

# **Examination of the St Albans City and District Local Plan**

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Inspectors appointed by the Secretary of State

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## **Hearing Programme – Stage 1**

Published v1

## Introduction

This document sets out the hearing programme for Stage 1 of the St Albans City and District Local Plan examination. A separate hearing programme will be produced for Stage 2, which will include timings for site allocations and non-strategic matters. The Inspectors will write to the Council and participants to confirm the dates for Stage 2 upon completion of the Stage 1 hearings and consideration of the main issues.

Further information about the examination, hearings and format of written statements is provided in the accompanying Examination Guidance Note, which should be read alongside the programme.

As set out in the examination Guidance Note, only those people seeking to change the Plan, and have duly made representations, have a right to participate in the hearing sessions. However, all sessions will be streamed online for people to observe. Relevant links will be made available from the examination website prior to the hearings starting.

The programme sets out which topics will be discussed on each day. If you wish to be heard at the hearings, you must confirm this in writing with the Programme Officer no later than **Friday 4 April 2025**, even if you indicated in your original Regulation 19 representation that you wished to participate. If the Programme Officer does not receive written confirmation, it will be assumed that you do not wish to participate and that you will be relying on written submissions. You should only request to attend a session if you have made a representation seeking a change to the Plan relating to that topic.

Each session will be arranged by topic, not necessarily by policy number. It is therefore important that representors check that they have been allocated to the correct session, contacting the Programme Officer if unsure.

WEEK 1

**Hearing Day 1: Tuesday 29 April 2025**

Council Offices, Civic Centre, St Peter's Street, St Albans, AL1 3JE

**Morning Session – 10:00 – 13:00**

- 1) Introduction and Inspectors' Opening Announcements
- 2) Opening Statement on behalf of St Albans District Council
- 3) Matter 1 – Legal Compliance

**Issues:** Duty to Cooperate, Public Consultation, Sustainability Appraisal, Climate Change, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Public Sector Equality Duty, Habitats Regulations Assessment and Other Legal Requirements

**Policies:** N/A

**Participants:**

- St Albans City and District Council
- TBC

**Afternoon Session – 14:00 – 17:30**

- 4) Matter 1 continued... – Legal Compliance

**Issues:** Duty to Cooperate, Public Consultation, Sustainability Appraisal, Climate Change, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Public Sector Equality Duty, Habitats Regulations Assessment and Other Legal Requirements

**Policies:** N/A

**Participants:**

- St Albans City and District Council
- TBC

WEEK 1

**Hearing Day 2: Wednesday 30 April 2025**

Council Offices, Civic Centre, St Peter's Street, St Albans, AL1 3JE

**Morning Session – 09:30 – 13:00**

1) Matter 2 – Housing Growth and Spatial Strategy

**Issues:** Local Housing Need, the Housing Requirement and Settlement Hierarchy

**Policies:** SP1 and SP3

**Participants:**

- St Albans City and District Council
- TBC

**Afternoon Session – 14:00 – 17:30**

2) Matter 2 Continued... – Housing Growth and Spatial Strategy

**Issues:** Distribution of Housing Growth and Site Selection Methodology

**Policies:** SP1 and SP3

**Participants:**

- St Albans City and District Council
- TBC

**Note to Participants – Hearing Day 2 will consider strategic issues relating to housing needs and the housing requirement, distribution of growth and the methodology used to allocate sites for residential development. The appropriateness of individual site allocations will be discussed at separate hearings in Stage 2. Please refer to the Examination Guidance Note for further details. Once the total number of participants is finalised, a further Hearing Programme will be published.**

WEEK 1  
**Hearing Day 3: Thursday 1 May 2025**  
Council Offices, Civic Centre, St Peter's Street, St Albans, AL1 3JE

**Morning Session – 09:30 – 13:00**

1) Matter 3 – The Green Belt

**Issues:** Principle of Green Belt Release, Green Belt Review and Exceptional Circumstances

**Policies:** SP3

**Participants:**

- St Albans City and District Council
- TBC

**Afternoon Session – 14:00 – 17:30**

2) Matter 3 continued... – The Green Belt

**Issues:** Principle of Green Belt Release, Green Belt Review and Exceptional Circumstances continued...

**Note to Participants – Hearing Day 3 will consider the principle of Green Belt release and the methodology used to inform the Plan. Individual sites and areas of land proposed for release from the Green Belt will then be discussed at the relevant site allocation sessions that follow in Stage 2. Please refer to the Examination Guidance Note for further details.**

WEEK 1

**Hearing Day 4: Friday 2 May 2025**

Council Offices, Civic Centre, St Peter's Street, St Albans, AL1 3JE

**Morning Session – 09:30 – 13:00**

**1) RESERVE SESSION**

**Afternoon Session – 14:00 – 17:30**

**2) RESERVE SESSION**