

Report to: *Cabinet*

Date of meeting: *2 October 2023*

Report author: *Jack Green Spatial Planning Manager*
Laura Wood, South West Hertfordshire Joint Strategic Plan Lead
Chris Outtersides, South West Hertfordshire Joint Strategic Plan Director

Report sponsor: *Ben Martin Associate Director Planning, Infrastructure and Economy*

Portfolio holder: *Councillor Glen Saffrey*

Report title: *South West Hertfordshire Joint Strategic Plan Regulation 18 Consultation Feedback*

Nature of report: *Discussion and recommendation for referral to PH/Cabinet or Council for decision*

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

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Reviewed and signed off by: Ben Martin, Associate Director Planning,
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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.
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- 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