC will be</p>

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	<p>be adversely affected and where accessibility may be less good and levels of car use higher." Natural England advises that any growth type should seek to minimise impacts on environmental assets (including habitat loss and greenbelt impacts) and be directed towards the most sustainable locations. Denser development in urban areas and/or around sustainable transport nodes would make district heating easier and use less energy per dwelling than lower density communities. This, combined with the reduced need to travel, would likely result in significant positive effects from Growth Types a, b, e and f on SA objective 1 (climate change). This has the potential to help minimise negative effects on biodiversity assets and achieve the more efficient use of land." Given the strong focus on climate change within the JSP, Natural England suggests that any growth type that has significant positive effects for this objective should be given greater weight. However, Growth Type b in particular is still likely to result in large urban extensions at existing settlements, resulting in the loss of greenfield land. Furthermore, the densification of existing centres could result in fewer green spaces in and around urban areas, with associated losses of biodiversity. Natural England would stress that any growth type must be sustainable and ensure positive outcomes for the environment. Would not support a growth type that reduces the availability of greenspace and leads to losses in biodiversity. Growth Types d and g could result in growth within the rural areas of SW Hertfordshire away from the main service centres. As such, it is likely these Growth Types will utilise more greenfield land for development compared to the other Growth Types, resulting in less efficient use of land and greater potential for the loss of habitats. In addition, there are many Local Wildlife Sites, patches of Ancient Woodland, Local Nature Reserves and SSSIs that could be adversely impacted by development in the rural areas of the area, resulting in the potential for significant negative effects on SA objectives 11 (soils) and 13 (biodiversity). Similar to Growth Types d and g, Growth Type c is likely to utilise Page 8 of 8 more greenfield land for new settlements compared to the other Growth Types, resulting in less efficient use of land and greater potential for the loss of habitats. Natural England would like to see a strong commitment to protection and enhancement of existing greenspaces, protected sites and local nature sites, including ambitions to develop and expand the nature recovery network.</p>	<p>included where appropriate. It should be noted that a separate Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) will be commissioned as part of the JSP process.</p>

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	<p>Any growth type must align with the commitments of the Environment Act. The report states that the JSP will “provide an opportunity to encourage better and more sustainable use of water resources”. Natural England supports the principle of this but we would want the wording to be strengthened from “encourage” as this is likely to be insufficient in such a populated area with high growth pressure.</p> <p>As mentioned above, rare chalk stream habitats are already at risk from over abstraction and this is likely to increase in the future. This strengthening of language should be applied across the Plan to ensure a greater commitment to environmental targets.</p> <p>The report should also make greater reference to the risk of drought, particularly given the current pressures on water resources and the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>The report makes reference to the impacts associated with air quality – particularly in relation to transport. This should also consider air quality impacts from other sources, such as construction and agriculture.</p> <p>Note the reference to the Chiltern Beechwoods SAC and recreational pressure. This will need to be considered within the Sustainability Appraisal as it’s a key issue within South West Hertfordshire (refer to section on designated sites for more information).</p> <p>The Report acknowledges that the impacts of the JSP will need to be reviewed in isolation as well as in-combination. This is strongly encouraged and the report should take a holistic approach, with clear links between themes, acknowledging the multifunctional benefits associated with a healthy environment.</p>	
Historic England	Encourage local authorities to work with local conservation officers, archaeology officers and local heritage community groups in the preparation of the Sustainability Appraisal. Our advice note provides more guidance to developing a robust sustainability appraisal framework.	Noted.
OTHER SPECIFIC CONSULTATION BODIES		
Hertfordshire County Council - Minerals and Waste Team	Glad to see the inclusion of SA Objective 12: To safeguard SW Hertfordshire’s mineral resources.	Support noted.

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Croxley Green Parish Council	<p>Question what ‘sustainable growth’ means? Considers this is an oxymoron and no amount of analysis can paper over the fact that the level of development within SW Herts is already unsustainable in the longer term.</p> <p>Chapter 2 sets the “policy context” for the JSP and demonstrates that there is already a plethora of plans. What targets have been set within them, how are they measured and monitored, and where are they reported?</p> <p>Chapter 3 sets out the “baseline information” but with differing perspectives leads to inevitable conflicts.</p> <p>The conflict between national statistics and the Government’s policy framework on the need (the unsustainable need) for local housing is evident.</p> <p>There is no analysis of occupancy levels in existing housing – neither of overcrowding, nor of “under occupancy” (implying waste) in the existing stock. (An issue of inequity)</p> <p>Some of the data presented is very out of date (2011 census) and, in some places, there are no comparisons between local and national data trends. (e.g. pregnancy and maternity)</p> <p>Paragraph numbering goes awry after 3.44</p> <p>The river CHES is omitted from para 3.51(sic)</p> <p>Chapter 4 lists 13 “sustainability” issues. How many of these are (a) national issues, (b) purely local issues and (c) directly incompatible with one another? What are the relative priorities between them?</p> <p>Stresses the Importance of getting the right appraisal framework (asking the right questions, setting the right priorities), as the results of any appraisal process will confirm any biases built into the framework and the questions.</p> <p>Given that the current development pattern within SW Herts is already unsustainable this approach is simply tinkering with the problems. An alternative approach should be based on a planning for a sustainable future WITHIN the environmental constraints and our geographic and administrative area.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Chapter 2 of the SA report sets out the JSPs relationship with other relevant plans and programmes and outlines environmental protection objectives at international and national levels, as required by the SEA Regulations. It is not the role of the SA to seek to report on how these are measured, reported and monitored.</p> <p>The baseline information will be updated with the most up to date evidence in every iteration of the SA report.</p> <p>The SA does not itself assess issues such as occupancy levels of existing housing. These are matters for specific technical studies such as Local Housing Needs Assessments, which will inform future stages of the JSP process. Any such evidence will be reflected in the SA baseline where relevant.</p>
Tring Town Council	<p>Document is too technical at this point and need budgetary and implementation data to give proper feedback.</p>	<p>Noted. The SA Scoping Report is by its very nature a technical document. Its content will expand as it is updated through the plan-preparation process. Budgetary and</p>

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		implementation data does not form part of the SA Reporting process.
GENERAL CONSULTATION BODIES		
Save Our Shenley	<p>The response of Hertfordshire County Council officers and Hertsmere Borough planning and environmental health officers in terms of upholding the policy direction of SW Hertfordshire stated on your webpage -“The onus will be to encourage people to avoid using their cars, while ensuring that there are realistic and affordable alternative ways to move around” has been very poor to date (see planning application reference 22/0971/OUT).</p> <p>Would also like:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a commitment to go above and beyond minimum policy requirements i.e. regarding the approach to biodiversity offsetting; and 2. a greater commitment to localism. When a community has expressed its views in sufficient numbers, the council should take this on board There is massive support for sustainable development and huge anger building about the continued development of green belt land in unsustainable locations. 	Noted. These are matters to consider through the JSP itself, rather than the SA Report.
Look After Nature, Ridgeway Residents	<p>Main issue is that the supposed demand for housing is based on 2014 data. The answer is not to decimate green belt to let more and more people live there but to make the places that people are trying to leave, more attractive.</p> <p>Should make better use of existing small green spaces within towns and change planning policy so that gardens are not decimated by development, turned into areas devoid of any wildlife habitat and corridors closed off by gravel boards.</p> <p>The most acceptable development would be to improve existing building stock and or convert to smaller, more affordable units.</p>	Noted. Comments relate to general planning issues rather than anything specific within the SA Scoping Report
RESIDENTS / INDIVIDUALS		
Kenneth A Gallagher	<p>Questions what ‘sustainable growth’ actually means.</p> <p>Concerned that the amount of detail in the report is simply concealing the fact that SW Herts is already unsustainably overdeveloped.</p> <p>Some of the baseline data is already out of date.</p> <p>The paragraph numbering breaks down at 3.44.</p> <p>The River Chess has been omitted from the chalk stream listed in para 3.51.</p>	Noted. With or without the JSP, SW Hertfordshire will be subject to population growth and change. The role of the JSP is to ensure that this growth is carried out in as sustainable a manner as possible. There will always be tensions

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	<p>Unclear how the long list of sustainability issues fits together and the relative priority between them.</p> <p>It is very important that the sustainability appraisal asks the right questions and sets the right priorities, otherwise it will not give a meaningful result when it is simply concealing the basis facts.</p> <p>As SW Herts is already unsustainably overdeveloped the propose analysis won't reveal anything meaningful in terms of sustainability.</p> <p>There is a better, bottom-up approach, starting from the existing environmental constraints and social needs, as set out in 'Doughnut Economics' by Kate Rawoth. The starting point should be what is needed in SW Herts and what can be afforded in terms of the environmental constraints.</p>	<p>between growth and many of the sustainability objectives identified. The aim is to balance the often-conflicting objectives in the most appropriate way possible. The preparation of an SA report is an important (and statutorily required) tool to inform how best to achieve this balance.</p> <p>The baseline information will be updated with the mots up to date evidence in every iteration of the SA. Reference to the River Chess will be added to paragraph 3.51 and the paragraph numbering checked prior to final publication of the document. The content sand approach of SA Reports is set by the SEA Regulations.</p>
Julia Battersby	<p>Disappointed there is no data showing the basis upon which the Housing Projection Requirement was calculated including the number of disabled people requiring purpose built homes, the gap between social housing demand and supply, a breakdown of demand per year from people currently living out of county who take up residence in South West Herts and net loss of locals.</p> <p>Does not agree that development would create regeneration in deprived areas. In some it might and in many it will make matters worse. The Map of Areas of Multiple Deprivation is also misleading and over-states some areas of relative deprivation. For example, the large expanse of Batchwood Hall is shown as a relatively deprived area even though it is mainly farmland and a golf course.</p> <p>There is no consideration of the impact of previous proposals for the Chilterns to attain National Park Status. This would have an impact across areas of the South West including housing, transport and employment.</p>	<p>Noted, however the SA process is focused on assessing the JSP and many of the factors that are picked up in this comment go beyond the scope of the SA. For example, it is not relevant to the SA process to take account of proposals or to explain why certain trends such as relating to recycling may be occurring – as in many cases this is not known.</p> <p>Further to this, the suggested additions to the SA objectives are too detailed for inclusion in a SA</p>

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	<p>3.46 There is no indication of why recycling rates went down in some areas. Charities not accepting donations during early covid period or something else?</p> <p>3.47 It would be helpful to know whether the report is referring here about actual consumption of water by households, or in general. Also would be helpful to have estimates of the amount used in industry/manufacturing, used in domestic consumption and lost through infrastructure failure such as broken pipes and leaks.</p> <p>3.48. We have many natural springs throughout South West Herts and places where run off can be collected. The most obvious thing – planning for places where new reservoirs can be created is missing and should logically be part of a strategic area plan.</p> <p>3.51. With many steep sided valleys in the vicinity, run-off of rain water and associated surface water flooding should be included here.</p> <p>Fig 3.8 Biodiversity. Shows designated Wildlife Sites but does not show high quality wildlife areas 1 and 2 as defined by Herts Records. Grade 1 areas should be set aside for protection and grade 2 as an opportunity for enhancement of biodiversity. Nor does this map show designated wildlife corridors which are also key to maintaining biodiversity.</p> <p>Historic Environment – does not include recognised World Heritage Award sites such as Apsley Paper Trail which potentially have international importance, or important Archaeological areas such as Roman settlements, or notable historic farming features such as fields with Saxon farming layouts and watercress beds.</p> <p>Landscape – The importance of preventing habitat fragmentation and loss of wildlife corridors should be highlighted here.</p> <p>3.77 Fig 3.12 should state what the definition is of the areas that are not designated Green Belt or urban areas e.g. around The Gaddesdens. Assume it is rural?</p> <p>Comments on the SA Objectives as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – (9) Measures should help safeguard water quality and ecological integrity of the waterbodies including the chalk streams. – (10 & 11) to reduce flood risk consideration of measures to green areas on upper slopes of valleys particularly through increasing tree cover which slows down run-off 	<p>framework which is used to assess a strategic-level plan.</p> <p>It is also not possible to reference and map every single landscape / heritage / biodiversity designation within SW Hertfordshire. It is considered that the information currently included is proportional to the scope of the SA.</p> <p>The matters raised under Health Impact Assessments are not planning matters and therefore not suitable for inclusion in this report.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (12) The strategic overview should identify future mission critical needs in the event of international or domestic interruption of supplies such as war e.g. minerals, food, key resources that we would locally need and how they could be transported in i.e. extreme contingency planning. - (13) Suggest this is amended to safeguard, expand and enhance SW Herts woodland. Planning that considers mitigating the emerging disease threats to trees such as Ash Dieback that could affect large areas of woodland and wood production would be a positive inclusion here. - (14) Include remnants of local historic industry, their settings and management practice within considerations for conservation. - (15) Would like to see that the characters of villages are preserved by maintaining some green space separation and rural/ semi-rural boundaries (e.g. ancient lanes with hedgerows) between one historical village and the next where it is still possible to do so. <p><u>Health Impact Assessment</u> Training and local retention of health and care staff is as key to providing efficient health facilities as providing surgeries for them to practice from. Consideration of Halls of Residence near our new hospital facilities for nurses for example, or preferential housing stock should be incorporated here.</p> <p><u>Biodiversity</u> Often biodiverse zones are on the periphery of existing settlements, particularly those that have very old hedges and orchards. These old hedgerows are actually more important for the preservation of biodiversity and vulnerable wildlife than the field they enclose. The impact of biodiversity measures, greenspace and activities such as volunteering to maintain them all contribute to positive mental health which is a benefit not recognised here.</p> <p>6.18 The impact of human behaviour and convenience should be considered e.g. although within walking distance the car is used on the school run Connectivity – need to take into account topography as cross valley travel transport is more challenging to individuals than movement from one end of a valley to the other. There are significant hills in many areas which can affect mobility of the elderly for example.</p>	

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	<p>Settlement types – using settlement types as a premise for planning is flawed as every settlement area has different features so should be looked at individually. Better to follow general principles for development e.g. 1) develop brownfield sites; 2) increase density only where the character of the area is not adversely affected 3) preserve semi-rural features of current green sites and settlement boundaries 4) identify sites suitable for infrastructure development e.g. solar power, waste removal, water provision, etc</p> <p>SA13 – add trees /tree lined verges to improve character</p> <p>There should be a clear requirement to establish an expectation that increasing biodiversity means preserving and enhancing vulnerable and uncommon native species, not substituting them with larger numbers of common species such as occurs when a few oak trees are planted after a hedgerow is removed. In doing the latter there may be a local (but meaningless) increase in biodiversity but on a county, national and international level it would be seen that we have brought about a decrease in overall biodiversity through loss of our rarer habitats and species.</p> <p>Page 135 Include to develop a native recovery network to protect and restore native wildlife including reintroductions e.g. water voles; and removal of invasive species such as Mink and Himalayan Balsam.</p> <p>General Note – the 500m exclusion zone around the Chiltern Beechwoods does not take account two key factors:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The impact that the vast number of people who travel in from as far afield as Luton. 2) That locals tend to respect and care for the local environment more than non-locals. <p>I would argue that the exclusion zone should be increased to at least 1km and that Green Belt areas should be protected.</p>	
Malcom Gesthuysen	<p>Comments relating to perceived poor English, relating to compound modifiers and compound nouns lacking hyphens, missing and incorrect commas and incorrect / complex words.</p>	<p>As the questionnaire recognised, the SA Scoping Report is by its very nature is a technical document that uses specific terminology and wording that is not necessarily common. The final report will be</p>

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		checked for grammatical errors and written in Plain English as far as is possible for a technical document. A non-technical summary will also be prepared to accompany the final SA report, in line with the requirements of the SEA Regulations.
Helena Holliday	<p>There is an assumption that the population must grow. There is data that we will have less water than before. Hence, growth is unsustainable (Sustainability Issues 1 - Climate Change and 11 - Water). Urban heat island effect would accelerate climate change if further growth in population.</p> <p>Considers population growth is also unsustainable as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Much of the county is Green Belt. - There is a deficiency in green space (3.26) and a desire to improve links to the West of the county. However, there is already pressure on the Chiltern Beechwoods Special Area of Conservation (SAC) in the West. Also, Sustainability Issue 13 refers to harm to the Chilterns Area AONB. 	Noted. With or without the JSP, SW Hertfordshire will be subject to population growth and change. The role of the JSP is to ensure that this growth is carried out in as sustainable a manner as possible. There will always be tensions between growth and many of the sustainability objectives identified. The aim is to balance the often-conflicting objectives in the most appropriate way possible. The preparation of an SA report is an important (and statutorily required) tool to inform how best to achieve this balance.
Miklos Bansagi	More and better built bike lanes required, with existing ones needing better maintenance and connecting up to make them more suitable for use by commuters. Also need to be electric busses and separate bus-lanes to speed up journey and some bike storage next to bus shelters.	Noted. This comment relates to the general approach that needs to be taken to the future transport policies in the SW Herts JSP, rather than commenting specifically on the SA Scoping Report.
Jane Slatter	The response to COVID does not take into account the type of housing people now want because of the health and wellbeing problems of living in some dwellings (eg flats) during a pandemic.	Noted. The potential implications of Covid on how the future of SW Herts is planned is covered by the 'Our

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		World is Changing' section of the Realising Our Potential document. It is referenced in Sustainability Issue 8 regarding its impact on economic productivity, and the baseline will be updated to incorporate the various social and economic impacts.
Johnbelljubble	<p>The report is very long and wordy. The key findings of the report could and should be summarised, and the information laid out in a format more easily accessible to the audience (the general public).</p> <p>The report is generally qualitative rather than quantitative and lacks numerical analysis and evidence to back up the statements made. For example, on p55 there is a statement that walking and cycling networks are considered to meet current demands, where the reference is to the "Dacorum Local Plan (2020-2038) Emerging Strategy for Growth Interim Sustainability Appraisal Report Appendices (November 2020)", which itself simply states this as a fact without providing evidence or quantifying the demand or provision.</p> <p>In particular and of more importance, the first bullet point on p80 states that "Without the emerging JSP, it is likely that the impacts of climate change will still be mitigated against". There is no evidence or reference whatsoever to back this statement up. If the JSP is written on the basis that sufficiently mitigating against climate change will just simply happen, then it is fundamentally flawed. This document and the JSP must quantify exactly how climate change will be mitigated against.</p> <p>The Appraisal Questions are all qualitative and give no numbers with which to judge how positive or negative one action will be. They need to have numbers associated with them so they can be challenged.</p> <p>Notes that all Growth Types are expected to have a negative impact on biodiversity, which surely means they must all therefore be rejected?</p> <p>Notes that Growth Types a, b, e and f are expected to have a strong positive effect on climate change. How can this be the case, where new houses are to be built, provisioned and heated? Is their construction expected to suck carbon</p>	<p>The statement on page 80 will be updated to state that there will be national and local targets set by the Government and local authorities via their Local Plans, regardless of whether a JSP is prepared.</p> <p>Many of the issues considered through the SA Scoping Report are almost impossible to quantify as such, it will be the role of the JSP itself as it progresses through the plan-making process to establish a series of quantifiable criteria that can be measured and reported on as part of the Authority Monitoring Reports to gauge how successful the performance of key policies are.</p>

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	out of the air? This must be grossly inaccurate, and again there is a lack of evidence or numerical analysis to understand how this can possibly be accurate.	
This_frog	Any plans to build on the green belt should be scrapped indefinitely. The small towns of Hertsmere cannot/should not be used as a dumping ground for London's overflow.	Noted. This comment relates to the spatial approach to the planning of SW Herts, rather than commenting specifically on the SA Scoping Report.
Potters Bar Ian	Given the importance the government and local residents attach to protection of the Green Belt the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping report makes very limited reference to this important issue. Given recent government statements "Brownfield, Brownfield, Brownfield" and the Levelling up agenda, the report needs to be rewritten to reflect latest government thinking.	The content of SA Reports is currently set by the SEA Regulations, not by Government policy. It is important to note that Green Belt is not a landscape issue. Whilst Green Belt land may be valuable in these respects it is not a requirement or purpose of the designation to provide such qualities. Furthermore, Green Belt is a policy designation and not an environment or sustainability designation. Therefore, the purposes of Green Belt are not inherently sustainability issues. However, matters often linked to people's understanding of Green Belt, such as protecting soils and ensuring efficient use of land, conserving biodiversity and geodiversity and enhancing SW Herts's landscape character and quality are clearly articulated within the proposed SA objectives, against which the

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		emerging strategy and policies within the plan will be assessed.
Ann Johnson	It places too much emphasis on 'Growth' with is undefined and fails to comment, mention and protect the areas of Green Belt within it. Protecting green space, agriculture and the environment should come first with 'growth' second and subject to the aforementioned.	Noted. The comment encompasses general observations relating to the Realising Our Potential document and the general approach that needs to be taken to the future planning of SW Herts, rather than commenting specifically on the SA Scoping Report. As explained above, the Green Belt is not an explicit consideration for the SA as it is not an environmental / landscape designation.
Caroline 66	Concerned about the volume of population growth and whilst thought has been given to transport, infrastructure and health etc, none of that is currently forthcoming. All the while our natural habit and environment continue to decline. It seems that this is only being considered as something that needs to be done, alongside population growth, rather than the number 1 priority. We have seen the increasing impacts of extreme weather, and that is not going to hold off getting worse whilst South West Herts works out how and when it will get the money to do something. The green belt must be protected at all costs, and enhanced as a priority, building should be upwards in a few specific high density locations, Watford, Hemel and St Albans with green corridors to the defined green spaces. One of the most important Infrastructure projects, has to be fibre broadband for all. This would enhance the lives of many at the lowest infrastructure costs. It will provide opportunities for improved stay at home health care, monitoring, communication, entertainment etc.	Noted. The comment encompasses general observations relating to the Realising Our Potential document and the general approach that needs to be taken to the future planning of SW Herts, rather than commenting specifically on the SA Scoping Report. As explained above, the Green Belt is not an explicit consideration for the SA as it is not an environmental / landscape designation.
BJH	Agrees with the vision outlined by the document and would support plans to implement it locally. There will be tough decisions to take, but the objectives are worthwhile.	Noted. The comment relates to the Realising Our Potential document rather than the SA Scoping Report.

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Cliff Hawkins	<p>Reports contains a good deal of important data but is far too complex and filled with acronyms and jargon. This makes it difficult, if not impossible for members of the public to gain enough understanding to comment adequately.</p> <p>The recent abandonment of Local Plans due to public disquiet is evidence that many of the outcomes of the planning process are deeply unpopular. By directing unpopular policy from above, the JSP could be used to justify development of contentious sites at local level. If the objective is to co-ordinate the provision of affordable housing that is to be commended, but not if it is to drive unacceptable over-building on green belt sites against popular public opinion.</p> <p>In terms of housing numbers and future provision, there is no discussion of the inconsistency of the population projections in Table 3.4 with the housing projections in para 3.29. The population across the five authorities is projected to grow modestly between now and 2040, yet it is suggested that we need many times more homes than would be needed to accommodate that increase. No sustainability appraisal can be taken seriously unless it addresses this fundamental inconsistency in a satisfactory manner.</p> <p>There is very little discussion of the vital importance of green belt in this report. Building on green belt is always unsustainable, since green belt cannot be replicated without effectively moving it out to neighbouring authorities.</p> <p>Sustainable has become the 'catch all' term to justify almost any policy. There is no formal agreement on the meaning of the word sustainable so it can be interpreted to mean whatever the author wishes it to mean.</p> <p>The proposals regarding development around transport hubs are really directed at railway stations. The assumption that they are the ultimate in terms of sustainability ignores the fact that Hertfordshire railways really only serve north - south routes.</p> <p>The recognition of flood risk in para 3.13 is welcome. Little attention is however paid to the ground conditions in south and east Herts. The heavy clay layer in these areas means that SuDS cannot provide the answer to the development of flood risk sites. Why this report should seek to provide support for the development of flood risk sites when the NPPF 'sequential test' should rule them out is puzzling.</p>	<p>Noted. Many of the comments relate to concerns about the role and potential future content of the JSP itself – rather than being directly related to the SA Scoping report. It is not the role of the SA to assess any discrepancies between population growth projects and the housing figure generated by the Government's Standard method calculation. These discussions will happen between the district authorities and Government which is outside of the SA process.</p> <p>The report does not indicate support for building in flood zones. SA Objective 10 is to 'reduce the risk from all sources of flooding in SW Hertfordshire'; and one of the appraisal questions relates to minimising built development in areas prone to flooding.</p> <p>The reference to Watford in para 3.14 regarding flood risk will be clarified.</p>

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	<p>Also puzzling is the comment in para 3.14 regarding the highest flood risk area being Watford when the table beneath suggests Watford has the least number of properties with a 1 in 30 risk.</p> <p>Lack of reference to Potters Bar in the report – fear this indicates it will be forgotten.</p>	
Rodney Tucker	<p>His experience from working in the field of environmental scoping, impact and protection is that a key element of the final documents must include an environmental management plan that clearly defines responsibilities for ensuring that impacts are sustainably managed.</p>	Noted.
Jamie Trybus	<p>The Appraisal scores the 1st of the 6 pillars "Living green in a healthy natural environment" highly against: climate change, flooding, biodiversity and geodiversity.</p> <p>However there is a significant lack of focus on these elements within the SW Hertfordshire 2050: Realising Our Potential' document.</p> <p>Within the Sustainability Appraisal "therefore a significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 13 (biodiversity and geodiversity).’ Unsure as to how this will be realised with the heavy focus on growth within the SW Hertfordshire 2050: Realising Our Potential’ document.</p> <p>A critique of the appraisal is the lack of score for SA15 - Landscape. Landscape should be a high scoring metric for the Sustainability Appraisal.</p>	Noted. Further assessment of the JSP will be undertaken in the next iteration of the SA. As such, the current findings may change as the spatial strategy and related policies evolve.
Tim Morris	<p>There are no keys to explain or define the graphics and colours used in the tables, so it is impossible to objectively assess and understand the SA findings in Chapter 6.</p>	Table 5.1 in Chapter 5 – ‘Use of the SA Framework’ provides a key to the symbols and colour coding used in the SA assessment in the following section. Cross referencing will be added to Chapter 6.
Anne Samson	<p>It all sounds good in principle. The test will be in actually making it happen – not because of legislation but because it is the right thing to do. Does not consider the report is good use of taxpayers’ money. The simple strategy for ensuring all works in harmony is respect (love) for each other and our environment. This might sound naïve but by constantly working with this in mind, win win solutions</p>	Noted. The preparation of an SA Scoping Report is a legal requirement when preparing a plan such as the JSP and its broad content and coverage are also legally prescribed.

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	can be found – there’s currently too much about individual rights at all layers of interaction and not enough about living together in community.	
DEVELOPERS / LAND PROMOTERS / PLANNING CONSULTANTS		
Barton Willmore on behalf of Railway Pension Nominees Ltd	<p>Generally accepting of the scoping work make following comments around the economic elements and growth options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The paragraph numbering within the report appears to have been formatted incorrectly as it jumps from paragraph 3.44 back to paragraph 3.1 on page 43. – Welcome the recognition in the second bullet of paragraph 3.21 on page 50 that there is an under-supply in employment space across the JSP area. As outlined in our response to Topic Paper 4, this under-supply has stifled employment opportunities and businesses investment plans and it is critical that this historic under-supply is accounted for when projecting forward for land supply and growth. The outcome of this is reflected in points 3.23 and 3.24 where the lack of high-quality business space and supply are known to be at a critically low level. – Believe the JSP area is well located to absorb the loss of employment floorspace being experienced in London. This is most pressing for industrial/logistics uses, where the most sustainable locations in built-up areas are under pressure to deliver higher density housing and town centre uses. For instance, over the last 20 years, London has lost some 24% of its industrial land². South West Hertfordshire as an adjacent neighbour, should be seeking to accommodate and attract these businesses moving out of the capital, rather than losing them to competing regions where it may be geographically far less sustainable to serve their natural markets. – Chapter 4 - consider that the text under: Sustainability 7 – ‘Critically low amount of available employment space’ should be expanded to addressing the chronic under-delivery and under-allocation of sites historically, and ensure future market trends and projected forward appropriately. – Chapter 5, SA Objective 6: ‘To support the development of SW Hertfordshire’s economy and achieve high and stable levels of 	<p>Noted. Further detail relating to the amount of available employment space and how to address this going forward are matters for an Economy Study to assess and advise on, rather than matters for the SA Scoping to assess further. The SA Scoping Report states that <i>“As the Issues and Options document explains, it is likely that a number of growth types would ultimately make up the spatial strategy for the plan.”</i></p> <p>The paragraph numbering will be amended.</p>

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	<p>employment' does not address the existing under-supply clearly. Believe that this should reflect back and ensure that the growth options considered, can also address the historic chronic shortfall. The Savills proposed methodology would be the most appropriate way of ensuring the land supply requirements are appropriately understood.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapter 6 contains 'pillars' which have been created to support the overall vision for the JSP area. Pillar 2 relates to 'growing opportunities to work locally', it is our view this should be widened to include meeting identified floorspace and employment requirements. Support the general premise of the pillar but it is not considered specific enough or measurable. - The growth option to be considered may require a mixed approach which involve new settlements, existing urban settlement growth and growth along key transport corridors. - The options put forward also fail to recognise that these options may not happen independent of one another. It is unlikely that there is a one size fits all approach to the whole JSP area, and one that meets all the demands of different uses (housing, employment, leisure, health, etc). The approach to growth needs to be flexible. For instance, it will be critical for I&L occupiers to be located on key transport routes with access to London. 	
Lichfields on behalf of Commercial Estates Group	<p>Whilst it is acknowledged that the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) can only provide a certain degree of detail at this early stage, the SA provides some initial findings on the 7 growth types that have been identified by SW Herts. It is evident that whilst all of the typologies can potentially provide for sufficient housing (save for perhaps any strategy that solely focusses on growth within existing built-up areas on brownfield sites only, which might see significant negative socio-economic and housing consequences), there are certain growth types that can deliver other particular benefits that will help SW Herts deliver their vision for sustainable growth.</p> <p>Table 6.2 of the SA confirms that Growth Type B (Growth of existing communities) would respond positively to the requirement to consider the need to mitigate against climate change, as well as provide benefits in respect of</p>	Noted. The response does not relate to any issues or concerns with the SA Scoping Report as currently written. It is acknowledged that further assessment work will need to be carried out on individual sites as part of future work on the JSP to ensure that specific characteristics are taken into account.

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	<p>economic growth. Further, pursuing this growth type would also enable SW Herts to positively respond to objective SA7, which is to reduce the need to travel by car and promote walking and cycling. Developing within or on sustainably located places on the edge of existing communities promotes the delivery of well-connected local areas with facilities such as schools and shops within walking distances, which provide the basis for concepts such as the 15 minute neighbourhood.</p> <p>However, whilst certain Growth types initially score higher within the SA, different sites within the same growth types will perform differently based on their own particular credentials against the SA criteria. This is particularly notable for criteria such as SA3 (Health), SA4 (inequalities) and SA5 (communities), which the SA currently considers these to be '+/- 'i.e., having the potential for both positive and negative effects. For these particular criteria, the score to which an individual development could be graded will vary significantly on the quality and design of a particular scheme.</p>	
Lichfields on behalf of L&G	<p>The Sustainability Appraisal supporting the JSP notes the effects of Growth Type B (Outward Growth) as having significant positive effects in relation to the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SA Objective 6 (Economy): providing nearby access to local employment opportunities - SA Objective 7 (Travel): providing easily accessible and potentially 20-minute neighbourhoods - SA Objective 1 (Climate Change): reduction of travel distances - SA Objective 2 (Housing): Potential to deliver a significant number of new homes <p>All of these positive effects support the pillars and objectives of the JSP. This is supported by national planning policy and in particular NPPF para. 73.</p>	Noted.
Roebuck Land and Planning on behalf of Hallam Land Management	<p>The SA must be supported by a full Green Belt review. As part of the strategic plan, it is necessary to establish whether the Green Belt as currently defined across the constituent authorities currently fulfils the fundamental aim and purposes of Green Belt policy within the NPPF. Particularly, a comprehensive assessment of the Green Belt around the main towns and centres of population to check whether the boundaries are properly defined and recognisable.</p>	Noted. As stated above, Green Belt is a policy designation and not an environment or sustainability designation. Therefore, the purposes of Green Belt are not inherently sustainability issues.

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	<p>There are several edges, particularly in Dacorum (i.e. north Hemel Hempstead) where the boundaries have no degree of permanence and are not clearly defensible in the long term.</p> <p>The consequences of achieving sustainable development in the Southwest Herts area is acknowledged by the partner authorities as requiring Green Belt release through their early work on the emerging local plans.</p> <p>The JSP provides an opportunity to plan for safeguarded land to meet longer term needs stretching well beyond the plan period to guide future local plan reviews. Whilst it does not intend to identify specific sites or boundaries, it must be sufficiently targeted to provide clear direction to local authorities to avoid lengthy examinations for any subsequent 'part 2' local plan stages thereafter.</p> <p>Acknowledge that the next Regulation 18 consultation for the JSP will seek to identify a preferred option or options for growth. The scale of growth to be considered through the JSP is not yet determined, nonetheless the JSP should carefully consider the site size threshold for identifying broad locations for growth.</p> <p>If the JSP is to operate beyond the current Local Plans being prepared to 2038 and only deal with Strategic Development Locations for 3,000+ homes for the period 2038/2040 onwards, then it must establish clear parameters for plan-making. HLM would expect all sites/new communities of that scale (and any parts thereof) to be excluded from the current Local Plan processes (i.e. Hemel Garden Communities).</p>	<p>Similarly, the issue of defining appropriate thresholds for the size of sites considered by the JSP is not a matter for the SA Scoping Report. As the plan making process progresses, the SA will assess various iterations of the JSP.</p>
Pegasus Group on behalf of L&Q Estates	<p>This sets out relevant policy and strategy as well as contextual information. From this latter source, sustainability issues and likely evolution without the Plan are identified. These are considered to be very relevant issues to be addressed, however, addressing issues such as high house prices and affordability issues, ageing population and critically low amount of available employment space without the remit of being able to review and amend, where justified the Green Belt boundary.</p> <p>In terms of the Sustainability Framework, it is suggested that a further appraisal question is added.</p> <p>"Is the economic strategy, and related land supply, aligned with the housing strategy, and related land supply, to enable its successful implementation?"</p>	<p>Noted. The SA Report will be updated to further assess housing and employment issues when there is clarity over the precise levels of homes and jobs that the JSP could seek to deliver and what an appropriate balance should be.</p>

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	<p>In relation to the SA Findings for the Vision, Objectives and Growth Types, it is considered that throughout the benefit of providing housing to support the economy is not recognised. The scores should be updated to reflect this.</p> <p>In terms of the growth types, it is considered that a combination of the scenarios will be needed to accommodate the anticipated levels of growth and, therefore, considering each option is unrealistic, particularly when the development requirements have not been identified. All combinations and alternatives should be thoroughly examined so not to be vulnerable to challenge.</p>	
Stantec on behalf of L&Q Estates	<p>The results within table 6.2 show that outward growth of existing large settlements scores joint highest in terms of its response. The supporting text in chapter 6 of the report shows the benefits that result, such as benefits to the economy, and connectivity.</p> <p>A further advantage of outward growth relates to the provision of affordable housing. Redevelopment of previously developed land often brings with it large demolition and remediation costs. The potential impact is to affect the viability of bringing sites forward. More often than not, it is the affordable housing project which is used as a lever to reduce development costs, with a resulting reduction in provision. The risk of reduced affordable housing provision is much lower when considering outward growth, where development costs would generally be lower.</p> <p>The Report does criticise outward growth of settlements in terms of the loss of green space and associated losses in biodiversity. However, this does not need to be the case and should be assessed on a site by site basis. Our land interests provide the opportunity to ensure that the extension to the large settlement will be able to provide on-site biodiversity net gain accordingly.</p>	Noted.
Turley on behalf of Crown Golf	<p>It will be important for the SA to test a range of growth and spatial distribution scenarios. This will allow informed decisions to be taken to arrive at a preferred strategy in light of further public consultation. These options should extend beyond just minimum capped needs deduced by the current standard housing method (or other method to be confirmed through forthcoming planning reforms). This should consider the implications for meeting the actual assessed needs (i.e., uncapped), as well as the areas needs full need for affordable housing. It should also explore the extent to which adjustments are needed to support the</p>	Noted. The SA must consider reasonable alternatives as a Plan evolves; therefore the next iterations of the SA report will consider this.

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	<p>social and economic objectives of the plan, including the benefits of accommodating the economically active workforce needed to support these objectives, and in locations that foster more sustainable patterns of growth. Finally, we suggest further options are tested to assess the contribution the plan could make to addressing the unmet needs of adjoining LPAs, such as those already identified through the London Plan.</p>	
<p>Claremont Planning Consultancy on behalf of European Property Ventures</p>	<p>The SA Scoping Report provides a useful high level assessment of the emerging Plan against key sustainability objectives. However, as the plan progresses it is considered critical that the Sustainability Appraisal takes a more detailed review of these sustainability issues, ensuring that the decision making process is fully informed. The reporting must be clear to provide sufficient transparency around the decision making process.</p> <p>The extent of the Green Belt within the Plan area, and the level of housing need that the Plan must address, is such that it is considered likely that the JSP must consider the release of land from the Green Belt. As it is a joint strategic plan, it is acknowledged that this may result in identifying the direction for future growth and Green Belt releases, rather than the release of specific sites. However, if this is an issue that the JSP intends to address, then the Sustainability Appraisal must consider the implications of releasing land from the Green Belt.</p>	<p>Noted. Further assessment of the JSP will be provided within the next iteration of the SA report.</p> <p>As stated above, Green Belt is a policy designation and not an environment or sustainability designation. Therefore, the purposes of Green Belt are not inherently sustainability issues.</p>
<p>Carter Jones on behalf of Beechwood Homes</p>	<p>We note with interest that paragraph 3.29 of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) refers to the NPPF's Standard Method for assessing local housing need. It draws on 2014 - based household projections and increases the local housing need based on local affordability. It states that the average workplace-based mean affordability ratio in the Housing Market Area (HMA) is 13.9, when using the prescribed formula, the local affordability ratio results in an average uplift of 61%. This means the latest local housing need projection for the area, as set out in the Local Housing Needs Assessment, has increased from 2,888 dwellings to 4,043 dwellings per annum from the period 2020 to 2030. If 4,043 dwellings per annum are provided this would likely result in an additional 122,682 people in the area, over the period 2020-2036, likely to be divided as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dacorum: 31,724 - Hertsmere: 21,765 - St. Albans: 26,128 	<p>Noted. Currently, housing numbers do not form part of the detailed consideration of the Regulation 18 plan. The document's focus is on setting a vision and objectives for the plan.</p>

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Stantec on behalf of Urban & Civic	<p>– Three Rivers: 18,294</p> <p>The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (SA) considers the various options identified in terms of their impacts from a sustainability perspective. Paragraph 6.15 states that types c) new settlements, d) growth of groups of settlements, g) scattered growth, have the most potential for negative effects as they may result in more new growth across the more rural areas, where environmental assets are more likely to be adversely affected and where accessibility may be less good. This conclusion would clearly depend on the site in question and the approach taken to the landscape and other assets. This conclusion also fails to recognise that new settlements can bring forward high quality accessibility via sustainable modes.</p> <p>Paragraph 6.22 states that although new service centres would be created in new settlements, they are unlikely to be of a scale needed for the level of growth required in the area, meaning increase in vehicular movements. Again, this assumption fails to recognise the fact that new settlements are able to plan for new infrastructure and services at scale and in the case of the U&C master developer approach, alongside the delivery of new homes.</p> <p>Paragraph 6.25 states that new settlements could promote the cohesion of new communities through the provision of social infrastructure, providing neighbouring communities with additional services and facilities, creating minor positive effects in Health, Inequalities and Communities. It is stated that given the delivery period, these minor positives can also be negative during to the timing of infrastructure. The delivery of services alongside new homes is facilitated through the U&C Master Developer approach. This allows for the effective and phased delivery of infrastructure alongside new homes and, in many cases, ahead of time as evidenced through U&C's on-site delivery at sites such as Alconbury Weald, Waterbeach, Wintringham and Houlton.</p> <p>Paragraph 6.26 states that new settlements are likely to provide local job opportunities but still with questions of delivery, so mixed minor positive and negative effectives. It adds that the timing of infrastructure would increase the use of the private car which could be reduced through good design. This is not necessarily the case, and the delivery of new homes and employment can be</p>	<p>Noted. The assessment of the growth types is intentionally high level at this initial stage of the SA process. As the plan progresses, a more detailed assessment will be undertaken.</p>

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	<p>brought forward in tandem. Indeed, at U&C's site at Alconbury Weald in Huntingdonshire employment provision came forward ahead of homes. Paragraph 6.27 states that new settlements are more likely to be built on greenfield land resulting in less efficient use of land and greater potential for the loss of habitats, also potentially increasing the risk of flooding. Therefore, using the precautionary principle there could be uncertain significant negative effects in relation to flooding, soils, biodiversity, and landscape. Again, this entirely depends on the site in question and on the approach adopted. For example, the focus for U&C is to deliver at least 12% BNG (more than the national requirement of 10% set out in the Environment Act).</p> <p>Overall, U&C is concerned that the SA fails to recognise that if planned and delivered effectively, new settlements can deliver a critical mass of activity in a successful and phased manner with high quality design and is therefore unduly skewed towards spatial options that relate to existing urban areas as a result. As an example, urban extensions have the potential to place greater load on existing social infrastructure such as schools and may lack the critical mass to create additional infrastructure. The benefits of new settlements are that by planning holistically and at scale the infrastructure required to accommodate the residential development is provided largely onsite.</p>	
Stantec on behalf of Crest Strategic Projects	The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report is supportive of our recommended hybrid growth type with Options A, B, E and F scoring 'highest' against the SA objectives. Most significantly, these options are the only to score positive (in each case being 'double positive') for climate change and travel (with the other options scoring negatively or neutral), supporting a number of the 6 Pillars.	Noted. The SA Scoping Report only seeks to provide a high level assessment of broad growth types at this early stage in the process. As the plan progresses, a more detailed assessment will be undertaken.
Pegasus Group on behalf of Bloor Homes and the Department of Health	Notes that Table 6.2 in the SA summarises the findings of the assessment of the growth types against the 15 SA Objectives and summarises these conclusions. The assessment states that C new settlements would most likely have negative because it may result in more growth across the rural areas. This is misleading as new settlements/garden villages can provide the opportunity for sustainable development. An objection is made to this sweeping assessment of new settlements, careful review of this growth scenario is required as it fails to look at the sustainable opportunities a new settlement/Garden village can deliver.	Noted.

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	At this stage as the level of growth is unknown the SA is an academic exercise. It is likely that the strategy will be a combination of the growth types with the exception of scattered growth.	
Turley on behalf of Tarmac	Paragraph 3.29 of the SA states that the average workplace-based mean affordability ratio in the Housing Market Area is now 13.9, when using the currently prescribed formula and that the local affordability ratio results in an average uplift of 61%. This means the latest local housing need projection for the area, as set out in the Local Housing Needs Assessment, has increased from 2,888 dwellings to 4,043 dwellings per annum from the period 2020 to 2030. Tarmac considers this situation to be untenable for such an important sub-region to the national economy and so requires a bold, creative and sustained planning response, taking into account the comments and suggestions made in the various criteria listed above. Offer to assist in this process and welcome further discussion with all of the relevant stakeholders in the Joint Strategic Plan making process.	Noted. Currently, housing numbers do not form part of the detailed consideration of the Regulation 18 plan. The document's focus is on setting a vision and objectives for the plan.
RPS on behalf of Richborough Estates	<p>Regarding baseline information the response notes that the report highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the housing affordability pressures facing households living in the area congestion being a major concern in SW Herts, and which is likely to continue to be an issue based on future trip forecasts. - the area around Croxley / West Watford is not impacted on by any Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). <p>Considers there should be recognition given to potential initiatives coming forward to address congestion and promote modal shift, notably the Hertfordshire Essex Mass Rapid Transit proposals. This infrastructure scheme should be identified in the SA as this will be relevant to the appraisal of sites and broad locations in the Croxley/West Watford area of search.</p> <p>Regarding key sustainability issues they consider that many of the issues identified can all be tackled positively through appropriately planned, well-designed and well-located development delivered at a scale that address a wider range of issues on a comprehensive basis, which should include larger-scale development on the edge of existing, accessible settlements.</p> <p>Notes the use of a 'coding' approach in the SA Framework graded from - - to ++ based on negative and positive effects. Consider it is not clear on what basis a</p>	<p>Noted. The role of the baseline section of the SA Scoping Report is to set out the current situation within the SW Herts area under key headings. Its role is not to consider potential future projects that may change this baseline position. However, updates to baseline information will be included in the next iteration of SA where available and appropriate.</p> <p>The approach to colour-coding used in the SA Scoping Report is standard practice for SA Reports and together with the associated commentary is considered to provide sufficient information regarding why a particular effect has been</p>

Respondent	Summary of Comments	Response
	<p>specific coding will be triggered and then applied to options against each SA objective, which will make it difficult to compare the scores for each option on a consistent basis. This runs the risk of a lack of clarity and transparency in the selection of preferred options (and rejection of reasonable alternatives) at a later stage. Consequently, a suitable system should be defined in the SA framework so the reader can understand why a particular effect has been assigned to each option to improve the robustness of the appraisal process.</p> <p>Notes that the report does not draw any conclusions on the seven growth types tested at this stage. Nonetheless, it is noted that options b, e, and f all perform markedly better than options c, d and g. The higher performing options would direct growth to the edge of major settlements (option b), for example Watford, and locations well-related to existing public transport corridors (option e) and areas where transport improvements could potentially come forward (option f). On this basis, RPS concludes that the SA process thus far is broadly supportive of directing growth at or adjacent to existing large settlements as well as on or in proximity to sustainable transport corridors, in favour of other less performing options. RPS would broadly accord with these findings.</p> <p>It is important that the initial appraisal findings are reflected on as part of ongoing appraisal work, in particular consideration should be given to identifying potential mitigation measures that could address any potential adverse effects of the options, which has not been carried out to date, in line with planning practice guidance.</p>	<p>identified. SA reports are based on overall assessments of likely effects – rather than being an exact qualitative process.</p> <p>Future SA work will be carried out in full accordance with the relevant regulations and guidance. As the plan progresses, a more detailed assessment will be undertaken.</p>
Carter Jonas on behalf of Apsley Developments Ltd	<p>Note that the report refers to the NPPF's Standard Method for assessing local housing need and refers to some of the conclusion in the HMA regarding affordability ratios. Considers this means there is now an even greater scale housing supply that is now required across South West Hertfordshire.</p> <p>Notes that the SA suggests that without the emerging JSP it is likely that housing and services and facilities would still be delivered through each of the District and Borough Local Plans, but without a strategic approach it may be more difficult to keep pace with demand, and it is likely that house prices will continue to rise within the area. As highlighted in the South West Hertfordshire Local Housing Needs Assessment (LHNA), there are affordability pressures</p>	<p>Noted. Currently, housing numbers do not form part of the detailed consideration of the Regulation 18 plan. The document's focus is on setting a vision and objectives for the plan.</p>

Respondent	Summary of Comments	Response
	within the South West Hertfordshire Housing Market Area (HMA), and without a strategic approach it will be difficult for affordable housing delivery.	
Studio LK on behalf of Affinity Water (estates team) ¹	<p>The baseline accompanying the report is quite thorough. It would be improved if, in addition to the Hertfordshire Water Study, it had regard to the relevant water companies' WRMPs too. LUC's assessment of the proportion of the JSP area covered by Green Belt is at odds with DLUHC data (66%).</p> <p>Affinity broadly agrees with the Sustainability Issues, but would like the term 'strategic' under Sustainability Issue 11 to be replaced with 'all'.</p> <p>SA objective 1 should be amended to specifically refer to water consumption. In addition SA objective 2 does not adequately address the affordability issues identified within the baseline. Therefore, it should be amended to: To provide a wide range of good quality new homes in sustainable locations to meet SW Hertfordshire's housing needs. Finally, the JSP authorities may wish to add a further objective: as follows: SA objective 16: To promote efficient use of natural resources including water</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The baseline information will be updated to include reference to the relevant water companies' WRMPs. Additionally, Sustainability Issue 11 will be updated.</p> <p>SA objective 2 will be updated as suggested. It should be noted that water is addressed within SA objective 9: To maintain and enhance water quality and quantity, therefore an additional objective will not be added. However, an additional appraisal question will be included under that objective: 'promote the efficient use of water?'</p>

Changes will also be required to the SA Scoping Report to reflect the revised assessment of the vision and objectives as a result of the changes recommended.

The following groups / individuals made reference to the SA Scoping in their responses, but did not make any comment on its actual content:

- Central Bedfordshire Council
- Open Spaces Society
- Woolf Bond Planning on behalf of Gilston Investments Ltd
- St Albans & District Footpaths Society

¹ It has been confirmed by Affinity Water that these comments are submitted by their estates arm and so should be treated separately for their formal response as a statutory consultee.

Recommended changes to R18 document

(A) VISION / OBJECTIVES

The following changes are suggested as a result of feedback received:

Section	Change suggested	Recommendation
VISION	Add clearer reference to the environment.	Wording changed to ' <i>...it will be a place where sustainable growth provides a better <u>and healthy</u> future for everyone <u>both people and the environment.</u></i> '
	Add reference to 'health/ healthy'.	
PILLAR: Living green in a healthy natural environment	Clarify explanatory text of 'Commit to net zero' objective to reflect the way other objectives are worded.	Refer to 'carbon performance of <i>the</i> existing built environment' rather than ' <i>...our</i> existing environment.'
	Add a specific reference to protection of water resources	Amend the ' <i>Create sustainable buildings and infrastructure</i> ' by adding ' <i>... <u>and protect water resources</u></i> ' to the end of the explanatory text.
PILLAR: Growing opportunities to work locally	Amend wording of the 'Create space to grow' objective to ensure it is clear that it refers to both urban and rural economic sectors.	Amend the 'Create space to grow' objective to read ' <i>Support the delivery of a wide range of quality workspaces, where new and existing businesses from different sectors, <u>in both urban and rural areas, can grow and flourish.</u></i> '
PILLAR: Living in healthy, thriving local communities	Make more explicit reference to air quality	Add new objective ' <i>Improve air quality</i> ' and explanatory text to read ' <i>Maximise opportunities to maintain and enhance air quality standards.</i> '
PILLAR: Moving easily in connected places	Make clear that reference to neighbourhoods is plural.	Change ' <i>a neighbourhood</i> ' (singular) to ' <i>neighbourhoods</i> ' (plural) under the 'Create walkable neighbourhoods' objective
PILLAR: Building homes and places that people are proud of	Add more explicit reference to heritage protection.	Add a new objective entitled ' <i>Value the historic environment</i> ' and associated explanatory text to say ' <i>New development to reflect <u>and respect the historic environment.</u></i> '
PILLAR: Delivering robust and sustainable infrastructure	N/A	No changes.

(B) OTHER SECTIONS OF CONSULTATION

The following table lists a range of other helpful comments and suggestions that were made regarding the wider Regulation 18 document. Whilst they do not directly impact on the wording of the vision and objectives, it is recommended that the suggestions are noted and taken forward through:

- Information being passed on to relevant consultants to inform technical work;
- Amending / updating the Topic Papers that will continue to accompany and inform future iterations of the JSP;
- Reflecting the points in the wording of future iterations of the JSP itself; and/or
- Influencing responses to consultation documents published by third parties.

Issue raised and recommendation re how they are taken forward
Refer to 'sites of nature value' within the area (alongside the landscape and countryside designations already referred to) in future iterations of the plan.
Ensure that the Chilterns AONB and Chilterns Beechwoods SAC are referred to as separate entities in future iterations of the plan, as they are different designations and cover different areas.
Ensure the fact that SW Herts's high quality environment is one of the reasons that attracts business and employees to the area is reflected in future iterations of the plan and relevant Topic Paper updates. This is already covered in the text under Pillar – 'Building homes and places that people are proud of,' where it says ' <i>Our area's distinct qualities have long attracted people to move here.</i> '
JSP team to keep an eye out for any consultations relating to potential extensions to HS2 which may affect the SW Herts area and respond accordingly.
Comments relating to the issues with infrastructure provision / quality with the area. Responses to be passed to consultants preparing a Strategic Infrastructure Baseline for the JSP.
Add reference to 'Living Landscapes' work to relevant Topic Papers when these are updated.
Add reference to the need to take account of flood risk and agricultural land quality to relevant Topic Papers when these are updated and ensure these factors are fully reflected in technical work to inform potential spatial options.
Add reference to the Hertfordshire Green Infrastructure Plan top relevant Topic Paper(s) when these are updated.
Amend the 'How the Joint Strategic Plan links to other key documents' graphic if this is used in further iterations of the JSP, to include reference to Minerals and Waste Plans alongside Local Plans.
Comments relating to the pros and cons of the growth types put forward for consideration. Feedback to be passed to consultants carrying out the Strategic Growth Locations Study and Multi Modal Study to ensure the relative merits of each growth option are fully considered.

Recommend changes to the vision and objectives

(A) VISION / OBJECTIVES

The following changes are suggested as a result of feedback received:

Section	Change suggested	Recommendation
VISION	Add clearer reference to the environment.	Wording changed to ' <i>...it will be a place where sustainable growth provides a better <u>and healthy</u> future for everyone <u>both people and the environment.</u></i> '
	Add reference to 'health/ healthy'.	
PILLAR: Living green in a healthy natural environment	Clarify explanatory text of 'Commit to net zero' objective to reflect the way other objectives are worded.	Refer to 'carbon performance of <i>the</i> existing built environment' rather than ' <i>....our</i> existing environment.'
	Add a specific reference to protection of water resources.	Amend the ' <i>Create sustainable buildings and infrastructure</i> ' by adding ' <i>.... <u>and protect and enhance water resources</u></i> ' to the end of the explanatory text.
PILLAR: Growing opportunities to work locally	Amend wording of the 'Create space to grow' objective to ensure it is clear that it refers to both urban and rural economic sectors.	Amend the 'Create space to grow' objective to read ' <i>Support the delivery of a wide range of quality workspaces, where new and existing businesses from different sectors, <u>in both urban and rural areas,</u> can grow and flourish.</i> '
PILLAR: Living in healthy, thriving local communities	Make more explicit reference to air quality.	Add new objective ' <i>Improve air quality</i> ' and explanatory text to read ' <i>Maximise opportunities to maintain and enhance air quality standards.</i> '
PILLAR: Moving easily in connected places	Make clear that reference to neighbourhoods is plural.	Change ' <i>a neighbourhood</i> ' (singular) to ' <i>neighbourhoods</i> ' (plural) under the 'Create walkable neighbourhoods' objective.

PILLAR: Building homes and places that people are proud of	Add more explicit reference to heritage protection.	Add a new objective entitled ' <u>Value the historic environment</u> ' and associated explanatory text to say ' <u>Development to reflect and respect the historic environment.</u> '
PILLAR: Delivering robust and sustainable infrastructure	N/A	No changes.

The following extracts from the Regulation 18 document show how these changes would appear in the document. New text in red italics, deleted text in red strike through.

The draft vision – tell us what you think

We have drafted a vision statement for the South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan, which we would like your feedback on.

This vision has been developed in line with issues raised about our environment, and living, working, playing and moving around in the area.

Our vision
statement

Realising our potential

*“South West Herts will realise its full potential of being globally connected, nationally recognised and locally cherished. Known for its creative spirit, collaborative working and willingness to accelerate positive change, it will be a place where sustainable growth provides a better *and healthy* future for ~~everyone~~ *both people and the environment.*”*



Living green in a healthy natural environment

We have nationally recognised and locally cherished green and open spaces, but our natural environment is fragile. We are facing a climate and ecological emergency and it is time for us to accelerate change. Our future will balance demand for resources and growth with the natural capacity of our environment. We must be greener, healthier and leaders in climate action.

Our objectives



Commit to net zero carbon

Ensure all new development is net zero carbon and striving to be carbon negative, while improving the carbon performance of *the our* existing built environment.



Bring people closer to nature

Protect the natural, recreational and character value of the area's green spaces, integrate nature into all new development, and improve existing links.



Create sustainable buildings and infrastructure

Introduce nature based solutions that are resilient to the effects of climate change *and protect and enhance water resources.*



Enrich native biodiversity and ecology

Protect, enhance and connect new and existing biodiversity and ecological networks.



Green construction

Build responsibly with modern methods that reduce resource consumption and reuse materials.



Growing opportunities to work locally

We have a high performing economy with globally leading scientific research, film, TV and creative media together with office and service sector jobs. But it will not be enough to rely on these businesses and sectors alone to drive our future. We must embrace new and growing sectors, new models of working, and new ways of shopping and accessing services. There must be opportunities for everyone.

Our objectives



Create space to grow

Support the delivery of a wide range of quality workspaces, where new and existing businesses from different sectors, *in both urban and rural areas*, can grow and flourish.



Target investment

Encourage investment in new and high performing sectors to allow the local economy to prosper and keep the workforce local.



Diversify and increase activity in centres

Encourage the resilience of high streets and town centres by supporting mixed use and their diversified role as destinations for leisure, culture and work.



Retain and develop talent

Support and promote the provision of facilities, funding, and links to business for education and training, including access to higher education, lifetime learning, apprenticeships, and re-skilling for all.



Strengthen the visitor economy

Build on our globally recognised attractions, to develop a thriving visitor economy.



Living in healthy, thriving local communities

Our area is a desirable and attractive place to live. Our population is generally healthy, prosperous and people feel positive about the experience of living and working here. But this must not mask our challenges. We have areas of deprivation and a number of services under pressure. We know that our people are our future, and we must help both new and existing communities achieve the highest quality of life and support their physical and mental health and wellbeing.



Our objectives



Provide healthy places to live

Focus on creating homes and neighbourhoods that provide opportunities for healthy living and strong physical and mental wellbeing.



Locate facilities to encourage community interaction

Support the timely delivery of well located, flexible spaces for work, leisure, health, learning, cultural, community and shopping facilities.



Ensure safe and inclusive places and spaces

Create and protect environments where individuals and communities feel safe and supported.



Improve air quality

Maximise opportunities to maintain and enhance air quality standards.

Moving easily in connected places

Our area is defined by its location and its easy access to London. However, our roads are congested and east-west public transport links are poor. It is time for us all to change the way we travel. We need a future where fast, efficient and affordable public transport and walkable neighbourhoods encourage greener travel, where our communities feel connected and where our people, businesses, visitors and goods can move around easily.

Our objectives



Transform travel

Encourage a radical shift away from car travel by providing accessible, efficient, safe, and affordable alternatives.



Connect towns and villages

Make travel between new and existing communities easier by strengthening public transport, cycle and walking networks and promoting on-demand services.



Improve delivery solutions

Support a move towards carbon negative and more sustainable delivery networks.



Create walkable neighbourhoods

Create a neighbourhoods full of activity, where people can access all their daily needs, workplaces and transport options by foot and bike, and where life is active.



Building homes and places that people are proud of

Our area's distinct qualities have long attracted people to move here. The natural environment, the mix of towns and villages and the proximity to London are all key factors in what makes the area an enviable place to be. There is no single unifying character, but this variety is our strength. We want to build on our diversity and desirability by making strategic decisions about where and how we build.

Our objectives



Design attractive places

Deliver places that are fit for current and future needs, where high quality buildings and public spaces create places that people feel proud to call home.



Celebrate a diverse place

Reinforce the varied urban and rural character of the area.



Deliver new homes in the right places

Ensure homes are built in sustainable, well connected locations, accompanied by the timely delivery of new infrastructure.



Recognise current and future housing needs

Ensure current and future residents can live in a high quality home they can afford, that is flexible and adaptable to different lifestyles and work patterns.



Value the historic environment

Development to reflect and respect the historic environment.



Delivering robust and sustainable infrastructure



Our area is growing and there is an ever increasing demand on resources. This will not change and indeed we want to actively encourage continued investment in our area. But we must change how we do this. We need a proactive and positive approach to planning and delivering infrastructure that focuses on a more resilient and sustainable future.

Our objectives



Deliver key infrastructure

Identify the infrastructure required to support new and existing growth, work with partners to deliver it in a timely manner and ensure it meets local needs, and adapts to the effects of climate change.



Green energy generation

Promote local energy production with an increased focus on renewable sources.



Promote circular economies

Minimise waste by promoting the reduction, reuse and recycling of materials.



Advance digital infrastructure

Ensure everyone can be connected through fast digital networks.

(B) OTHER SECTIONS OF CONSULTATION

The following table lists a range of other helpful comments and suggestions that were made regarding the wider Regulation 18 document. Whilst they do not directly impact on the wording of the vision and objectives, it is recommended that the suggestions are noted and taken forward through:

- Information being passed on to relevant consultants to inform technical work;
- Amending / updating the Topic Papers that will continue to accompany and inform future iterations of the JSP;
- Reflecting the points in the wording of future iterations of the JSP itself; and/or
- Influencing responses to consultation documents published by third parties.

Issue raised and recommendation re how they are taken forward
Refer to 'sites of nature value' within the area (alongside the landscape and countryside designations already referred to) in future iterations of the plan.
Ensure that the Chilterns AONB and Chilterns Beechwoods SAC are referred to as separate entities in future iterations of the plan, as they are different designations and cover different areas.
Ensure the fact that SW Herts's high quality environment is one of the reasons that attracts business and employees to the area is reflected in future iterations of the plan and relevant Topic Paper updates. This is already covered in the text under Pillar – 'Building homes and places that people are proud of,' where it says ' <i>Our area's distinct qualities have long attracted people to move here.</i> '
JSP team to keep an eye out for any consultations relating to potential extensions to HS2 which may affect the SW Herts area and respond accordingly.
Pass comments relating to the issues with infrastructure provision / quality with the area to consultants preparing a Strategic Infrastructure Baseline for the JSP.
Add reference to 'Living Landscapes' work to relevant Topic Papers when these are updated.
Add reference to the need to take account of flood risk and agricultural land quality to relevant Topic Papers when these are updated and ensure these factors are fully reflected in technical work to inform potential spatial options.
Add reference to the Hertfordshire Green Infrastructure Plan top relevant Topic Paper(s) when these are updated.
Amend the 'How the Joint Strategic Plan links to other key documents' graphic if this is used in further iterations of the JSP, to include reference to Minerals and Waste Plans alongside Local Plans.
Pass comments relating to the pros and cons of the growth types put forward for consideration to consultants carrying out the Strategic Growth Locations Study and Multi Modal Study, to ensure the relative merits of each growth option are fully considered.
Acknowledge SPZs as being a significant development constraint in future iterations of the plan and in relevant Topic Paper(s) and technical work.

Consider adding more explicit reference to the value of the chalk streams in the SWH area and the need for their protection, restoration and enhancement in future iterations of the plan and ensure they are referenced appropriately within relevant Topic Paper(s).

Check and correct number of registered parks or gardens if this is referenced again.

Reference should be to 'The Making of Harry Potter' Studio Tour rather than 'the Studio.'

Schedule of recommended changes to the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Note: Further changes will be made to the Sustainability Scoping Report to reflect the changes recommended to the draft vision and objectives.

Respondent	Summary of Comments	Response
STATUTORY CONSULTEES FOR THE PURPOSES OF SA/SEA		
Environment Agency	<p>CHAPTER 3: BASELINE INFORMATION – CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION</p> <p>See the preparation of this Joint Strategic Plan, including the Sustainability Appraisal, as a key opportunity to strengthen the role that the planning system plays in mitigating and adapting to climate change, and to ensure a fair transition to a low carbon economy.</p> <p>Local evidence of climate change impacts will be valuable towards identifying location specific vulnerabilities. The Sustainability Appraisal should also include mitigation (i.e. net zero) policy measures that may be required to further limit climate change, and associated flood risk and water resource issues arising from the changing climate and that we need to be much better prepared for.</p> <p>Reference should be made to the Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (SFRA) for each Local Authority, which are crucial evidence documents for understanding the impacts of climate change on all sources of flood risk over the anticipated lifetime of any proposed development.</p> <p>The EA's climate change allowances for flood risk assessments should inform the SFRA(s) and have been updated to reflect the UK Climate Projections 2018 (UKCP18). This information is available at https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessments-climate-change-allowances</p> <p>For information, the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) and Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) have produced guidance on 'The Climate Crisis – A Guidance for Local Authorities on Planning for Climate Change'. Available at:</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The SA Scoping Report will be updated to include the additional publications referenced. In addition, the baseline information regarding flood risk, water and biodiversity will be updated based on the comments referenced.</p> <p>Flooding will be included as a separate sustainability issue and Sustainability Issue 13 will be updated to include reference to chalk streams.</p> <p>The Sustainability Appraisal framework will be updated to incorporate further appraisal questions as set out by the Environment Agency.</p>

Respondent	Summary of Comments	Response
	<p>https://www.rtpi.org.uk/media/9379/tcpa-rtpi-climate-guide_oct-2021_final.pdf</p> <p>CHAPTER 3: BASELINE INFORMATION - FLOOD RISK</p> <p>Welcome the inclusion of paragraph 3.13 concerning the impact of new development on flood risk. We recommend the inclusion of separate sections for the different types of flooding i.e., fluvial, surface water, and groundwater flooding.</p> <p>Fluvial flood risk</p> <p>In regard to fluvial flooding, it is important to note that flood risk mitigation can also be achieved by following a sequential approach as outlined in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). This is to steer new development to areas with the lowest risk of flooding and ensure that the most vulnerable developments are located in the areas with the lowest risk. This will also minimise the future necessity for new or improved carbon-intensive flood defences.</p> <p>Where development is deemed to be necessary, it should be safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere. Where possible, opportunities for betterments should be sort, for example adding more space for water and adding future attenuation areas.</p> <p>Additionally, properties at the highest risk are those situated within the functional flood plain (Flood Zone 3b). Only Essential Infrastructure or Water Compatible uses may be considered in Flood Zone 3b.</p> <p>Flood resistance and resilience</p> <p>If alternative sites are not available to locate development away from areas at risk of flooding, then developments need to enact appropriate flood resilient and resistant measures. Guidance on flood resistance and resilience can be found at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government guidance on flood resilient construction https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flood-resilient-construction-of-new-buildings • CIRIA Code of practice for property flood resilience https://www.ciria.org/CIRIA/Resources/Free_publications/CoP_for_PFR_resource.aspx • British Standard 85500 – Flood resistant and resilient construction 	

Respondent	Summary of Comments	Response
	<p>https://www.floodguidance.co.uk/bs-85500/ PPG – Flood Risk and Coastal Change The PPG guidance on Flood Risk and Coastal Change was updated in August 2022 and provides comprehensive advice on a number of considerations. For example, additional guidance has been provide to clarify the sequential test approach; how to use natural flood management techniques; and the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS). Additional advice is also available on the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and assessment of infrastructure needs, and how to take an integrated approach to flood risk management. This guidance is available online at https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-and-coastal-change</p> <p>Buffer zones In reference to paragraph 3.13, the EA are pleased to see the link has been made between the loss of greenfield land and the increase of flood risk. Development in the green belt leading to loss of habitat and flood water storage should be strongly resisted, and brownfield sites prioritised over greenfield. To strengthen this position, we recommend the inclusion of the following: ‘leaving appropriate undeveloped buffer between river and development can reduce the flood risk of the development and its vicinity. This can also eliminate the need for a Flood Risk Activity Permit.’ For development within close proximity to a main river, the EA would be looking for a commitment for a natural undeveloped 8 metre buffer between all new development and the top of riverbank / flood defence / culvert. This should be free from hard standing and structures. Note that Flood Risk Activity Permits are required for certain activities, such as works/development within close proximity to a main river. Full guidance is available at https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits</p> <p>CHAPTER 3 – BASELINE INFORMATION: WATER Water Framework Directive In reference to paragraph 3.50, they are pleased to see that reference has been made to the Water Framework Directive and note that these regulations are also referenced in Appendix A (paragraph A.52). WFD requirements will</p>	

Respondent	Summary of Comments	Response
	<p>need to be considered in the Sustainability Appraisal and throughout the development of the Joint Strategic Plan. Local Planning Authorities have an important role in implementing the WFD and making sure new development does not cause deterioration and whenever possible supports measures to improve waterbodies.</p> <p>Chalk streams and Chalk aquifers</p> <p>In reference to paragraph 3.51, the EA are pleased to see acknowledgement of the importance of Chalk Streams. However, paragraphs 3.47 - 3.51 do not identify the presence of the Chalk bedrock, which is a principal aquifer and the source of regional potable supply along with providing baseflow to surface waters, such as chalk streams.</p> <p>It is important to note that the Upper Colne and some of the smaller tributaries, such as the Mimms Hall Brook, also run over the chalk bedrock and should be considered chalk streams. There are more than three chalk streams within South West Herts, the ones named are only the larger ones.</p> <p>The River Colne Catchment Action Network (ColneCAN) are the catchment hosts for the Colne, of which the Chilterns Chalk Streams Project are a partner/co-host with Groundwork South and the Colne Valley Regional Park. The partnership brings together stakeholders of all kinds to support the conservation and restoration of the Colne Catchment. There are six main goals identified across the catchment; control invasive species, involve people in their local waterbodies, improve wildlife corridors, improve water quality, manage flow, and work together. More information on ColneCAN is available at: http://www.colnecan.org.uk/.</p> <p>Localised evidence bases relating to water resources and quality</p> <p>Water Cycle studies and Infrastructure Delivery Plans are important for informing water resources and water quality policies. Guidance is available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/water-cycle-studies</p> <p>River Basin Management Plans - The Sustainability Appraisal should also consider the current classification of waterbodies and how to improve their ecological health and chemical status, as set out by the objectives of the Thames River Basin Management Plan (TRBMP).</p>	

Respondent	Summary of Comments	Response
	<p>Water Resources Management Plans (WRMPs) assess pressures on future water supplies. WRMPs are an essential evidence source for ascertaining water availability within the context of climate change. Water company drainage and wastewater management plans account for climate change, ensuring drainage infrastructure can cope with increased intensity of storms. The Environment Act (2021) has made these plans statutory, collaborative and they should be integrated into long term planning documents such as the JSP.</p> <p>Water stress areas – their evidence on water stress should be referred to in consideration of water efficiency requirements. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-stressed-areas-2021-classification</p> <p>CHAPTER 3 – BASELINE INFORMATION: BIODIVERSITY</p> <p>In reference to Chapters 3.57 - 3.61, we welcome comments referencing the main priority habitats within the area. However, we note no reference has been made to the main priority/protected species. For example, Water Vole (<i>Arvicola amphibious</i>) have been reintroduced to the St Albans District. Work by the combined effort of Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust and the Colne Valley Fisheries Consultative has shown that this species is more widespread than initially realised, with a good population found in the Rickmansworth area. This species is iconic to chalk streams and should be protected along with the priority habitat. Additionally, no reference has been made to the impacts of invasive species within the area. This information should be included in the Sustainability Appraisal.</p> <p>CHAPTER 4: KEY SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES AND THEIR LIKELY EVOLUTION WITHOUT THE JSP</p> <p>Agree with the numerous sustainability issues recognised in this chapter. However, they have the following comments to make in regard to Issues 1, 3 and 13.</p> <p>Sustainability Issue 1</p> <p>Note that flood risk is mentioned in Issue 1 in respect of the impacts of climate change. However, climate change should be linked more directly to an increase in flooding, especially since people who are not at risk now may become at risk in the future. Strongly recommend that flooding is put forward</p>	

Respondent	Summary of Comments	Response
	<p>as being a separate sustainability issue, and the potential increase in the risk of flooding through development should be highlighted as a key concern. This is in line with paragraph 153 of the NPPF (July 2021).</p> <p>Sustainability Issues 3 and 13</p> <p>Regarding Issue 3 which considers access to natural green space, and Issue 13 on the potential to harm local landscape, they recommend reference is made to the lack of connection to river corridors and engagement with communities and rivers and the wider water environment. Specifically in respect of Issue 13, adding a reference to the protection of chalk streams would be beneficial.</p> <p>CHAPTER 5: SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK</p> <p>This next section considers the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) objectives that fall within the EA's remit and that have been identified through this Scoping Report.</p> <p>SA Objective 1: To minimise SW Hertfordshire's contribution to climate change and build resilience for adaptation to the changing climate</p> <p>Pleased to see a strong vision and strategic objective on climate change mitigation and adaption. Significant climate impacts are inevitable, especially on several constraints within our remit, such as flood risks, water management, freshwater wildlife and industrial regulation. In regard to climate change resilience, we encourage the use of nature-based solutions (NbS) to support local environments in becoming more resilient to climate impacts, such as flooding, drought and overheating, and absorb and store greater quantities of carbon. Without that resilience, there is a risk that progress on net zero will be undermined.</p> <p>SA Objective 3: To improve the health and wellbeing of SW Hertfordshire's population</p> <p>Strongly support the consideration of maintaining, connecting and creating multifunctional open spaces and green infrastructure. We encourage that this is considered alongside natural flood management approaches, such as river restoration, the protection of existing assets, as well as the discouragement of culverting.</p> <p>In regard to encouraging and facilitating walking and cycling, they recommend consideration is given to enhancing green corridor networks and local nature recovery networks.</p>	

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	<p>For information, Public Health England have produced guidance on improving access to greenspace, in the context of protecting and improving health and wellbeing. This document is accessible online at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/904439/Improving_access_to_greenspace_2020_review.pdf</p> <p>SA Objective 7: To reduce the need to travel by car As mentioned in reference to Objective 3, the provision of new cycling and walking infrastructure should also seek to maximise opportunities to integrate connected green and blue infrastructure along transport corridors.</p> <p>SA Objective 8: To minimise air and noise pollution in SW Hertfordshire Recommend the inclusion of approaches to waste management when considering the reduction of air, noise, and odour pollution. For example, improved efficiency and compliance by regulated facilities will decrease emissions of pollutants, as well as greenhouse gas emissions, in particular carbon dioxide from combustion.</p> <p>SA Objective 9: To maintain and enhance water quality and quantity Considering the question of how to help safeguard the water quality and ecological integrity of waterbodies, they recommend consideration is given to the Thames River Basin Management Plan (TRBMP). The TRBMP requires the restoration and enhancement of water bodies to prevent deterioration and promote recovery, including that of groundwater bodies (GwB). This is consistent with the SA Objective 9. The relevant GwBs within the area of the JSP are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-Chilterns Chalk - Classification Poor • Upper Lee Chalk - Classification Poor • Radlett Tertiaries - Classification Poor • Chiltern Chalk Scarp - Classification Poor • Upper Bedford Ouse Chalk - Classification Poor <p>Welcome the acknowledgment in in SA Objective 9 regarding appropriate development in Source Protection Zones (SPZs). Particular care should be taken regarding the types of developments considered within SPZ1, which are generally the most sensitive locations with respect to potable supplies. It is important to note that the distribution of SPZ1s is not uniform, for example a</p>	

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	<p>significant area of Hertsmere District B lies within an SPZ1, as does Watford District B and Three Rivers District. Due to the scale of this JSP, they consider it to provide an excellent opportunity to identify the less sensitive groundwater areas to develop.</p> <p>SA Objective 10: To reduce the risk from all sources of flooding in SW Hertfordshire</p> <p>Welcome the questions put forward regarding flood risks. Please ensure that all flooding related guidance; including the relevant paragraphs of the National Planning Policy Framework and the relevant chapter of the planning practice guidance (PPG) are considered. In addition, up-to-date climate change data should be used to inform assessments and plans around flood risks.</p> <p>The EA have powers over and responsibilities for watercourse management, including working on main rivers and managing flood risk. Therefore, new development should not restrict access to main rivers and flood defence assets. As a minimum, we will be looking for an 8 metres undeveloped buffer zone to facilitate this access.</p> <p>Opportunities to de-culvert watercourses and remove obstructions to flow and fish passage should be pursued. Additionally, reconnecting to the floodplain by softening banks and allowing rivers to expand where possible and appropriate, may provide natural storage upstream of towns at risk.</p> <p>Considering the question of how to help promote the use of SuDS and flood resilient design, they agree there are multiple benefits from SuDs, including for water quality. However, careful consideration must be given to their location and design. Proposals involving infiltration SuDs in SPZ1 must be supported by a hydrogeological risk assessment. Whilst not mentioned explicitly, of particular concern are the use of deep borehole soakaways. They concentrate the discharge on location and bypass the soil layers, which limits the ability of the ground to attenuate pollutants and presents a greater risk of groundwater pollution. When considering drainage schemes, every effort should be made to ensure that alternative drainage options are used.</p> <p>SA Objective 11: To protect SW Hertfordshire's soils and ensure efficient use of land</p>	

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	<p>Considering the question of how to take an appropriate approach to remediating contaminated land, they are happy to see the remediation of land acknowledged in SA Objective 11.</p> <p>Would like to clarify that remediation should ensure that it is 'suitable for use', which means suitable for the environment as a whole, and not just for use by people. Protecting groundwater and surface water may mean carrying out work on land affected by pollution over and above that required to make the land suitable for the proposed development and to protect human health. When dealing with land contamination the process set out in Land contamination risk management (LCRM) should be followed. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/land-contamination-risk-management-lcrm</p> <p>SA Objective 13: To conserve and enhance SW Hertfordshire's biodiversity and geodiversity</p> <p>Strongly support the objectives to conserve, connect and enhance ecological networks, and to achieve biodiversity net gain. Biodiversity net gain offers considerable scope to help create resilient places, through maximising opportunities to improve the water environment, manage flood risk and addressing climate risks. This should be considered alongside efforts to help tackle climate change, such as nature-based solutions. Furthermore, it is expected that Local Nature Recovery Strategies will be used to help inform how and where biodiversity net gain should be delivered. As mentioned earlier in this response letter, we encourage the protection of the area's chalk streams, which are a priority habitat, are considered and incorporated into the Sustainability Appraisal.</p>	
Natural England	<p>Natural England broadly agrees with the conclusions of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.</p> <p>The report assesses the potential impacts associated with six different growth types: The report states that "Growth types c, d and g are likely to have the most potential negative effects because they may result in more new growth across the more rural areas of the area, where environmental assets are more likely to be adversely affected and where accessibility may be less good and levels of car use higher." Natural England advises that any growth type should seek to</p>	<p>Support noted.</p> <p>The Scoping Report will be updated to include additional references to chalk streams and reference to the recreational pressure on the Chilterns Beechwoods SAC will be included where appropriate. It should be noted that a separate</p>

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	<p>minimise impacts on environmental assets (including habitat loss and greenbelt impacts) and be directed towards the most sustainable locations. Denser development in urban areas and/or around sustainable transport nodes would make district heating easier and use less energy per dwelling than lower density communities. This, combined with the reduced need to travel, would likely result in significant positive effects from Growth Types a, b, e and f on SA objective 1 (climate change). This has the potential to help minimise negative effects on biodiversity assets and achieve the more efficient use of land.” Given the strong focus on climate change within the JSP, Natural England suggests that any growth type that has significant positive effects for this objective should be given greater weight. However, Growth Type b in particular is still likely to result in large urban extensions at existing settlements, resulting in the loss of greenfield land. Furthermore, the densification of existing centres could result in fewer green spaces in and around urban areas, with associated losses of biodiversity. Natural England would stress that any growth type must be sustainable and ensure positive outcomes for the environment. Would not support a growth type that reduces the availability of greenspace and leads to losses in biodiversity. Growth Types d and g could result in growth within the rural areas of SW Hertfordshire away from the main service centres. As such, it is likely these Growth Types will utilise more greenfield land for development compared to the other Growth Types, resulting in less efficient use of land and greater potential for the loss of habitats. In addition, there are many Local Wildlife Sites, patches of Ancient Woodland, Local Nature Reserves and SSSIs that could be adversely impacted by development in the rural areas of the area, resulting in the potential for significant negative effects on SA objectives 11 (soils) and 13 (biodiversity). Similar to Growth Types d and g, Growth Type c is likely to utilise Page 8 of 8 more greenfield land for new settlements compared to the other Growth Types, resulting in less efficient use of land and greater potential for the loss of habitats. Natural England would like to see a strong commitment to protection and enhancement of existing greenspaces, protected sites and local nature sites, including ambitions to develop and expand the nature recovery network. Any growth type must align with the commitments of the Environment Act. The report states that the JSP will “provide an opportunity to encourage better and</p>	<p>Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) will be commissioned as part of the JSP process.</p>

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	<p>more sustainable use of water resources". Natural England supports the principle of this but we would want the wording to be strengthened from "encourage" as this is likely to be insufficient in such a populated area with high growth pressure.</p> <p>As mentioned above, rare chalk stream habitats are already at risk from over abstraction and this is likely to increase in the future. This strengthening of language should be applied across the Plan to ensure a greater commitment to environmental targets.</p> <p>The report should also make greater reference to the risk of drought, particularly given the current pressures on water resources and the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>The report makes reference to the impacts associated with air quality – particularly in relation to transport. This should also consider air quality impacts from other sources, such as construction and agriculture.</p> <p>Note the reference to the Chiltern Beechwoods SAC and recreational pressure. This will need to be considered within the Sustainability Appraisal as it's a key issue within South West Hertfordshire (refer to section on designated sites for more information).</p> <p>The Report acknowledges that the impacts of the JSP will need to be reviewed in isolation as well as in-combination. This is strongly encouraged and the report should take a holistic approach, with clear links between themes, acknowledging the multifunctional benefits associated with a healthy environment.</p>	
Historic England	Encourage local authorities to work with local conservation officers, archaeology officers and local heritage community groups in the preparation of the Sustainability Appraisal. Our advice note provides more guidance to developing a robust sustainability appraisal framework.	Noted.
OTHER SPECIFIC CONSULTATION BODIES		
Hertfordshire County Council - Minerals and Waste Team	Glad to see the inclusion of SA Objective 12: To safeguard SW Hertfordshire's mineral resources.	Support noted.

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Croxley Green Parish Council	<p>Question what 'sustainable growth' means? Considers this is an oxymoron and no amount of analysis can paper over the fact that the level of development within SW Herts is already unsustainable in the longer term.</p> <p>Chapter 2 sets the "policy context" for the JSP and demonstrates that there is already a plethora of plans. What targets have been set within them, how are they measured and monitored, and where are they reported?</p> <p>Chapter 3 sets out the "baseline information" but with differing perspectives leads to inevitable conflicts.</p> <p>The conflict between national statistics and the Government's policy framework on the need (the unsustainable need) for local housing is evident.</p> <p>There is no analysis of occupancy levels in existing housing – neither of overcrowding, nor of "under occupancy" (implying waste) in the existing stock. (An issue of inequity)</p> <p>Some of the data presented is very out of date (2011 census) and, in some places, there are no comparisons between local and national data trends. (e.g. pregnancy and maternity)</p> <p>Paragraph numbering goes awry after 3.44</p> <p>The river CHESH is omitted from para 3.51(sic)</p> <p>Chapter 4 lists 13 "sustainability" issues. How many of these are (a) national issues, (b) purely local issues and (c) directly incompatible with one another? What are the relative priorities between them?</p> <p>Stresses the Importance of getting the right appraisal framework (asking the right questions, setting the right priorities), as the results of any appraisal process will confirm any biases built into the framework and the questions.</p> <p>Given that the current development pattern within SW Herts is already unsustainable this approach is simply tinkering with the problems. An alternative approach should be based on a planning for a sustainable future WITHIN the environmental constraints and our geographic and administrative area.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Chapter 2 of the SA report sets out the JSPs relationship with other relevant plans and programmes and outlines environmental protection objectives at international and national levels, as required by the SEA Regulations. It is not the role of the SA to seek to report on how these are measured, reported and monitored.</p> <p>The baseline information will be updated with the most up to date evidence in every iteration of the SA report.</p> <p>The SA does not itself assess issues such as occupancy levels of existing housing. These are matters for specific technical studies such as Local Housing Needs Assessments, which will inform future stages of the JSP process. Any such evidence will be reflected in the SA baseline where relevant.</p>
Tring Town Council	<p>Document is too technical at this point and need budgetary and implementation data to give proper feedback.</p>	<p>Noted. The SA Scoping Report is by its very nature a technical document. Its content will expand as it is updated through the plan-preparation process. Budgetary and</p>

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		implementation data does not form part of the SA Reporting process.
GENERAL CONSULTATION BODIES		
Save Our Shenley	<p>The response of Hertfordshire County Council officers and Hertsmere Borough planning and environmental health officers in terms of upholding the policy direction of SW Hertfordshire stated on your webpage -“The onus will be to encourage people to avoid using their cars, while ensuring that there are realistic and affordable alternative ways to move around" has been very poor to date (see planning application reference 22/0971/OUT).</p> <p>Would also like:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a commitment to go above and beyond minimum policy requirements i.e. regarding the approach to biodiversity offsetting; and 2. a greater commitment to localism. When a community has expressed its views in sufficient numbers, the council should take this on board There is massive support for sustainable development and huge anger building about the continued development of green belt land in unsustainable locations. 	Noted. These are matters to consider through the JSP itself, rather than the SA Report.
Look After Nature, Ridgeway Residents	<p>Main issue is that the supposed demand for housing is based on 2014 data. The answer is not to decimate green belt to let more and more people live there but to make the places that people are trying to leave, more attractive.</p> <p>Should make better use of existing small green spaces within towns and change planning policy so that gardens are not decimated by development, turned into areas devoid of any wildlife habitat and corridors closed off my gravel boards.</p> <p>The most acceptable development would be to improve existing building stock and or convert to smaller, more affordable units.</p>	Noted. Comments relate to general planning issues rather than anything specific within the SA Scoping Report
RESIDENTS / INDIVIDUALS		
Kenneth A Gallagher	<p>Questions what ‘sustainable growth’ actually means.</p> <p>Concerned that the amount of detail in the report is simply concealing the fact that SW Herts is already unsustainably overdeveloped.</p> <p>Some of the baseline data is already out of date.</p> <p>The paragraph numbering breaks down at 3.44.</p> <p>The River Chess has been omitted from the chalk stream listed in para 3.51.</p>	Noted. With or without the JSP, SW Hertfordshire will be subject to population growth and change. The role of the JSP is to ensure that this growth is carried out in as sustainable a manner as possible. There will always be tensions

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	<p>Unclear how the long list of sustainability issues fits together and the relative priority between them.</p> <p>It is very important that the sustainability appraisal asks the right questions and sets the right priorities, otherwise it will not give a meaningful result when it is simply concealing the basis facts.</p> <p>As SW Herts is already unsustainably overdeveloped the propose analysis won't reveal anything meaningful in terms of sustainability.</p> <p>There is a better, bottom-up approach, starting from the existing environmental constraints and social needs, as set out in 'Doughnut Economics' by Kate Rawoth. The starting point should be what is needed in SW Herts and what can be afforded in terms of the environmental constraints.</p>	<p>between growth and many of the sustainability objectives identified. The aim is to balance the often-conflicting objectives in the most appropriate way possible. The preparation of an SA report is an important (and statutorily required) tool to inform how best to achieve this balance.</p> <p>The baseline information will be updated with the mots up to date evidence in every iteration of the SA. Reference to the River Chess will be added to paragraph 3.51 and the paragraph numbering checked prior to final publication of the document. The content sand approach of SA Reports is set by the SEA Regulations.</p>
Julia Battersby	<p>Disappointed there is no data showing the basis upon which the Housing Projection Requirement was calculated including the number of disabled people requiring purpose built homes, the gap between social housing demand and supply, a breakdown of demand per year from people currently living out of county who take up residence in South West Herts and net loss of locals.</p> <p>Does not agree that development would create regeneration in deprived areas. In some it might and in many it will make matters worse. The Map of Areas of Multiple Deprivation is also misleading and over-states some areas of relative deprivation. For example, the large expanse of Batchwood Hall is shown as a relatively deprived area even though it is mainly farmland and a golf course.</p> <p>There is no consideration of the impact of previous proposals for the Chilterns to attain National Park Status. This would have an impact across areas of the South West including housing, transport and employment.</p>	<p>Noted, however the SA process is focused on assessing the JSP and many of the factors that are picked up in this comment go beyond the scope of the SA. For example, it is not relevant to the SA process to take account of proposals or to explain why certain trends such as relating to recycling may be occurring – as in many cases this is not known.</p> <p>Further to this, the suggested additions to the SA objectives are too detailed for inclusion in a SA</p>

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	<p>3.46 There is no indication of why recycling rates went down in some areas. Charities not accepting donations during early covid period or something else?</p> <p>3.47 It would be helpful to know whether the report is referring here about actual consumption of water by households, or in general. Also would be helpful to have estimates of the amount used in industry/manufacturing, used in domestic consumption and lost through infrastructure failure such as broken pipes and leaks.</p> <p>3.48. We have many natural springs throughout South West Herts and places where run off can be collected. The most obvious thing – planning for places where new reservoirs can be created is missing and should logically be part of a strategic area plan.</p> <p>3.51. With many steep sided valleys in the vicinity, run-off of rain water and associated surface water flooding should be included here.</p> <p>Fig 3.8 Biodiversity. Shows designated Wildlife Sites but does not show high quality wildlife areas 1 and 2 as defined by Herts Records. Grade 1 areas should be set aside for protection and grade 2 as an opportunity for enhancement of biodiversity. Nor does this map show designated wildlife corridors which are also key to maintaining biodiversity.</p> <p>Historic Environment – does not include recognised World Heritage Award sites such as Apsley Paper Trail which potentially have international importance, or important Archaeological areas such as Roman settlements, or notable historic farming features such as fields with Saxon farming layouts and watercress beds.</p> <p>Landscape – The importance of preventing habitat fragmentation and loss of wildlife corridors should be highlighted here.</p> <p>3.77 Fig 3.12 should state what the definition is of the areas that are not designated Green Belt or urban areas e.g. around The Gaddesdens. Assume it is rural?</p> <p>Comments on the SA Objectives as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – (9) Measures should help safeguard water quality and ecological integrity of the waterbodies including the chalk streams. – (10 & 11) to reduce flood risk consideration of measures to green areas on upper slopes of valleys particularly through increasing tree cover which slows down run-off 	<p>framework which is used to assess a strategic-level plan.</p> <p>It is also not possible to reference and map every single landscape / heritage / biodiversity designation within SW Hertfordshire. It is considered that the information currently included is proportional to the scope of the SA.</p> <p>The matters raised under Health Impact Assessments are not planning matters and therefore not suitable for inclusion in this report.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (12) The strategic overview should identify future mission critical needs in the event of international or domestic interruption of supplies such as war e.g. minerals, food, key resources that we would locally need and how they could be transported in i.e. extreme contingency planning. - (13) Suggest this is amended to safeguard, expand and enhance SW Herts woodland. Planning that considers mitigating the emerging disease threats to trees such as Ash Dieback that could affect large areas of woodland and wood production would be a positive inclusion here. - (14) Include remnants of local historic industry, their settings and management practice within considerations for conservation. - (15) Would like to see that the characters of villages are preserved by maintaining some green space separation and rural/ semi-rural boundaries (e.g. ancient lanes with hedgerows) between one historical village and the next where it is still possible to do so. <p><u>Health Impact Assessment</u> Training and local retention of health and care staff is as key to providing efficient health facilities as providing surgeries for them to practice from. Consideration of Halls of Residence near our new hospital facilities for nurses for example, or preferential housing stock should be incorporated here.</p> <p><u>Biodiversity</u> Often biodiverse zones are on the periphery of existing settlements, particularly those that have very old hedges and orchards. These old hedgerows are actually more important for the preservation of biodiversity and vulnerable wildlife than the field they enclose. The impact of biodiversity measures, greenspace and activities such as volunteering to maintain them all contribute to positive mental health which is a benefit not recognised here.</p> <p>6.18 The impact of human behaviour and convenience should be considered e.g. although within walking distance the car is used on the school run Connectivity – need to take into account topography as cross valley travel transport is more challenging to individuals than movement from one end of a valley to the other. There are significant hills in many areas which can affect mobility of the elderly for example.</p>	

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	<p>Settlement types – using settlement types as a premise for planning is flawed as every settlement area has different features so should be looked at individually. Better to follow general principles for development e.g. 1) develop brownfield sites; 2) increase density only where the character of the area is not adversely affected 3) preserve semi-rural features of current green sites and settlement boundaries 4) identify sites suitable for infrastructure development e.g. solar power, waste removal, water provision, etc</p> <p>SA13 – add trees /tree lined verges to improve character</p> <p>There should be a clear requirement to establish an expectation that increasing biodiversity means preserving and enhancing vulnerable and uncommon native species, not substituting them with larger numbers of common species such as occurs when a few oak trees are planted after a hedgerow is removed. In doing the latter there may be a local (but meaningless) increase in biodiversity but on a county, national and international level it would be seen that we have brought about a decrease in overall biodiversity through loss of our rarer habitats and species.</p> <p>Page 135 Include to develop a native recovery network to protect and restore native wildlife including reintroductions e.g. water voles; and removal of invasive species such as Mink and Himalayan Balsam.</p> <p>General Note – the 500m exclusion zone around the Chiltern Beechwoods does not take account two key factors:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The impact that the vast number of people who travel in from as far afield as Luton. 2) That locals tend to respect and care for the local environment more than non-locals. <p>I would argue that the exclusion zone should be increased to at least 1km and that Green Belt areas should be protected.</p>	
Malcom Gesthuysen	<p>Comments relating to perceived poor English, relating to compound modifiers and compound nouns lacking hyphens, missing and incorrect commas and incorrect / complex words.</p>	<p>As the questionnaire recognised, the SA Scoping Report is by its very nature is a technical document that uses specific terminology and wording that is not necessarily common. The final report will be</p>

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		checked for grammatical errors and written in Plain English as far as is possible for a technical document. A non-technical summary will also be prepared to accompany the final SA report, in line with the requirements of the SEA Regulations.
Helena Holliday	<p>There is an assumption that the population must grow. There is data that we will have less water than before. Hence, growth is unsustainable (Sustainability Issues 1 - Climate Change and 11 - Water). Urban heat island effect would accelerate climate change if further growth in population.</p> <p>Considers population growth is also unsustainable as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Much of the county is Green Belt. - There is a deficiency in green space (3.26) and a desire to improve links to the West of the county. However, there is already pressure on the Chiltern Beechwoods Special Area of Conservation (SAC) in the West. Also, Sustainability Issue 13 refers to harm to the Chilterns Area AONB. 	Noted. With or without the JSP, SW Hertfordshire will be subject to population growth and change. The role of the JSP is to ensure that this growth is carried out in as sustainable a manner as possible. There will always be tensions between growth and many of the sustainability objectives identified. The aim is to balance the often-conflicting objectives in the most appropriate way possible. The preparation of an SA report is an important (and statutorily required) tool to inform how best to achieve this balance.
Miklos Bansagi	More and better built bike lanes required, with existing ones needing better maintenance and connecting up to make them more suitable for use by commuters. Also need to be electric busses and separate bus-lanes to speed up journey and some bike storage next to bus shelters.	Noted. This comment relates to the general approach that needs to be taken to the future transport policies in the SW Herts JSP, rather than commenting specifically on the SA Scoping Report.
Jane Slatter	The response to COVID does not take into account the type of housing people now want because of the health and wellbeing problems of living in some dwellings (eg flats) during a pandemic.	Noted. The potential implications of Covid on how the future of SW Herts is planned is covered by the 'Our

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		World is Changing' section of the Realising Our Potential document. It is referenced in Sustainability Issue 8 regarding its impact on economic productivity, and the baseline will be updated to incorporate the various social and economic impacts.
Johnbelljubble	<p>The report is very long and wordy. The key findings of the report could and should be summarised, and the information laid out in a format more easily accessible to the audience (the general public).</p> <p>The report is generally qualitative rather than quantitative and lacks numerical analysis and evidence to back up the statements made. For example, on p55 there is a statement that walking and cycling networks are considered to meet current demands, where the reference is to the "Dacorum Local Plan (2020-2038) Emerging Strategy for Growth Interim Sustainability Appraisal Report Appendices (November 2020)", which itself simply states this as a fact without providing evidence or quantifying the demand or provision.</p> <p>In particular and of more importance, the first bullet point on p80 states that "Without the emerging JSP, it is likely that the impacts of climate change will still be mitigated against". There is no evidence or reference whatsoever to back this statement up. If the JSP is written on the basis that sufficiently mitigating against climate change will just simply happen, then it is fundamentally flawed. This document and the JSP must quantify exactly how climate change will be mitigated against.</p> <p>The Appraisal Questions are all qualitative and give no numbers with which to judge how positive or negative one action will be. They need to have numbers associated with them so they can be challenged.</p> <p>Notes that all Growth Types are expected to have a negative impact on biodiversity, which surely means they must all therefore be rejected?</p> <p>Notes that Growth Types a, b, e and f are expected to have a strong positive effect on climate change. How can this be the case, where new houses are to be built, provisioned and heated? Is their construction expected to suck carbon</p>	<p>The statement on page 80 will be updated to state that there will be national and local targets set by the Government and local authorities via their Local Plans, regardless of whether a JSP is prepared.</p> <p>Many of the issues considered through the SA Scoping Report are almost impossible to quantify as such, it will be the role of the JSP itself as it progresses through the plan-making process to establish a series of quantifiable criteria that can be measured and reported on as part of the Authority Monitoring Reports to gauge how successful the performance of key policies are.</p>

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	out of the air? This must be grossly inaccurate, and again there is a lack of evidence or numerical analysis to understand how this can possibly be accurate.	
This_frog	Any plans to build on the green belt should be scrapped indefinitely. The small towns of Hertsmere cannot/should not be used as a dumping ground for London's overflow.	Noted. This comment relates to the spatial approach to the planning of SW Herts, rather than commenting specifically on the SA Scoping Report.
Potters Bar Ian	Given the importance the government and local residents attach to protection of the Green Belt the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping report makes very limited reference to this important issue. Given recent government statements "Brownfield, Brownfield, Brownfield" and the Levelling up agenda, the report needs to be rewritten to reflect latest government thinking.	The content of SA Reports is currently set by the SEA Regulations, not by Government policy. It is important to note that Green Belt is not a landscape issue. Whilst Green Belt land may be valuable in these respects it is not a requirement or purpose of the designation to provide such qualities. Furthermore, Green Belt is a policy designation and not an environment or sustainability designation. Therefore, the purposes of Green Belt are not inherently sustainability issues. However, matters often linked to people's understanding of Green Belt, such as protecting soils and ensuring efficient use of land, conserving biodiversity and geodiversity and enhancing SW Herts's landscape character and quality are clearly articulated within the proposed SA objectives, against which the

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		emerging strategy and policies within the plan will be assessed.
Ann Johnson	It places too much emphasis on 'Growth' with is undefined and fails to comment, mention and protect the areas of Green Belt within it. Protecting green space, agriculture and the environment should come first with 'growth' second and subject to the aforementioned.	Noted. The comment encompasses general observations relating to the Realising Our Potential document and the general approach that needs to be taken to the future planning of SW Herts, rather than commenting specifically on the SA Scoping Report. As explained above, the Green Belt is not an explicit consideration for the SA as it is not an environmental / landscape designation.
Caroline 66	Concerned about the volume of population growth and whilst thought has been given to transport, infrastructure and health etc, none of that is currently forthcoming. All the while our natural habit and environment continue to decline. It seems that this is only being considered as something that needs to be done, alongside population growth, rather than the number 1 priority. We have seen the increasing impacts of extreme weather, and that is not going to hold off getting worse whilst South West Herts works out how and when it will get the money to do something. The green belt must be protected at all costs, and enhanced as a priority, building should be upwards in a few specific high density locations, Watford, Hemel and St Albans with green corridors to the defined green spaces. One of the most important Infrastructure projects, has to be fibre broadband for all. This would enhance the lives of many at the lowest infrastructure costs. It will provide opportunities for improved stay at home health care, monitoring, communication, entertainment etc.	Noted. The comment encompasses general observations relating to the Realising Our Potential document and the general approach that needs to be taken to the future planning of SW Herts, rather than commenting specifically on the SA Scoping Report. As explained above, the Green Belt is not an explicit consideration for the SA as it is not an environmental / landscape designation.
BJH	Agrees with the vision outlined by the document and would support plans to implement it locally. There will be tough decisions to take, but the objectives are worthwhile.	Noted. The comment relates to the Realising Our Potential document rather than the SA Scoping Report.

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Cliff Hawkins	<p>Reports contains a good deal of important data but is far too complex and filled with acronyms and jargon. This makes it difficult, if not impossible for members of the public to gain enough understanding to comment adequately.</p> <p>The recent abandonment of Local Plans due to public disquiet is evidence that many of the outcomes of the planning process are deeply unpopular. By directing unpopular policy from above, the JSP could be used to justify development of contentious sites at local level. If the objective is to co-ordinate the provision of affordable housing that is to be commended, but not if it is to drive unacceptable over-building on green belt sites against popular public opinion.</p> <p>In terms of housing numbers and future provision, there is no discussion of the inconsistency of the population projections in Table 3.4 with the housing projections in para 3.29. The population across the five authorities is projected to grow modestly between now and 2040, yet it is suggested that we need many times more homes than would be needed to accommodate that increase. No sustainability appraisal can be taken seriously unless it addresses this fundamental inconsistency in a satisfactory manner.</p> <p>There is very little discussion of the vital importance of green belt in this report. Building on green belt is always unsustainable, since green belt cannot be replicated without effectively moving it out to neighbouring authorities.</p> <p>Sustainable has become the 'catch all' term to justify almost any policy. There is no formal agreement on the meaning of the word sustainable so it can be interpreted to mean whatever the author wishes it to mean.</p> <p>The proposals regarding development around transport hubs are really directed at railway stations. The assumption that they are the ultimate in terms of sustainability ignores the fact that Hertfordshire railways really only serve north - south routes.</p> <p>The recognition of flood risk in para 3.13 is welcome. Little attention is however paid to the ground conditions in south and east Herts. The heavy clay layer in these areas means that SuDS cannot provide the answer to the development of flood risk sites. Why this report should seek to provide support for the development of flood risk sites when the NPPF 'sequential test' should rule them out is puzzling.</p>	<p>Noted. Many of the comments relate to concerns about the role and potential future content of the JSP itself – rather than being directly related to the SA Scoping report. It is not the role of the SA to assess any discrepancies between population growth projects and the housing figure generated by the Government's Standard method calculation. These discussions will happen between the district authorities and Government which is outside of the SA process.</p> <p>The report does not indicate support for building in flood zones. SA Objective 10 is to 'reduce the risk from all sources of flooding in SW Hertfordshire'; and one of the appraisal questions relates to minimising built development in areas prone to flooding.</p> <p>The reference to Watford in para 3.14 regarding flood risk will be clarified.</p>

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	<p>Also puzzling is the comment in para 3.14 regarding the highest flood risk area being Watford when the table beneath suggests Watford has the least number of properties with a 1 in 30 risk.</p> <p>Lack of reference to Potters Bar in the report – fear this indicates it will be forgotten.</p>	
Rodney Tucker	<p>His experience from working in the field of environmental scoping, impact and protection is that a key element of the final documents must include an environmental management plan that clearly defines responsibilities for ensuring that impacts are sustainably managed.</p>	Noted.
Jamie Trybus	<p>The Appraisal scores the 1st of the 6 pillars "Living green in a healthy natural environment" highly against: climate change, flooding, biodiversity and geodiversity.</p> <p>However there is a significant lack of focus on these elements within the SW Hertfordshire 2050: Realising Our Potential' document.</p> <p>Within the Sustainability Appraisal "therefore a significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 13 (biodiversity and geodiversity)." Unsure as to how this will be realised with the heavy focus on growth within the SW Hertfordshire 2050: Realising Our Potential' document.</p> <p>A critique of the appraisal is the lack of score for SA15 - Landscape. Landscape should be a high scoring metric for the Sustainability Appraisal.</p>	Noted. Further assessment of the JSP will be undertaken in the next iteration of the SA. As such, the current findings may change as the spatial strategy and related policies evolve.
Tim Morris	<p>There are no keys to explain or define the graphics and colours used in the tables, so it is impossible to objectively assess and understand the SA findings in Chapter 6.</p>	Table 5.1 in Chapter 5 – 'Use of the SA Framework' provides a key to the symbols and colour coding used in the SA assessment in the following section. Cross referencing will be added to Chapter 6.
Anne Samson	<p>It all sounds good in principle. The test will be in actually making it happen – not because of legislation but because it is the right thing to do. Does not consider the report is good use of taxpayers' money. The simple strategy for ensuring all works in harmony is respect (love) for each other and our environment. This might sound naïve but by constantly working with this in mind, win win solutions</p>	Noted. The preparation of an SA Scoping Report is a legal requirement when preparing a plan such as the JSP and its broad content and coverage are also legally prescribed.

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	can be found – there’s currently too much about individual rights at all layers of interaction and not enough about living together in community.	
DEVELOPERS / LAND PROMOTERS / PLANNING CONSULTANTS		
Barton Willmore on behalf of Railway Pension Nominees Ltd	<p>Generally accepting of the scoping work make following comments around the economic elements and growth options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The paragraph numbering within the report appears to have been formatted incorrectly as it jumps from paragraph 3.44 back to paragraph 3.1 on page 43. – Welcome the recognition in the second bullet of paragraph 3.21 on page 50 that there is an under-supply in employment space across the JSP area. As outlined in our response to Topic Paper 4, this under-supply has stifled employment opportunities and businesses investment plans and it is critical that this historic under-supply is accounted for when projecting forward for land supply and growth. The outcome of this is reflected in points 3.23 and 3.24 where the lack of high-quality business space and supply are known to be at a critically low level. – Believe the JSP area is well located to absorb the loss of employment floorspace being experienced in London. This is most pressing for industrial/logistics uses, where the most sustainable locations in built-up areas are under pressure to deliver higher density housing and town centre uses. For instance, over the last 20 years, London has lost some 24% of its industrial land². South West Hertfordshire as an adjacent neighbour, should be seeking to accommodate and attract these businesses moving out of the capital, rather than losing them to competing regions where it may be geographically far less sustainable to serve their natural markets. – Chapter 4 - consider that the text under: Sustainability 7 – ‘Critically low amount of available employment space’ should be expanded to addressing the chronic under-delivery and under-allocation of sites historically, and ensure future market trends and projected forward appropriately. – Chapter 5, SA Objective 6: ‘To support the development of SW Hertfordshire’s economy and achieve high and stable levels of 	<p>Noted. Further detail relating to the amount of available employment space and how to address this going forward are matters for an Economy Study to assess and advise on, rather than matters for the SA Scoping to assess further. The SA Scoping Report states that <i>“As the Issues and Options document explains, it is likely that a number of growth types would ultimately make up the spatial strategy for the plan.”</i></p> <p>The paragraph numbering will be amended.</p>

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	<p>employment' does not address the existing under-supply clearly. Believe that this should reflect back and ensure that the growth options considered, can also address the historic chronic shortfall. The Savills proposed methodology would be the most appropriate way of ensuring the land supply requirements are appropriately understood.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapter 6 contains 'pillars' which have been created to support the overall vision for the JSP area. Pillar 2 relates to 'growing opportunities to work locally', it is our view this should be widened to include meeting identified floorspace and employment requirements. Support the general premise of the pillar but it is not considered specific enough or measurable. - The growth option to be considered may require a mixed approach which involve new settlements, existing urban settlement growth and growth along key transport corridors. - The options put forward also fail to recognise that these options may not happen independent of one another. It is unlikely that there is a one size fits all approach to the whole JSP area, and one that meets all the demands of different uses (housing, employment, leisure, health, etc). The approach to growth needs to be flexible. For instance, it will be critical for I&L occupiers to be located on key transport routes with access to London. 	
Lichfields on behalf of Commercial Estates Group	<p>Whilst it is acknowledged that the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) can only provide a certain degree of detail at this early stage, the SA provides some initial findings on the 7 growth types that have been identified by SW Herts. It is evident that whilst all of the typologies can potentially provide for sufficient housing (save for perhaps any strategy that solely focusses on growth within existing built-up areas on brownfield sites only, which might see significant negative socio-economic and housing consequences), there are certain growth types that can deliver other particular benefits that will help SW Herts deliver their vision for sustainable growth.</p> <p>Table 6.2 of the SA confirms that Growth Type B (Growth of existing communities) would respond positively to the requirement to consider the need to mitigate against climate change, as well as provide benefits in respect of</p>	Noted. The response does not relate to any issues or concerns with the SA Scoping Report as currently written. It is acknowledged that further assessment work will need to be carried out on individual sites as part of future work on the JSP to ensure that specific characteristics are taken into account.

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	<p>economic growth. Further, pursuing this growth type would also enable SW Herts to positively respond to objective SA7, which is to reduce the need to travel by car and promote walking and cycling. Developing within or on sustainably located places on the edge of existing communities promotes the delivery of well-connected local areas with facilities such as schools and shops within walking distances, which provide the basis for concepts such as the 15 minute neighbourhood.</p> <p>However, whilst certain Growth types initially score higher within the SA, different sites within the same growth types will perform differently based on their own particular credentials against the SA criteria. This is particularly notable for criteria such as SA3 (Health), SA4 (inequalities) and SA5 (communities), which the SA currently considers these to be '+/- 'i.e., having the potential for both positive and negative effects. For these particular criteria, the score to which an individual development could be graded will vary significantly on the quality and design of a particular scheme.</p>	
Lichfields on behalf of L&G	<p>The Sustainability Appraisal supporting the JSP notes the effects of Growth Type B (Outward Growth) as having significant positive effects in relation to the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SA Objective 6 (Economy): providing nearby access to local employment opportunities - SA Objective 7 (Travel): providing easily accessible and potentially 20-minute neighbourhoods - SA Objective 1 (Climate Change): reduction of travel distances - SA Objective 2 (Housing): Potential to deliver a significant number of new homes <p>All of these positive effects support the pillars and objectives of the JSP. This is supported by national planning policy and in particular NPPF para. 73.</p>	Noted.
Roebuck Land and Planning on behalf of Hallam Land Management	<p>The SA must be supported by a full Green Belt review. As part of the strategic plan, it is necessary to establish whether the Green Belt as currently defined across the constituent authorities currently fulfils the fundamental aim and purposes of Green Belt policy within the NPPF. Particularly, a comprehensive assessment of the Green Belt around the main towns and centres of population to check whether the boundaries are properly defined and recognisable.</p>	Noted. As stated above, Green Belt is a policy designation and not an environment or sustainability designation. Therefore, the purposes of Green Belt are not inherently sustainability issues.

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	<p>There are several edges, particularly in Dacorum (i.e. north Hemel Hempstead) where the boundaries have no degree of permanence and are not clearly defensible in the long term.</p> <p>The consequences of achieving sustainable development in the Southwest Herts area is acknowledged by the partner authorities as requiring Green Belt release through their early work on the emerging local plans.</p> <p>The JSP provides an opportunity to plan for safeguarded land to meet longer term needs stretching well beyond the plan period to guide future local plan reviews. Whilst it does not intend to identify specific sites or boundaries, it must be sufficiently targeted to provide clear direction to local authorities to avoid lengthy examinations for any subsequent 'part 2' local plan stages thereafter.</p> <p>Acknowledge that the next Regulation 18 consultation for the JSP will seek to identify a preferred option or options for growth. The scale of growth to be considered through the JSP is not yet determined, nonetheless the JSP should carefully consider the site size threshold for identifying broad locations for growth.</p> <p>If the JSP is to operate beyond the current Local Plans being prepared to 2038 and only deal with Strategic Development Locations for 3,000+ homes for the period 2038/2040 onwards, then it must establish clear parameters for plan-making. HLM would expect all sites/new communities of that scale (and any parts thereof) to be excluded from the current Local Plan processes (i.e. Hemel Garden Communities).</p>	<p>Similarly, the issue of defining appropriate thresholds for the size of sites considered by the JSP is not a matter for the SA Scoping Report.</p> <p>As the plan making process progresses, the SA will assess various iterations of the JSP.</p>
Pegasus Group on behalf of L&Q Estates	<p>This sets out relevant policy and strategy as well as contextual information. From this latter source, sustainability issues and likely evolution without the Plan are identified. These are considered to be very relevant issues to be addressed, however, addressing issues such as high house prices and affordability issues, ageing population and critically low amount of available employment space without the remit of being able to review and amend, where justified the Green Belt boundary.</p> <p>In terms of the Sustainability Framework, it is suggested that a further appraisal question is added.</p> <p>"Is the economic strategy, and related land supply, aligned with the housing strategy, and related land supply, to enable its successful implementation?"</p>	<p>Noted. The SA Report will be updated to further assess housing and employment issues when there is clarity over the precise levels of homes and jobs that the JSP could seek to deliver and what an appropriate balance should be.</p>

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	<p>In relation to the SA Findings for the Vision, Objectives and Growth Types, it is considered that throughout the benefit of providing housing to support the economy is not recognised. The scores should be updated to reflect this.</p> <p>In terms of the growth types, it is considered that a combination of the scenarios will be needed to accommodate the anticipated levels of growth and, therefore, considering each option is unrealistic, particularly when the development requirements have not been identified. All combinations and alternatives should be thoroughly examined so not to be vulnerable to challenge.</p>	
Stantec on behalf of L&Q Estates	<p>The results within table 6.2 show that outward growth of existing large settlements scores joint highest in terms of its response. The supporting text in chapter 6 of the report shows the benefits that result, such as benefits to the economy, and connectivity.</p> <p>A further advantage of outward growth relates to the provision of affordable housing. Redevelopment of previously developed land often brings with it large demolition and remediation costs. The potential impact is to affect the viability of bringing sites forward. More often than not, it is the affordable housing project which is used as a lever to reduce development costs, with a resulting reduction in provision. The risk of reduced affordable housing provision is much lower when considering outward growth, where development costs would generally be lower.</p> <p>The Report does criticise outward growth of settlements in terms of the loss of green space and associated losses in biodiversity. However, this does not need to be the case and should be assessed on a site by site basis. Our land interests provide the opportunity to ensure that the extension to the large settlement will be able to provide on-site biodiversity net gain accordingly.</p>	Noted.
Turley on behalf of Crown Golf	<p>It will be important for the SA to test a range of growth and spatial distribution scenarios. This will allow informed decisions to be taken to arrive at a preferred strategy in light of further public consultation. These options should extend beyond just minimum capped needs deduced by the current standard housing method (or other method to be confirmed through forthcoming planning reforms).</p> <p>This should consider the implications for meeting the actual assessed needs (i.e., uncapped), as well as the areas needs full need for affordable housing. It should also explore the extent to which adjustments are needed to support the</p>	Noted. The SA must consider reasonable alternatives as a Plan evolves; therefore the next iterations of the SA report will consider this.

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	<p>social and economic objectives of the plan, including the benefits of accommodating the economically active workforce needed to support these objectives, and in locations that foster more sustainable patterns of growth. Finally, we suggest further options are tested to assess the contribution the plan could make to addressing the unmet needs of adjoining LPAs, such as those already identified through the London Plan.</p>	
<p>Claremont Planning Consultancy on behalf of European Property Ventures</p>	<p>The SA Scoping Report provides a useful high level assessment of the emerging Plan against key sustainability objectives. However, as the plan progresses it is considered critical that the Sustainability Appraisal takes a more detailed review of these sustainability issues, ensuring that the decision making process is fully informed. The reporting must be clear to provide sufficient transparency around the decision making process.</p> <p>The extent of the Green Belt within the Plan area, and the level of housing need that the Plan must address, is such that it is considered likely that the JSP must consider the release of land from the Green Belt. As it is a joint strategic plan, it is acknowledged that this may result in identifying the direction for future growth and Green Belt releases, rather than the release of specific sites. However, if this is an issue that the JSP intends to address, then the Sustainability Appraisal must consider the implications of releasing land from the Green Belt.</p>	<p>Noted. Further assessment of the JSP will be provided within the next iteration of the SA report.</p> <p>As stated above, Green Belt is a policy designation and not an environment or sustainability designation. Therefore, the purposes of Green Belt are not inherently sustainability issues.</p>
<p>Carter Jones on behalf of Beechwood Homes</p>	<p>We note with interest that paragraph 3.29 of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) refers to the NPPF's Standard Method for assessing local housing need. It draws on 2014 - based household projections and increases the local housing need based on local affordability. It states that the average workplace-based mean affordability ratio in the Housing Market Area (HMA) is 13.9, when using the prescribed formula, the local affordability ratio results in an average uplift of 61%. This means the latest local housing need projection for the area, as set out in the Local Housing Needs Assessment, has increased from 2,888 dwellings to 4,043 dwellings per annum from the period 2020 to 2030. If 4,043 dwellings per annum are provided this would likely result in an additional 122,682 people in the area, over the period 2020-2036, likely to be divided as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dacorum: 31,724 - Hertsmere: 21,765 - St. Albans: 26,128 	<p>Noted. Currently, housing numbers do not form part of the detailed consideration of the Regulation 18 plan. The document's focus is on setting a vision and objectives for the plan.</p>

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Stantec on behalf of Urban & Civic	<p>– Three Rivers: 18,294</p> <p>The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (SA) considers the various options identified in terms of their impacts from a sustainability perspective. Paragraph 6.15 states that types c) new settlements, d) growth of groups of settlements, g) scattered growth, have the most potential for negative effects as they may result in more new growth across the more rural areas, where environmental assets are more likely to be adversely affected and where accessibility may be less good. This conclusion would clearly depend on the site in question and the approach taken to the landscape and other assets. This conclusion also fails to recognise that new settlements can bring forward high quality accessibility via sustainable modes.</p> <p>Paragraph 6.22 states that although new service centres would be created in new settlements, they are unlikely to be of a scale needed for the level of growth required in the area, meaning increase in vehicular movements. Again, this assumption fails to recognise the fact that new settlements are able to plan for new infrastructure and services at scale and in the case of the U&C master developer approach, alongside the delivery of new homes.</p> <p>Paragraph 6.25 states that new settlements could promote the cohesion of new communities through the provision of social infrastructure, providing neighbouring communities with additional services and facilities, creating minor positive effects in Health, Inequalities and Communities. It is stated that given the delivery period, these minor positives can also be negative during to the timing of infrastructure. The delivery of services alongside new homes is facilitated through the U&C Master Developer approach. This allows for the effective and phased delivery of infrastructure alongside new homes and, in many cases, ahead of time as evidenced through U&C's on-site delivery at sites such as Alconbury Weald, Waterbeach, Wintringham and Houlton.</p> <p>Paragraph 6.26 states that new settlements are likely to provide local job opportunities but still with questions of delivery, so mixed minor positive and negative effectives. It adds that the timing of infrastructure would increase the use of the private car which could be reduced through good design. This is not necessarily the case, and the delivery of new homes and employment can be</p>	Noted. The assessment of the growth types is intentionally high level at this initial stage of the SA process. As the plan progresses, a more detailed assessment will be undertaken.

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	<p>brought forward in tandem. Indeed, at U&C's site at Alconbury Weald in Huntingdonshire employment provision came forward ahead of homes. Paragraph 6.27 states that new settlements are more likely to be built on greenfield land resulting in less efficient use of land and greater potential for the loss of habitats, also potentially increasing the risk of flooding. Therefore, using the precautionary principle there could be uncertain significant negative effects in relation to flooding, soils, biodiversity, and landscape. Again, this entirely depends on the site in question and on the approach adopted. For example, the focus for U&C is to deliver at least 12% BNG (more than the national requirement of 10% set out in the Environment Act).</p> <p>Overall, U&C is concerned that the SA fails to recognise that if planned and delivered effectively, new settlements can deliver a critical mass of activity in a successful and phased manner with high quality design and is therefore unduly skewed towards spatial options that relate to existing urban areas as a result. As an example, urban extensions have the potential to place greater load on existing social infrastructure such as schools and may lack the critical mass to create additional infrastructure. The benefits of new settlements are that by planning holistically and at scale the infrastructure required to accommodate the residential development is provided largely onsite.</p>	
Stantec on behalf of Crest Strategic Projects	<p>The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report is supportive of our recommended hybrid growth type with Options A, B, E and F scoring 'highest' against the SA objectives. Most significantly, these options are the only to score positive (in each case being 'double positive') for climate change and travel (with the other options scoring negatively or neutral), supporting a number of the 6 Pillars.</p>	<p>Noted. The SA Scoping Report only seeks to provide a high level assessment of broad growth types at this early stage in the process. As the plan progresses, a more detailed assessment will be undertaken.</p>
Pegasus Group on behalf of Bloor Homes and the Department of Health	<p>Notes that Table 6.2 in the SA summarises the findings of the assessment of the growth types against the 15 SA Objectives and summarises these conclusions. The assessment states that C new settlements would most likely have negative because it may result in more growth across the rural areas. This is misleading as new settlements/garden villages can provide the opportunity for sustainable development. An objection is made to this sweeping assessment of new settlements, careful review of this growth scenario is required as it fails to look at the sustainable opportunities a new settlement/Garden village can deliver.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

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	At this stage as the level of growth is unknown the SA is an academic exercise. It is likely that the strategy will be a combination of the growth types with the exception of scattered growth.	
Turley on behalf of Tarmac	Paragraph 3.29 of the SA states that the average workplace-based mean affordability ratio in the Housing Market Area is now 13.9, when using the currently prescribed formula and that the local affordability ratio results in an average uplift of 61%. This means the latest local housing need projection for the area, as set out in the Local Housing Needs Assessment, has increased from 2,888 dwellings to 4,043 dwellings per annum from the period 2020 to 2030. Tarmac considers this situation to be untenable for such an important sub-region to the national economy and so requires a bold, creative and sustained planning response, taking into account the comments and suggestions made in the various criteria listed above. Offer to assist in this process and welcome further discussion with all of the relevant stakeholders in the Joint Strategic Plan making process.	Noted. Currently, housing numbers do not form part of the detailed consideration of the Regulation 18 plan. The document's focus is on setting a vision and objectives for the plan.
RPS on behalf of Richborough Estates	<p>Regarding baseline information the response notes that the report highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the housing affordability pressures facing households living in the area congestion being a major concern in SW Herts, and which is likely to continue to be an issue based on future trip forecasts. - the area around Croxley / West Watford is not impacted on by any Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). <p>Considers there should be recognition given to potential initiatives coming forward to address congestion and promote modal shift, notably the Hertfordshire Essex Mass Rapid Transit proposals. This infrastructure scheme should be identified in the SA as this will be relevant to the appraisal of sites and broad locations in the Croxley/West Watford area of search.</p> <p>Regarding key sustainability issues they consider that many of the issues identified can all be tackled positively through appropriately planned, well-designed and well-located development delivered at a scale that address a wider range of issues on a comprehensive basis, which should include larger-scale development on the edge of existing, accessible settlements.</p> <p>Notes the use of a 'coding' approach in the SA Framework graded from - - to ++ based on negative and positive effects. Consider it is not clear on what basis a</p>	<p>Noted. The role of the baseline section of the SA Scoping Report is to set out the current situation within the SW Herts area under key headings. Its role is not to consider potential future projects that may change this baseline position. However, updates to baseline information will be included in the next iteration of SA where available and appropriate.</p> <p>The approach to colour-coding used in the SA Scoping Report is standard practice for SA Reports and together with the associated commentary is considered to provide sufficient information regarding why a particular effect has been</p>

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	<p>specific coding will be triggered and then applied to options against each SA objective, which will make it difficult to compare the scores for each option on a consistent basis. This runs the risk of a lack of clarity and transparency in the selection of preferred options (and rejection of reasonable alternatives) at a later stage. Consequently, a suitable system should be defined in the SA framework so the reader can understand why a particular effect has been assigned to each option to improve the robustness of the appraisal process.</p> <p>Notes that the report does not draw any conclusions on the seven growth types tested at this stage. Nonetheless, it is noted that options b, e, and f all perform markedly better than options c, d and g. The higher performing options would direct growth to the edge of major settlements (option b), for example Watford, and locations well-related to existing public transport corridors (option e) and areas where transport improvements could potentially come forward (option f). On this basis, RPS concludes that the SA process thus far is broadly supportive of directing growth at or adjacent to existing large settlements as well as on or in proximity to sustainable transport corridors, in favour of other less performing options. RPS would broadly accord with these findings.</p> <p>It is important that the initial appraisal findings are reflected on as part of ongoing appraisal work, in particular consideration should be given to identifying potential mitigation measures that could address any potential adverse effects of the options, which has not been carried out to date, in line with planning practice guidance.</p>	<p>identified. SA reports are based on overall assessments of likely effects – rather than being an exact qualitative process.</p> <p>Future SA work will be carried out in full accordance with the relevant regulations and guidance. As the plan progresses, a more detailed assessment will be undertaken.</p>
Carter Jonas on behalf of Apsley Developments Ltd	<p>Note that the report refers to the NPPF's Standard Method for assessing local housing need and refers to some of the conclusion in the HMA regarding affordability ratios. Considers this means there is now an even greater scale housing supply that is now required across South West Hertfordshire.</p> <p>Notes that the SA suggests that without the emerging JSP it is likely that housing and services and facilities would still be delivered through each of the District and Borough Local Plans, but without a strategic approach it may be more difficult to keep pace with demand, and it is likely that house prices will continue to rise within the area. As highlighted in the South West Hertfordshire Local Housing Needs Assessment (LHNA), there are affordability pressures</p>	<p>Noted. Currently, housing numbers do not form part of the detailed consideration of the Regulation 18 plan. The document's focus is on setting a vision and objectives for the plan.</p>

Respondent	Summary of Comments	Response
	within the South West Hertfordshire Housing Market Area (HMA), and without a strategic approach it will be difficult for affordable housing delivery.	
Studio LK on behalf of Affinity Water (estates team) ¹	<p>The baseline accompanying the report is quite thorough. It would be improved if, in addition to the Hertfordshire Water Study, it had regard to the relevant water companies' WRMPs too. LUC's assessment of the proportion of the JSP area covered by Green Belt is at odds with DLUHC data (66%).</p> <p>Affinity broadly agrees with the Sustainability Issues, but would like the term 'strategic' under Sustainability Issue 11 to be replaced with 'all'.</p> <p>SA objective 1 should be amended to specifically refer to water consumption. In addition SA objective 2 does not adequately address the affordability issues identified within the baseline. Therefore, it should be amended to: To provide a wide range of good quality new homes in sustainable locations to meet SW Hertfordshire's housing needs. Finally, the JSP authorities may wish to add a further objective: as follows: SA objective 16: To promote efficient use of natural resources including water</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The baseline information will be updated to include reference to the relevant water companies' WRMPs. Additionally, Sustainability Issue 11 will be updated.</p> <p>SA objective 2 will be updated as suggested. It should be noted that water is addressed within SA objective 9: To maintain and enhance water quality and quantity, therefore an additional objective will not be added. However, an additional appraisal question will be included under that objective: 'promote the efficient use of water?'</p>

Changes will also be required to the SA Scoping Report to reflect the revised assessment of the vision and objectives as a result of the changes recommended.

The following groups / individuals made reference to the SA Scoping in their responses, but did not make any comment on its actual content:

- Central Bedfordshire Council
- Open Spaces Society
- Woolf Bond Planning on behalf of Gilston Investments Ltd
- St Albans & District Footpaths Society

¹ It has been confirmed by Affinity Water that these comments are submitted by their estates arm and so should be treated separately for their formal response as a statutory consultee.

Appendix 5: Summary of responses from the online poll

South West Herts Summary

"What should be the highest priorities for SW Hertfordshire in the next 30 yrs?"

Breakdown by area

This grid shows % of votes for each option based on the area the respondent selected they were from. The colour coding is based on the area i.e. pink represents the lowest % of votes for the area, the GMV green represents the highest.



Number of votes per area

Dacorum	2,236
Hertsmere	918
I don't live/work here	136
St Albans	1854
Three Rivers	1,013
Watford	1931

Area	Natural & green living	Local employment opportunities	A healthy & thriving community	Well-connected living	Quality homes & places	Sustainable infrastructure
Dacorum	23%	12%	17%	10%	12%	25%
Hertsmere	28%	10%	17%	12%	10%	24%
I don't live/work here	23%	13%	15%	9%	19%	21%
St Albans	24%	12%	17%	10%	12%	24%
Three Rivers	26%	14%	17%	10%	12%	22%
Watford	22%	15%	15%	11%	15%	22%

These results showcase to us that the majority of areas in SW Herts consider Natural & green living the highest priority for SW Herts.

Following closely as the second highest priority is Sustainable infrastructure. This indicates to us that there is a general want/need for environmentally-conscious living in SW Herts.

Equally, the majority of areas agree that Well-connected living should be last priority over the next 30 years. Hertsmere considers Local employment opportunities and Quality homes & places to be of lesser priority.

Summary of Watford responses: Environment

Watford

"Safe spaces"

"More police"

"Policing"

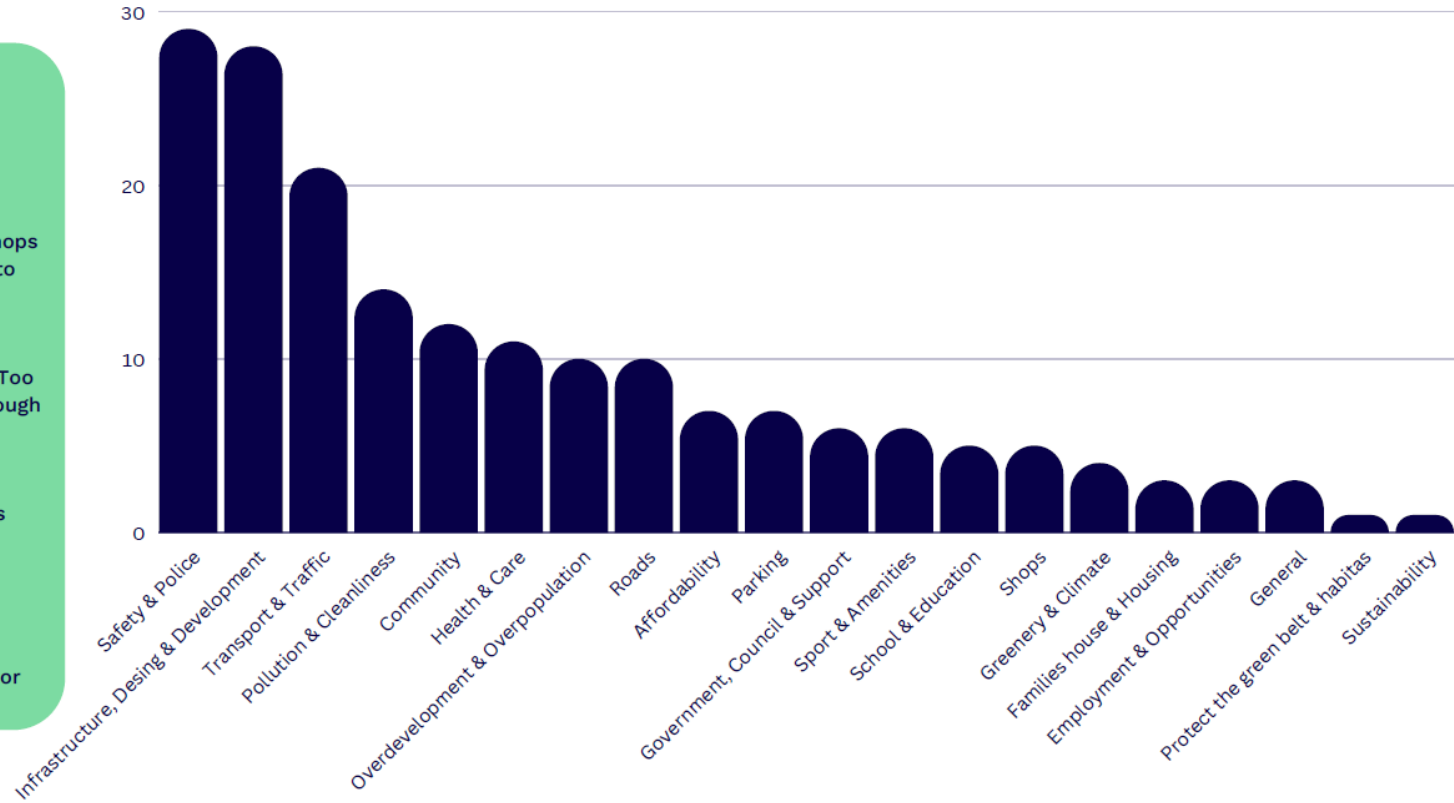
"Filling high streets with multiple shops of the same calibre, forcing people to look elsewhere for quality or usual items"

"The area is now a concrete jungle. Too many new tower blocks and not enough parking and road infrastructure to support it"

"Services (gp, school, hospital, roads etc)"

"Additional parking for existing residents"

"Stop building flats with no parking or green spaces"



Summary of Watford responses: Working

Watford

"Lack of reliable Public bus services"

"Not enough affordable housing for employees. People will move and are moving away if they can't afford to live."

"Restrictive planning rules choking new employment"

"Tackle homelessness in the town centre"

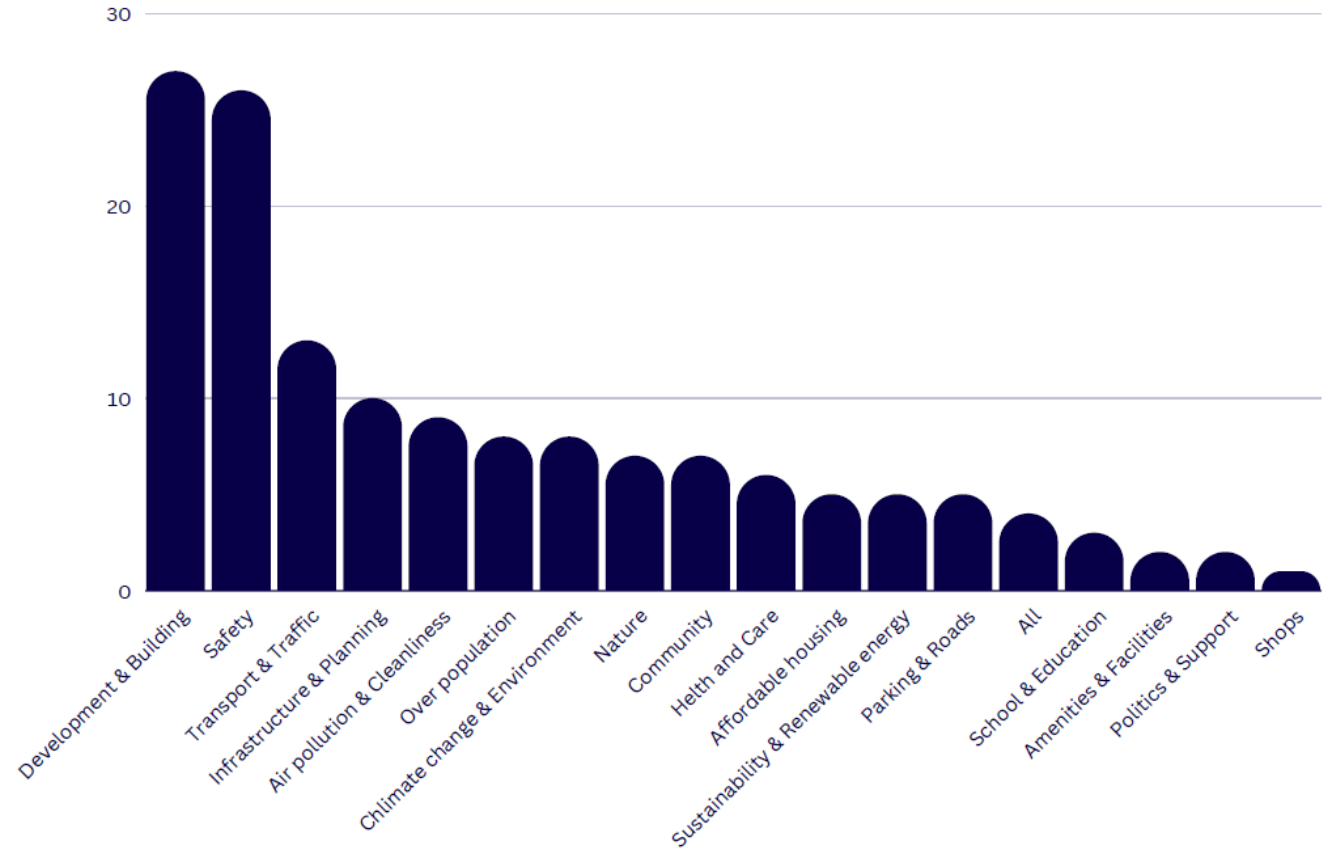
"Inability to afford to live where you work and the answer isn't building more tower blocks"

"Better transport connections"

"Police on the streets"

"Roads in disrepair"

"Lack of opportunities"



Summary of Watford responses: Living

Watford

"More aesthetic considerations"

"Hospital Improved! Like parking and how it generally is."

"Constant pressure of town planning and over development"

"Rising crime"

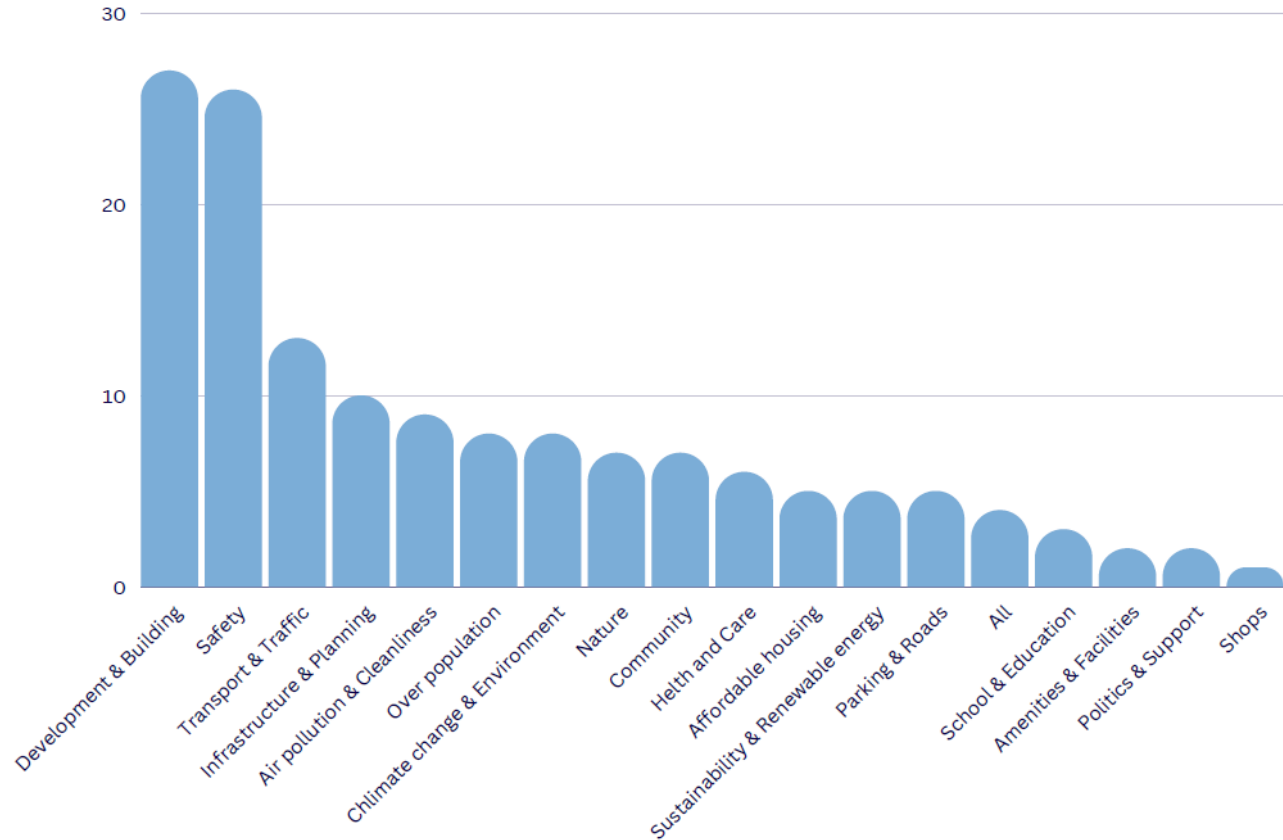
"If we have to build, build small estates with family HOUSES"

"More place for kids, teens to hangout"

"More police patrolling"

"Improving our green environment- for health, biodiversity and climate change mitigation"

"Too many people means more crime"



Summary of Watford responses: Moving

Watford

"cost of public transport"

"A lot of homeless drunk people on the streets"

"Lack of decent ground level accommodation"

"General conditions of the roads... pot holes/sink holes and constant road works which seem to make it worse"

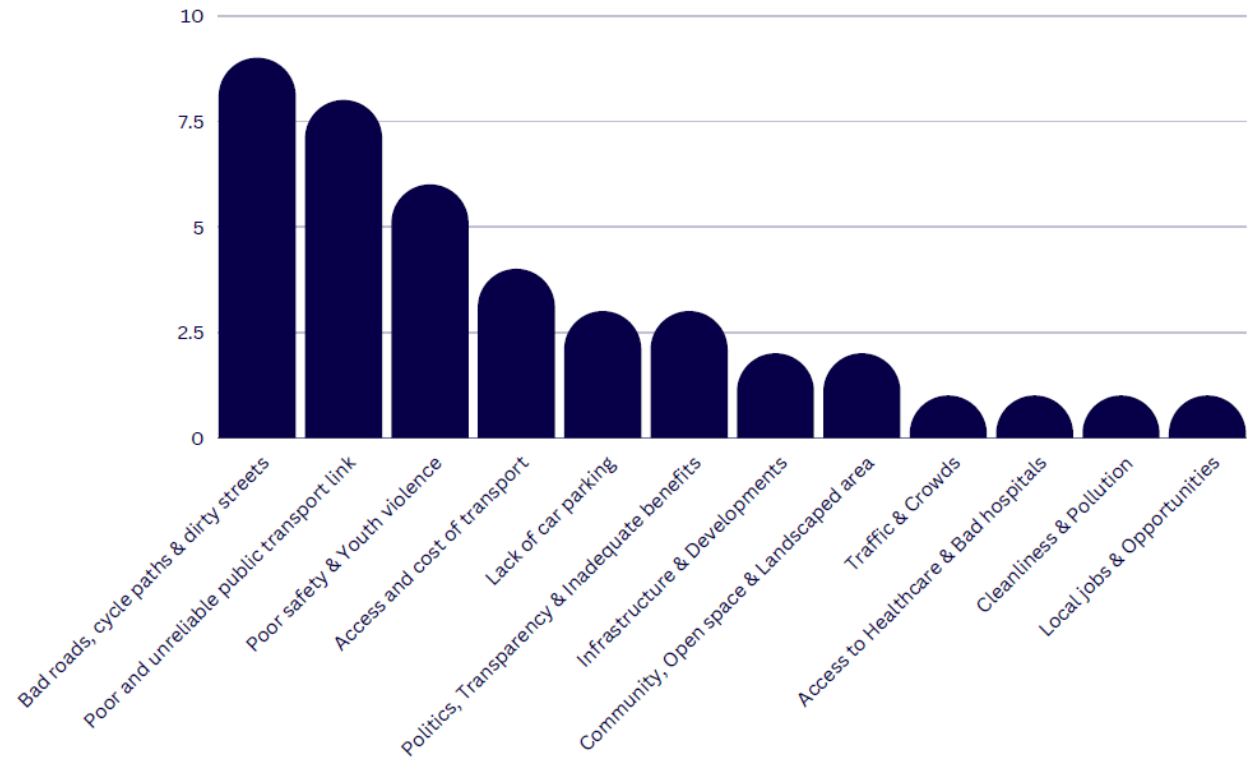
"Poor bus services and bus stops that keep changing"

"Safety"

"Parking cars aren't going away especially in a growing town. Parking at schools especially primary schools is shocking."

"Roads in disrepair"

"unreliable transport"



Summary of Watford responses: Playing

Watford

"Drug dealing in parks and beside playgrounds"

"Very soon all you will be able to do in Watford is eat and drink if you have any money"

"Increasingly high cost to park if driving."

"Lack of youth clubs"

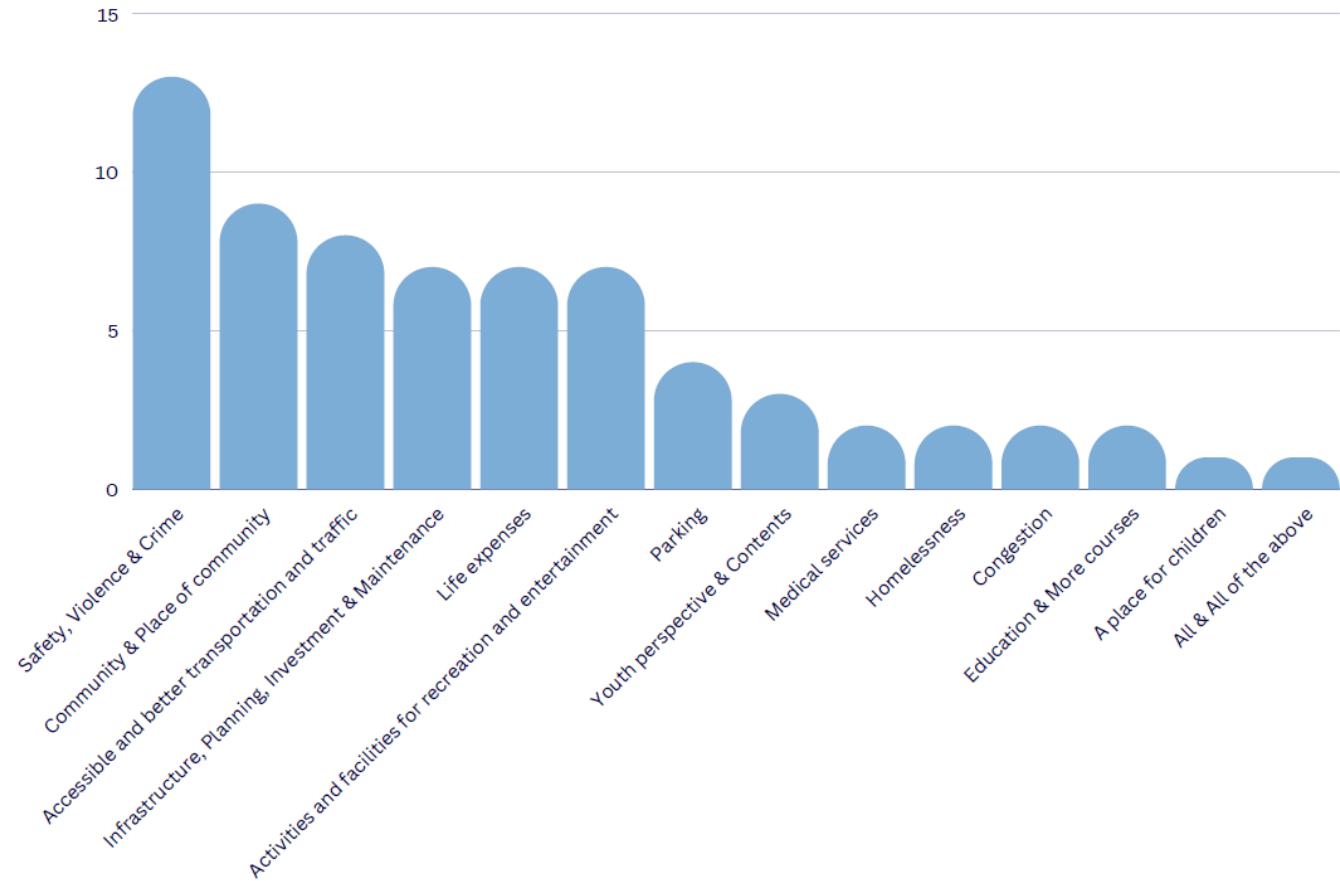
"People sharing their skills"

"Public safety"

"More wholesome and fun offerings"

"Bring education in too. It's crazy the Uni Herts is in the middle of nowhere next to Hatfield. Open campuses for it and colleges in our town centres."

"A safe town"



Summary of Watford responses: Growth

Watford

- "Create homes for key workers"
- "House local people first in affordable homes"
- "Outlying villages are becoming overcrowded & no longer have a sense of community"
- "re-energise brown areas and say no to any new buildings or expansions"
- "Save our green space and countryside"
- "Affordable efficient housing!!"
- "Less flats"
- "We need to stop building on every inch of Watford"
- "Infrastructure can't sustain more growth"

