

Draft Local Plan 2041

Regulation 18 Public Consultation

July 2023

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Chapter 1 - A Spatial Strategy for St Albans City and District

Introduction - why we need a new Local Plan

- 1.1 Preparation of a Local Plan (LP) is a statutory requirement for the Council. The Local Plan sets out the planning policies and proposals for the future development of the City and District of St Albans. It establishes the Council's long term spatial planning strategy for delivering and managing development and infrastructure, and for environmental protection and enhancement, to 2041.
- 1.2 The LP is a statutory Development Plan Document (DPD). It must comply with legal requirements. The LP must have regard to the Government's national planning policy, principally in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). It also needs to be based on proportionate and justifiable evidence.
- 1.3 The NPPF sets out that achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gain across each of the different objectives):
 - a) an economic objective – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;
 - b) a social objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and
 - c) an environmental objective – to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy
- 1.4 The NPPF requires that strategic policies should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and design quality of places, and make sufficient provision for housing (including affordable housing), infrastructure, community facilities and conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment. Strategic policies should address each of the Council's priorities for the development and use of land in the District, along with policies to address non-strategic matters. The policies in this Local Plan meet with these requirements and are set out with a strategic policy for each main chapter.

- 1.5 This Plan contains all the planning policies and proposals for the future growth of the City and District of St Albans. It covers the period to 2041. The current Plan is the District Local Plan Review 1994 which will be superseded by the new Local Plan. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the District have been considered and been taken into account.

Table 1.1 – Overview of the Local Plan process

Stages in preparing a Local Plan
Collecting Evidence
Issues and Options
First Draft Local Plan (this document) – Consultation Regulation 18
Final Draft Local Plan – Publication Regulation 19
Submission of Final Draft to Government
Examination of Local Plan and Adoption

Regulation 18 Public Consultation

- 1.6 Public consultation will begin on 12 July 2023 and run until 25 September 2023.
- 1.7 The Council is seeking your comments on the draft Local Plan and you are strongly encouraged to respond electronically as it saves time and money to manage electronic responses. Please provide your comments through the link provided on the webpage.
- 1.8 Once the consultation has completed the comments will be reviewed and used to inform the next stage of the Local Plan preparation.

Delivering the St Albans and District Council Plan

- 1.9 St Albans District Council Plan 2023-2028 sets out five key priorities:
- Combat the Climate Emergency
 - Deliver more social housing
 - Support our local economy
 - Enhance the District’s cultural offer
 - Promote equality, inclusion and fairness.
- 1.10 The Local Plan has a vital role in helping to deliver these priorities through to 2028 and beyond.

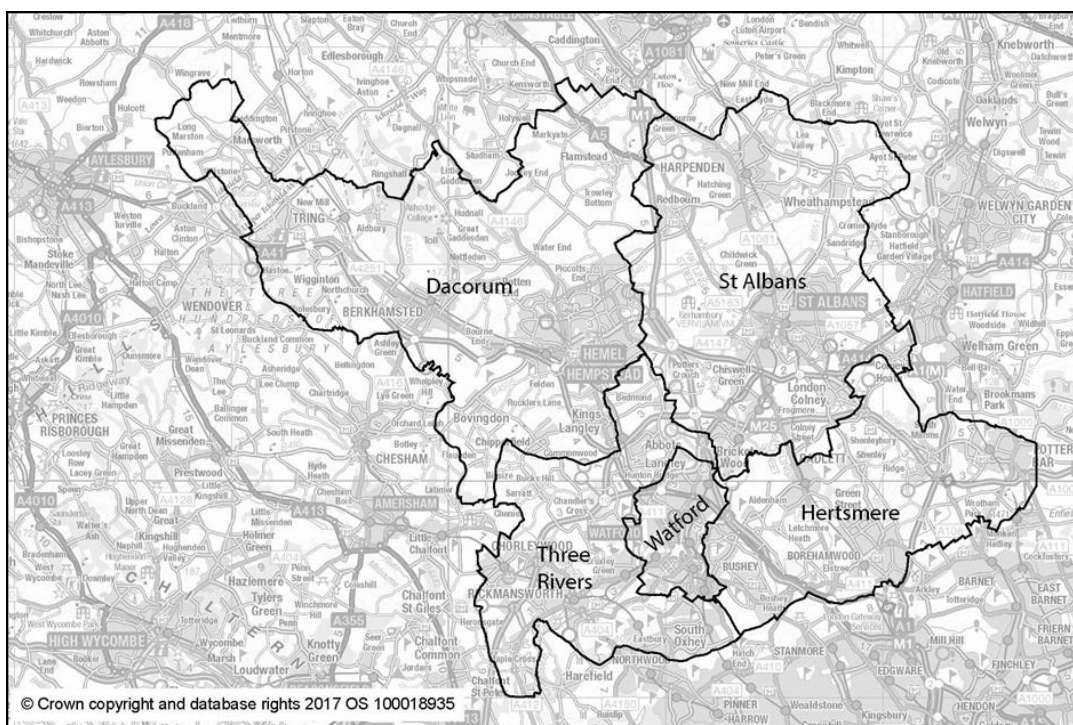
Duty to Cooperate

- 1.11 St Albans Council has a statutory Duty to Cooperate (DtC) with other local planning authorities and the county council and with other prescribed bodies, on strategic planning matters that cross administrative boundaries.
- 1.12 A Duty to Cooperate workshop for all prescribed bodies, including all neighbouring planning authorities and Hertfordshire County Council, was held in September 2022. Following the workshop follow-up letters were sent, with a specific request being sent to those neighbouring authorities that could potentially help to meet St Albans' need, including for land for housing and for a potential Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (SRFI).

Joint Planning – South West Hertfordshire Joint Strategic Plan and Hemel Garden Community

- 1.13 St Albans Council is working with other Councils in South West Hertfordshire (Dacorum Borough Council, Hertsmeire Borough Council, Three Rivers District Council and Watford Borough Council) to deliver a Joint Strategic Plan (JSP) for South West Hertfordshire. The JSP will provide a long-term blueprint for the area to 2050. It will be able to consider and address issues that cross council boundaries and set out a strategic vision for the area. It will also help guide future plans and strategies by setting out high level policies on topics such as climate change, infrastructure, environmental protection, employment and housing.
- 1.14 St Albans is also working jointly with Dacorum on proposed cross boundary development at Hemel Garden Communities.

Map 1 – South West Hertfordshire Councils of Dacorum, Hertsmeire, St Albans, Three Rivers and Watford



Local Development Scheme

- 1.15 The Local Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Council's Local Development Scheme, which sets out the timetable for the production of the Local Plan, including key production and public consultation stages. This enables the community, businesses, developers, service and infrastructure providers and other interested organisations to know when they will be able to participate.

Local Transport Plan

- 1.16 The Local Plan must be read in conjunction with the statutory Local Transport Plan (LTP) prepared by the Local Highways Authority, Hertfordshire County Council.

Minerals and Waste

- 1.17 The District Council has a statutory responsibility for waste management and the safeguarding of mineral resources. The Local Plan must also be read in conjunction with the statutory Minerals and Waste Plans prepared by the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority, Hertfordshire County Council (HCC).

Local Plan Evidence

- 1.18 A wide range of evidence has been used in the preparation of this Plan. Key evidence documents are available on the St Albans City and District Council (SADC) website.

Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 1.19 The draft Local Plan is subject to a Sustainability Appraisal. This is a statutory requirement to be carried out during the preparation the Local Plan that assesses the extent to which the emerging Plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives.
- 1.20 It is also a statutory requirement that the Council carry out a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), to test if the emerging Local Plan could significantly harm the designated features of a European protected habitat site. An HRA process appropriate to this stage in the Local Plan's development has been undertaken regarding the draft Local Plan.

Neighbourhood Plans

- 1.21 Neighbourhood Plans (NPs) enable local communities to shape and direct sustainable development in their local area. These are plans produced by a Parish Council or a Neighbourhood Forum.
- 1.22 As community-led initiatives, the role of the Council is not to create Neighbourhood Plans, but to assist communities in developing them for themselves. Neighbourhood planning work is already underway in many parts of the District and the Council is committed to continue supporting it.

A Brief Portrait of St Albans City and District

- 1.23 St Albans City and District lies within the south west of the county of Hertfordshire and covers an area of 161 square kilometres. The south of the District is more

heavily populated while the central and northern areas are more rural, with over 81% of the District being covered by the Metropolitan Green Belt. The District is 20 miles north of London. The largest settlements are St Albans City and Harpenden, followed in size by London Colney, then the two large, historic villages of Redbourn and Wheathampstead, and numerous smaller villages and hamlets. The historic environment is an important aspect of the District, with 19 Conservation Areas and over 800 statutory listed buildings. The remains of the Roman Town of Verulamium and St Albans Cathedral are particularly notable historic features that draw visitors to the area.

- 1.24 The 2021 Census showed the population of the District to be 148,200, a number that has been growing steadily in recent years, and increased approximately 6% since 2011. In common with the national picture, the population of the District is ageing, but the desirability of the location for families due to quality of life and good schools means that there are also a high proportion of people in the 30 to 60 year old age bracket and of under 18 year olds. In terms of ethnicity the majority of the District is White British, with Asian/ Asian British as the second largest category at 8%, and Black/ Black British around 2%¹.
- 1.25 St Albans has a very long history, growing from a small, ancient Celtic settlement to become the Roman town of Verulamium, then building the Abbey by Norman times which, in 1877, became a Cathedral (officially the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban). Harpenden's origins date back to at least medieval times. For both St Albans and Harpenden their major periods of growth came with the arrival of the railways which enabled them to develop as popular commuter locations for London, a situation which continues to this day.
- 1.26 The District is very well connected by railway and road, and is close to international airports. The Midlands Main Line from London to Nottingham and Sheffield passes through the District, with the fast Thameslink service connecting directly to central London. There is also a low-service local rail route (branch line) known as the Abbey Line that connects St Albans and Watford. The rail options to London underpin the popularity of commuting, giving the District the 13th highest commuting rate nationally out of 348 local authorities. The District is also very well connected by key national road routes, with the M25 running east west through the south of the District, paralleled by the A414 dual carriageway, while the M1 runs down the west and the A1M is just outside the District to the east. Luton Airport is approximately five miles north of the District, while Heathrow and Stansted are both within 25 miles.
- 1.27 Overall the District is prosperous, with above average levels of highly qualified professionals and high average salaries of residents. Combined with the good quality of life offered in the area, this means that house prices are very high throughout the District, averaging £619,567 in 2022. This success has the effect of making the area unaffordable for many, and a shortage of reasonably-priced accommodation is an important issue. Whilst the residents are on average prosperous, there are individuals and areas that are more deprived.

¹ 2021 Census

² Land Registry House Price Index November 2022

1.28 The District has significant areas of woodland, with the new Heartwood Forest planted in recent years between St Albans and Harpenden. There are a number of ‘commons’ of varying scales that contribute significant areas of publically accessible green space in a mix of urban and rural settings. The rivers Lea/ Lee, Colne and Ver flow through the District, providing globally rare habitats as three of only 210 chalk streams in the world, with the Ver flowing through St Albans City.

The Vision for St Albans District in 2041

1.29 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states in Paragraph 15:

Succinct and up-to-date plans should provide a positive vision for the future of each area; a framework for addressing housing needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities; and a platform for local people to shape their surroundings.

1.30 The Vision for St Albans is a succinct statement for the District through to 2041:

‘A thriving, inclusive and sustainable community which is a great place to live and work and has a vibrant economy.’

Local Plan Objectives

1.31 The Vision will be delivered through the Objectives, show below in Table 1.2. The Objectives have been used to form the structure for the Local Plan, and preface each chapter in the document.

Table 1.2 – Local Plan Objectives

Local Plan Objectives to 2041		
Climate Change and Spatial Strategy (low carbon)	Climate change	Promote adaptation and mitigation to the Climate Change Emergency; seek to achieve net zero by 2030, including through the Council doing everything reasonably within its power; promote the use of renewable resources, reduce carbon emissions, protect natural resources and reduce waste.
	Sustainable use of land/ Green Belt	Prioritise the effective use of land by locating new development on previously developed land first, where appropriate; and protecting and enhancing the Green Belt
Housing	Housing	Provide a sufficient amount of good quality housing which meets the needs of all sections of society in sustainable locations

Infrastructure	Community Infrastructure	Make sufficient provision for and access to community infrastructure in sustainable locations.
	Transport	Encourage the use of active and sustainable means of transport and reduce the need for people to travel.
	Utilities infrastructure	Ensure that essential utilities infrastructure, including broadband, is delivered to support our existing residents and services as well as growth.
Economy and Employment	Economy and employment	Encourage strong and resilient economic growth, employment and skills opportunities; including supporting growth in green and creative sectors; and supporting new ways of working across the District.
	Town and Village Centres and retail	Support the role that the town, village and neighbourhood centres play at the heart of local communities, sustainable lifestyles and the visitor economy, by taking a positive approach to their growth, management and adaptation.
Natural and Historic Environment	Natural environment and biodiversity	Protect, maintain and enhance the natural environment, including biodiversity, the landscape, green infrastructure and our waterways.
	Heritage	Conserve and enhance our rich and varied historic assets and their settings, celebrating their local distinctiveness and character.
Healthy Places and High Quality Design	High quality design	Achieve high quality, innovative, well designed and locally distinctive developments in existing and new places.
	Public Health and Wellbeing	Promote active, healthy and sustainable communities and a high quality of life.

The Climate Emergency

- 1.32 Climate is changing as a result of human activity and is considered as a key challenge for the Local Plan to address within the context of national policy and the law. St Albans District Council declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019, adopting the *Sustainability and Climate Change Crisis Strategy* in 2020. The Climate Emergency informs this chapter 1 and is the title of Chapter 2, and the issue is addressed as a thread running throughout the Local Plan because of its importance.
- 1.33 This Plan is pursuing a strategy of generally locating growth in the most sustainable locations, minimising the need to travel. It also means planning for sustainable

layouts that encourage walking and cycling and the use of public transport, and also greener places with high levels of tree planting which act as carbon sinks and create a sense of wellbeing. It is recognised that planning to act on Climate Change will often contribute to other agendas such as promoting better air quality, biodiversity and health. As such, opportunities to embed these ‘joint benefits’ throughout this Plan have been taken.

The Spatial Strategy

- 1.34 There is a clear need for more new homes because of the national situation, high house prices and also a need for more local people to have the opportunity to live and work where they were brought up. To do this the District needs in particular a supply of first family homes to purchase, affordable homes to rent and buy, and to provide for opportunities for downsizing, custom and self-build. It is also important to maintain a healthy local economy and high quality local jobs that offer genuine alternatives to commuting into London or elsewhere outside the District.
- 1.35 The Council is taking the approach of identifying and prioritising development sites on Previously Developed Land/ Brownfield land first.
- 1.36 The Spatial Strategy has been shaped by the need to address the Climate Emergency and new development will generally be concentrated on the basis of the Settlement Hierarchy in Table 1.3 below. This approach gives priority to the larger urban centres which can provide a greater range of services and facilities, supports the re-use of land within the urban areas, and can reduce the need to travel. These larger urban centres also offer greater accessibility by walking, cycling and public transport.
- 1.37 Development should make efficient use of land by increasing the density and potentially the height of development, where appropriate. This will be encouraged, particularly in the most accessible parts of the main urban settlements. This will always need to be balanced against constraints such as Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, protected trees etc.
- 1.38 The Settlement Hierarchy has been based on a combination of both population size and the availability of a range of services and facilities.

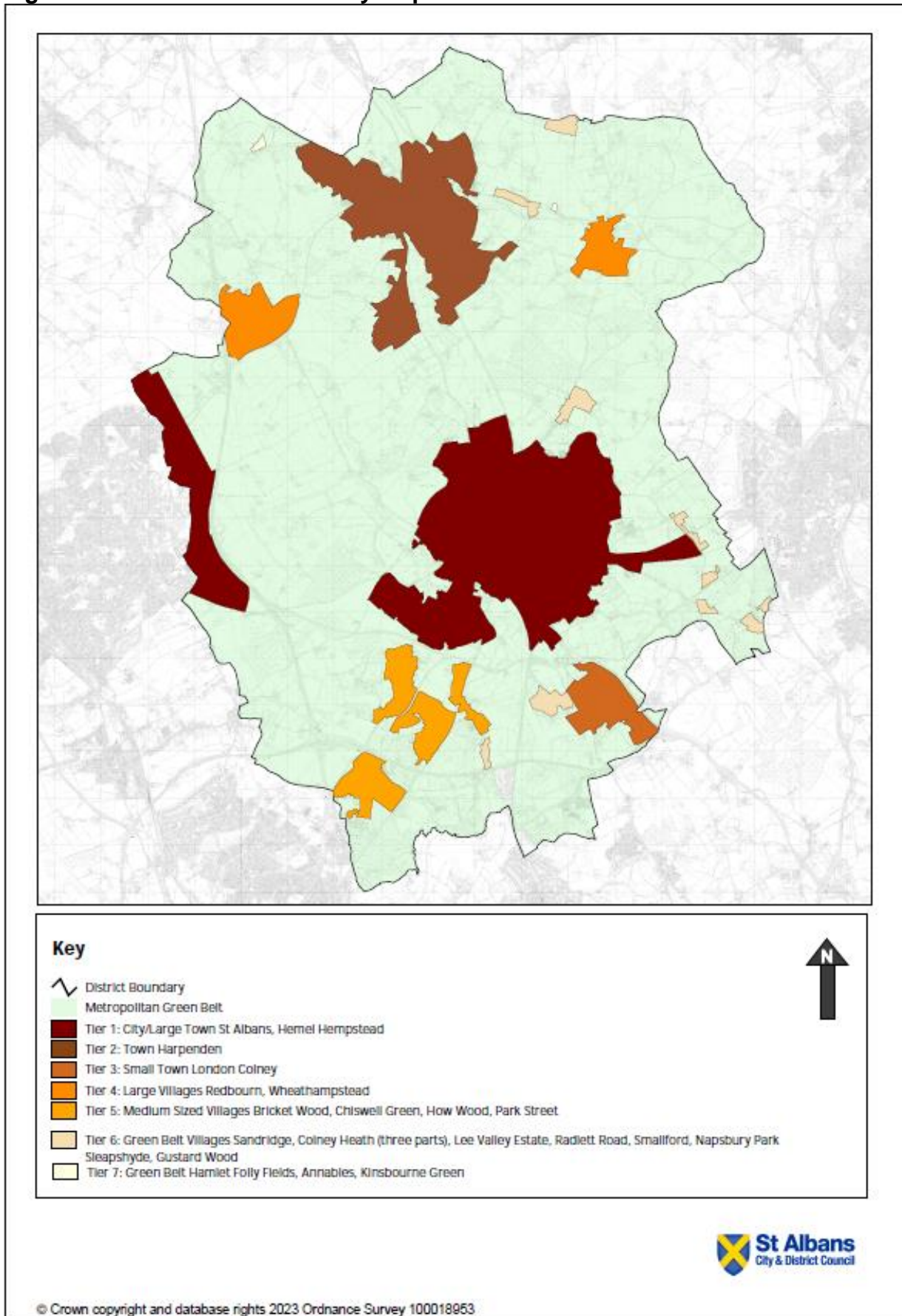
Table 1.3 - Settlement Hierarchy

Tier Categories	Key Characteristics of Tier	Settlement
Tier 1 City/Large town	Largest population size Sub regional centre for employment and high-order services such as secondary education, retail and leisure Offers choice and variety of sustainable transport provision and connectivity by mainline train	St Albans Hemel Hempstead – (currently within Dacorum Borough, but expansion into District planned)
Tier 2 Town	Considerably lower population size compared to City/Large town Provision of employment and high order	Harpenden

	<p>services such as secondary education, retail and leisure</p> <p>Offers bus route, cycle lane provision and connectivity by mainline train</p>	
<p>Tier 3 Small Town</p>	<p>Third largest population size</p> <p>Some employment provision and high order services including retail and leisure, but currently no secondary school</p> <p>Offers bus routes and cycle provision but lacking connectivity by mainline train</p>	<p>London Colney</p>
<p>Tier 4 Large Village</p>	<p>Smaller population size compared to Small Town</p> <p>Relatively self-contained settlements with provision of key services and employment sites</p> <p>Functional relationship with Harpenden for higher order services</p> <p>Availability of bus routes to provide public transport offer</p>	<p>Redbourn Wheathampstead</p>
<p>Tier 5 Medium Sized Village</p>	<p>Smaller population size compared to the Large Villages</p> <p>Provision of key services</p> <p>Functional relationship with St Albans and Watford for high order services</p> <p>Availability of bus routes and rail branch line to provide transport offer</p>	<p>Bricket Wood Chiswell Green How Wood Park Street</p>
<p>Tier 6 Green Belt Village</p>	<p>Washed over by the Green Belt</p> <p>Smaller population size compared to Medium Sized Villages</p> <p>Some or few key services</p> <p>Generally functional relationship to settlements in higher tiers within the hierarchy which provide key services and higher order services</p> <p>Generally some or limited availability of bus routes to provide public transport offer</p>	<p>Sandridge Colney Heath (three parts) Lee Valley Estate Radlett Road Smallford Napsbury Park Sleapshyde Gustard Wood</p>
<p>Tier 7 – Green Belt Hamlet</p>	<p>Washed over by the Green Belt</p> <p>Population less than 250 residents</p>	<p>Folly Fields Annables, Kinsbourne Green</p>

Source: Settlement Hierarchy Report

Figure 1.1 - Settlement Hierarchy Map



- 1.39 The strategy will retain St Albans City as the key settlement in the District, because of its population size (approximately 55% of the District population) and its historic City Centre with high quality retailers and a range of restaurants and public houses and the twice a week Charter market. It has a key role as a sub-regional centre for employment, especially with the St Albans City Core Principal Office Location. There are also high-order services such as secondary education, leisure, hospital and the award winning Verulamium Museum that draws visitors from far afield. It also has excellent connectivity as discussed earlier.
- 1.40 Approximately 30% of new residential growth will be in Hemel Garden Communities, an urban extension to Hemel Hempstead (currently all in Dacorum Borough Council's administrative area), lying in the west of St Albans District and bordering the M1. More details on this are found in Chapter 3.
- 1.41 Harpenden is the next choice for levels of growth because of its position in the Settlement Hierarchy, and then London Colney where growth will provide a new secondary school and reduce the need to travel to St Albans and to other settlements in other Districts/Boroughs.

Strategic Policy SP1: A Spatial Strategy for St Albans District

The Spatial Strategy positively plans for the future to ensure that by 2041 St Albans District is a great place to live, work and visit. The Council requires new growth that enhances the attractiveness and unique character of the District through high quality design that respects local heritage. Growth must be supported by the necessary community infrastructure, transport improvements, green spaces and tree planting.

Growth will be located to make the most sustainable use of land in urban areas and then the Green Belt. The approach seeks to develop Brownfield Land first. Development will address the Climate Emergency with regard to layouts, energy and water efficiency and sustainable movement that reduces reliance on private car use. Larger settlements provide a more comprehensive range of services, employment, retail and other facilities, as well as better accessibility and connectivity by walking, cycling and public transport.

The City of St Albans will continue to be the pre-eminent focus in the District for housing, employment, services, retail, the evening economy, education and healthcare.

The Settlement Hierarchy (Table 1.3) provides the basis for allocation and location of growth, locating most growth generally within and adjacent to the larger and most sustainable urban centres that are Tier 1 - St Albans and Hemel Hempstead; Tier 2 – Harpenden, and Tier 3 - London Colney.

Broad Locations are identified as large urban extensions of 250 or more homes or strategic scale employment. The most significant Broad Locations are the four comprising Hemel Garden Communities which is planned to the east and north of Hemel Hempstead on Green Belt land, and will provide a large contribution to meeting growth requirements.

Other Broad Locations are North St Albans, East St Albans, West of London Colney, North East Harpenden, North West Harpenden, West Redbourn, Glinwell St Albans, and Harper Lane near Radlett.

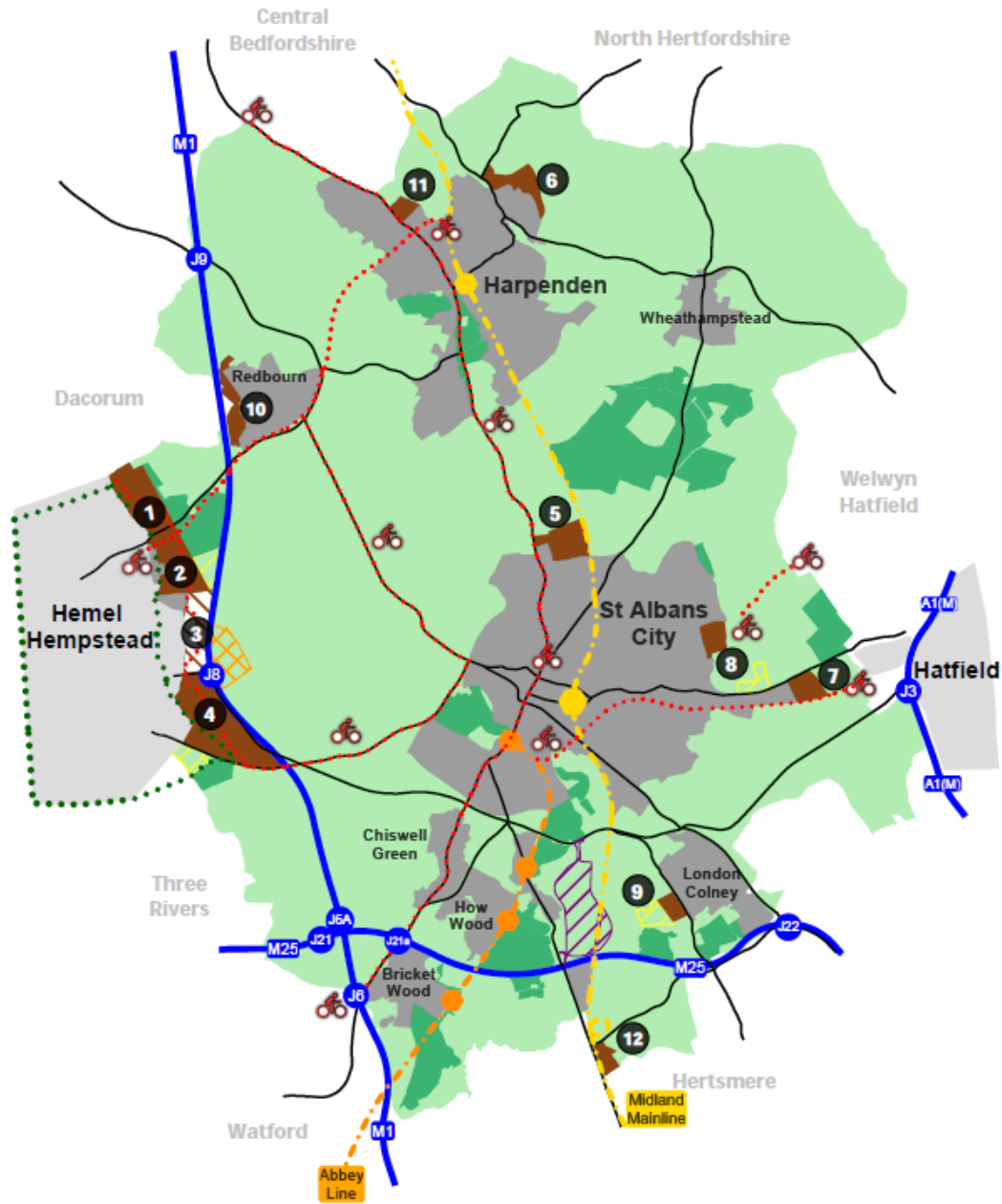
The other categories of development are Large Sites (100-249 homes), Medium Sites (10-99 homes) and Small Sites (5-9 homes). These sites are concentrated mostly within urban areas and around the higher tiers in the Settlement Hierarchy.

Following the Government's required 'Standard Method' for calculating local housing need, the Council will identify and allocate land for the delivery of at least **15,096** net additional new houses, or **888** per annum.

The Local Plan also supports:

- Raising standards and requirements for sustainability of all new buildings;
- Significant new employment space provision;
- Significantly increasing tree cover in the District due to the role of trees in mitigating Climate Change emissions and providing other biodiversity and wellbeing benefits;
- Community infrastructure – provision of new and improvements to existing facilities , including schools, healthcare and for recreation;
- Biodiversity Net Gain (10% +) for relevant new development
- Green Belt compensatory improvements - including significant new country parks, better access to the countryside via new and improved rights of way, new and improved habitat connectivity;
- Significantly improved infrastructure for walking, cycling and public transport;
- Renewable energy provision, including large scale solar power generation at East Hemel Central Broad Location, primarily using commercial building rooftops;
- Broad Locations will have to provide a comprehensive approach to renewable energy such as wind and solar.

Figure 1.2 - Key Diagram



Key	
	Green Belt/District Boundary
	Settlements / Urban Areas
	Adjoining Local Authorities Settlements
	Broad Locations
	1 North Hemel Hempstead
	2 East Hemel Hempstead North
	3 East Hemel Hempstead Central
	4 East Hemel Hempstead South
	5 Land at North St Albans
	6 North East Harpenden
	7 Glinwell, Hatfield Road
	8 East St Albans
	9 Land West of London Colney
	10 Land West of Redbourn
	11 Land at North West Harpenden
	12 Harper Lane Industrial Site, Harper Lane
	Significant Publicly Accessible Green Areas
	Strategic Rail Freight Interchange
	Hemel Garden Communities - Enterprise Zone
	M1 Junction 8 - Transport Improvements
	Cycleways
	HGC Circular Cycle Route
	Railway - Abbey Line / Stations
	Railway - Midland Mainline / Stations
	Roads
	Motorways
	Education Sites

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Chapter 2 – Climate Emergency

Objective

Promote adaptation and mitigation to the Climate Change Emergency; seek to achieve net zero³ by 2030, including through the Council doing everything reasonably within its power; promote the use of renewable resources, reduce carbon emissions, protect natural resources and reduce waste.

Introduction

- 2.1 The Council declared in 2019 that it recognises that there is a Climate Emergency and adopted its Sustainability and Climate Crisis Strategy in the same year. Combatting the Climate Emergency is also a key objective of the Local Plan. The Plan strongly supports adaptation and mitigation to climate change, including achieving the Objective set out above, promote the use of renewable resources, reduce carbon emissions, protect natural resources and reduce waste. The Council is developing an ambitious strategy for reducing the Council's own emissions.
- 2.2 Tackling Climate Change is a theme that runs throughout the Local Plan. In many cases the Council is seeking multiple benefits from development and other activity. For example tree planting tackles climate change in terms of carbon capture, helps us adapt to a warmer climate by providing shade, while providing other benefits for the environment such as biodiversity, along with wellbeing benefits for people's physical and mental health. Therefore some of these detailed policies are set out in other parts of this Plan.

Strategic Policy SP2 – Responding to the Climate Emergency

The Council recognises the urgent need to respond to Climate Change through mitigation and adaptation. The Council will support proposals that help combat Climate Change. Where appropriate, development proposals will need to:

- a) Demonstrate mitigation and adaptation to climate change, including pursuing the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions;
- b) Prioritise the development of previously developed land;
- c) Be designed to improve resilience to climate change, including resilience to increasing temperatures, more frequent drought, more intense storms and wind speeds and heavy rainfall events;
- d) Use the most sustainable locations for growth and so minimising the need to travel while encouraging use of walking, cycling and public transport;
- e) Provide on-site renewables, high standards of energy efficiency, and low carbon energy;
- f) Support the use of sustainable and active transport modes of travel in new and existing developments;

³ the balance between the amount of greenhouse gases produced and the amount removed from the atmosphere

- g) Deliver biodiversity net gain;
- h) Tree planting at scale.

NB: Many policies in this Plan are cross-cutting and relevant to multiple aspects of sustainable development. Therefore, the detailed policies for some aspects of this strategic policy are set out in other parts of this Plan, including for sustainable transport, biodiversity net gain and tree planting.

Sustainable Design, Construction and Building Efficiency

2.3 Sustainable building is primarily about:

- Designing sustainably
- Materials
- Energy efficiency
- Water efficiency
- Renewable energy

2.4 Buildings are a significant contributor to carbon emissions, accounting for 35% of total global energy consumption. Ensuring that buildings are designed to be as energy efficient as possible is therefore necessary as the District grows, and that building construction is carried out in the most sustainable way, are key elements to achieving net zero for St Albans.

2.5 There are a number of proven approaches in the UK for achieving a more sustainable style of home, these include the partnership of the nine Local Authorities in Hertfordshire known as Building Futures who have promoted a Sustainable Design Toolkit. The Home Quality Mark is an independent certification scheme developed by The Building Research Establishment (BRE) based in St Albans District and uses the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM), while the Passivhaus Trust buildings need very little energy for heating and cooling and have standards for retrofitting existing buildings.

2.6 There are many design aspects to consider, from location to orientation of homes southwards to achieve 'solar gain', whereby sunlight helps warm a home and reduce energy requirements, to installing water harvesting measures such as water butts to save on using clean water for watering gardens.

2.7 The Circular Economy is an approach which looks at the whole life cycle of resource use from raw materials to design, production, distribution, consumption, reuse and repair, and seeking to avoid waste while facilitating more recycling.

2.8 Building Regulations Part G2 sets a higher option standard for new development of 110 litres per person per day that can be applied where there is an evidence based need that the area is water stressed. St Albans is located within an area classified by the Environment Agency as being under serious water stress. The Regulations refer to the potential consumption of water by persons occupying a new dwelling that must not exceed this requirement. The policy will help to ensure that water supply needs can be met during the Plan Period.

- 2.9 A sensitive approach will need to be taken to conserving the special character of designated and non-designated heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance.

CE1 - Promoting Sustainable Design, Construction and Building Efficiency

New buildings should be designed and constructed to ensure efficient use of energy, water and materials. Energy efficiency and reduced use of energy within buildings is a key component to reducing carbon emissions within the District.

Applicants must demonstrate sustainable design, construction and a high degree of resource efficiency through evidence supporting planning applications, to a degree proportionate to the proposal, through:

- a) Ensuring all new build development minimises the carbon, pollution and energy impacts of their design and construction. Building conversions, refurbishments and extensions must also, so far as possible, minimise carbon and energy impacts. Proposals must demonstrate that they are seeking to limit greenhouse emissions through location, building orientation, design, landscape and planting taking into account any nationally adopted standards:
 - i. Residential development must aim to meet higher standards of sustainability including the Home Quality Mark and Passivhaus, LETI Climate Emergency Design Guide or equivalent;
 - ii. Non-residential development greater than 500m² must achieve a minimum of BREEAM 'excellent' or equivalent standards;
- b) Including water conservation, greywater recycling and storage facilities to reduce household water consumption to under 110 litres per person per day including external water use, and new development to include rainwater harvesting;
- c) Retrofitting of existing buildings to reduce carbon and air pollution emissions;
- d) Adopting sustainable construction and demolition methods including using materials with low embodied carbon that are sustainably sourced, and the re-use and recycling of demolished material from the development site; a strategy should be submitted as part of an application;
- e) Minimising waste during the construction and operation phases of development by using the Circular Economy approach.

Low Carbon and Renewable Energy

- 2.10 St Albans District's transformation towards net zero will be supported by the production of renewable and low carbon energy-such as solar, wind and air source heat pumps, subject to noise considerations.

CE2 - Renewable and Low Carbon Energy

The Council seeks to increase the use of renewable and low carbon energy in the

District.

- a) Developments proposals must demonstrate, where appropriate, that the use of renewable or low carbon energy has been maximised.
- b) Major developments must set out how proposals will make use of renewable or low carbon energy within the site through the following measures:
 - i. Prior to developing detailed designs an Energy Statement must be submitted and agreed by the Council;
 - ii. At the planning application stage a more detailed Energy Statement must be submitted and agreed by the Council;
 - iii. Proposals set out in Energy Statements will be secured through conditions, where appropriate;
- c) The Council will support a range of low carbon and renewable energy solutions including, but not limited to, the following:
 - i. Solar power, including photovoltaic panels, solar thermal-heaters, and maximising passive solar heating through south facing designs;
 - ii. Wind turbines at different scales;
 - iii. Decentralised District Heating and Energy Networks; and
 - iv. Ground Source and Air Source Heat Pumps.

Carbon Offsetting

- 2.11 Carbon offsetting allows organisations to compensate for any emissions they cannot avoid or reduce, by paying, or by providing a physical offset, for an equivalent amount of emissions to be removed elsewhere. The principle is that offset credits are used to achieve a net climate benefit from one location to another. Ideally however, the reduction should be achieved at source.

CE3 - Carbon Offsetting

While developments must focus on reducing emissions, carbon offsetting allows for a development scheme to compensate for emissions that cannot be avoided or reduced on-site by paying for an equivalent amount of emissions to be removed elsewhere. The Council recognises that the use of carbon offsetting is sub-optimal and will always seek on-site measures in the first instance.

For all major development proposals (10 or more residential dwellings or 1,000 sqm non-residential uses) it must be demonstrated that the proposal minimises carbon emissions and fully explores on-site measures. If, in order to meet the requirements of Policy CE1, further measures are required, then carbon offsetting will be necessary.

Where carbon offsetting is necessary for a development:

- a) Off-site measures within the District must first be considered;
- b) Where off-site measures within the District cannot be provided, or there is a shortfall in these provisions, a payment in lieu will be required. The payment will be a contribution to the Council's Carbon Offsetting Fund (COF) contributions which will be secured in Section 106 Agreements. The

Council will undertake a study to assess and establish an appropriate level of contributions.

Chapter 3 – Sustainable Use of Land and Green Belt

Local Plan Policy Objective

Prioritise the effective use of land by locating new development on previously developed land first, where appropriate; and protecting and enhancing the Green Belt

Introduction

- 3.1 St Albans District has a growing population and changing demographic and therefore an increasing need for new homes, along with an accompanying requirement for land uses for community infrastructure such as schools, leisure, green spaces, and employment. At the same time this growth must be sustainable, including addressing Climate Change.
- 3.2 This Plan is taking the approach of identifying and allocating Previously Developed Land/ Brownfield sites first for development so that growth is as sustainable as possible.
- 3.3 National policy states that planning policies should support development that makes efficient use of land⁴. This should be done by taking into account:
 - a) The identified need for different types of housing and other forms of development, and the availability of land suitable for accommodating it;
 - b) Local market conditions and viability;
 - c) The availability and capacity of infrastructure and services – both existing and proposed – as well as their potential for further improvement and the scope to promote sustainable travel modes that limit future car use;
 - d) The desirability of maintaining an area's prevailing character and setting (including residential gardens), or of promoting regeneration and change; and
 - e) The importance of securing well-designed, attractive and healthy places.
- 3.4 This approach above favours meeting need within or close to existing settlements to draw on existing infrastructure and reduce the need to travel. Developing brownfield sites – previously developed land – is the preferred approach of national policy. The NPPF sets out that Plans should contain policies to optimise the use of land in their area and to seek an uplift in density in locations well served by public transport⁵.
- 3.5 Where there is an insufficient supply of brownfield sites it may be necessary to meet the need by considering other available land; in St Albans District this includes looking at Green Belt land and its boundaries. National policy is clear that before concluding that exceptional circumstances exist to justify changes to Green Belt

⁴ NPPF paragraph 124

⁵ NPPF paragraph 125

boundaries, it must be demonstrated that all other reasonable options for meeting its identified need for development have been fully examined⁶.

- 3.6 National policy sets out that when a large supply of new homes is required this can often be best achieved through planning for larger scale development, such as significant extensions to existing towns and villages, provided they are well located and supported by the necessary infrastructure and facilities⁷. Small and medium sized sites can also make an important contribution to meeting need and are often quicker to build out, and the Local Plan should identify land to accommodate at least 10% of housing requirement on sites no larger than one hectare⁸.

Requirements for growth

- 3.7 National policy sets out that, to support the Government's objective of significantly boosting the supply of homes, it is important that a sufficient amount and variety of land can come forward where it is needed. To determine the minimum number of homes needed, strategic policies should be informed by a local housing need assessment, conducted using the Government's 'Standard Method' for calculating local housing need in national planning policy and guidance.
- 3.8 Within the District, a local housing need figure of **888** dwellings per annum has been calculated, based on the Government's required Standard Method. Therefore, the Spatial Strategy seeks to deliver at least **15,096** net additional new homes to 2041.
- 3.9 A significant amount of employment floorspace is required to support the local economy and to provide opportunities for local high quality employment.
- 3.10 The standards and requirements for supporting infrastructure and facilities are provided in the other chapters within this Plan.
- 3.11 Government requirements for housing and employment growth need to be met in line with the law and Government planning policy. This will ultimately be judged by a Government appointed Planning Inspector. The Council cannot adopt a Local Plan without going through this process. At this point in time, these requirements therefore lead to the use of the housing figures set out at 3.8 above.
- 3.12 There may, however, be significant changes in the Government's evidence / approach between this consultation draft Plan and its next iteration as a proposed final draft Plan in 2024, potentially including:
- New household projections based on the 2021 census are due to be published by the Government in early 2024 – the Government currently requires the use of 2014 based household projections. This Council considers the Government's approach to be an illegitimate use of out of date data, and many other councils and stakeholders agree.
 - The Government has said it will 'review its approach' to the Standard Method for calculating local housing need in 2024.

⁶ NPPF paragraph 141

⁷ NPPF paragraph 73

⁸ NPPF paragraph 69

- The Government may make further changes to the NPPF and / or the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) which affect housing requirements and delivery.

Search for Development Sites - Previously Developed Land (Brownfield) First

- 3.13 The Local Plan seeks to make the most efficient use of land in the District and has undertaken an extensive and rigorous search for Previously Developed Land (PDL) (also known as 'Brownfield land' in national policy) within existing built-up areas. The approach has been underlain by the concept of 'leaving no stone unturned' in the search for appropriate sites on brownfield land.
- 3.14 This extensive search has also included potential PDL opportunities in the Green Belt.

St Albans Green Belt and the Green Belt Review

- 3.15 The District's Green Belt is highly valued. It performs an important national and local role. Over 81% of the District's area is classified as Green Belt, some 13,141 hectares. National policy states that the fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open.

- 3.16 National policy also states that:

a) all plans should promote a sustainable pattern of development that seeks to: meet the development needs of their area . . .⁹

- 3.17 There is a tension between these competing objectives in national policy that this Local Plan has to address.

- 3.18 The Council has undertaken a detailed Green Belt Review in order to understand the impacts of potential development in the Green Belt.

Site Selection in the Green Belt

- 3.19 In addition to the Green Belt Review, a Site Selection assessment has considered constraints such as environmental considerations like flood risk and wildlife conservation, and other planning factors such as distance to facilities, heritage and access.

- 3.20 National policy sets out that before concluding that 'exceptional circumstances' exist to justify changes to Green Belt boundaries, the Council should demonstrate that it has examined fully all other reasonable options for meeting its identified need for development. This means that the Council's strategy must (and the Council has):

- Make as much use as possible of suitable PDL sites and underutilised land;
- Optimise the density of development in line with national policy, including whether policies promote a significant uplift in minimum density standards in town and city centres and other locations well served by public transport; and

⁹ NPPF paragraph 11

- c) Has been informed by discussions with neighbouring authorities about whether they could accommodate some of the identified need for development, as demonstrated through the statement of common ground.

Strategic Policy SP3 – Land and the Green Belt

The minimum number of homes needed in the District, following a local housing need assessment conducted using the Government’s required Standard Methodology – is **888** dwellings per year, or a total need of **15,096** to 2041. This housing need figure is the same as the housing requirement figure of **888** dwellings per year, or a total need of **15,096**.

The Council also seeks to increase overall employment floorspace in the District.

Growth must be supported by suitable supporting infrastructure, including:

- Schools
- Healthcare facilities
- Transport - facilities for walking, cycling and public transport in particular
- Parks, play areas, allotments and other green spaces
- Extensive tree planting
- Sports and leisure facilities
- Renewable and low carbon energy generation.

The Council seeks overall to protect the Green Belt from inappropriate development, and ensure the most effective use of land in the District up until 2041. This involves select Green Belt boundary adjustments in the right areas to provide wider protection of the rest Green Belt.

The revised Green Belt boundaries are set out on the Policies Map.

Categorisation of Sites

- 3.21 Primarily residential or employment sites in the Green Belt are categorised as Broad Locations, and Large, Medium and Small Sites. The associated revised Green Belt boundaries are identified in indicative form on the Key Diagram and in detail on the Policies Map.
- 3.22 The Broad Locations are areas of significant urban extension. Table 3.1 below sets out the 12 Broad Locations.

Table 3.1 – Broad Locations

Broad Locations	Minimum Capacity	Main land uses
North Hemel Hempstead	1,500 dwellings (including 250 beyond Plan	Mixed use, residential, 3FE primary school, green infrastructure, transport infrastructure and other community

	period)	infrastructure
East Hemel Hempstead (North)	1,600 dwellings (including 265 beyond Plan period)	Mixed use, residential, 3FE primary school, 8FE secondary school, green infrastructure, transport infrastructure, other community infrastructure and a significant new country park
East Hemel Hempstead (Central)	55 Ha employment provision	Principally employment with related infrastructure, including transport and energy generation
East Hemel Hempstead (South)	2,400 dwellings (including 235 beyond Plan period)	Mixed use, residential, 3FE and 2FE primary schools, green infrastructure, transport infrastructure and other community infrastructure
North St Albans	1,146	Mixed use, residential, 2 FE primary school, green infrastructure, transport infrastructure and other community infrastructure
North East Harpenden	762	Mixed use, residential, 2 FE primary school, green infrastructure, transport infrastructure and other community infrastructure
West of Redbourn	593	Mixed use, residential, possible primary school, green infrastructure, transport infrastructure and other community infrastructure
East St Albans	522	Mixed use, residential, 2FE primary school, 8FE secondary school, Oaklands College improvements, green infrastructure, transport infrastructure and other community infrastructure
Glinwell, St Albans	436	Mixed use, residential, possible primary school, green infrastructure, transport infrastructure and other community infrastructure
West of London Colney	405	Mixed use, residential, 2 FE primary school, 8 FE secondary school, green infrastructure, transport infrastructure and other community infrastructure
North West Harpenden	293	Mixed use, residential, green infrastructure, transport infrastructure and other community infrastructure
Harper Lane, near Radlett	274	Mixed use, residential, green infrastructure, transport infrastructure

		and other community infrastructure, improved connectivity to Radlett and Harperbury
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3.23 Large, Medium or Small sites are defined as follows:

- Large Sites 100 - 249 homes
- Medium and Small Sites 5 - 99 homes

3.24 These sites have the potential to be quicker to assemble and built out than the Broad Locations.

Housing Trajectory

3.25 The NPPF requires that the Local Plan includes a trajectory illustrating the expected rate of housing delivery over the Plan period. This is set out for St Albans District in Table 3.2 below.

3.26 As effectively required by the NPPF and Inspectors (and is best practice), a buffer of 5% is added to provide headroom and ensure a sufficient supply in the event of some sites not coming forward as expected, resulting in a minimum housing provision of 15,822.

Table 3.2 - St Albans City and District Council - Regulation 18 Consultation Draft Local Plan Housing Trajectory

Category / Year	Delivery Test Past Completions			Estimated Completions				Years 1-5 (post adoption)					Years 6-10 (post adoption)					Years 11-15 (post adoption)					Total (2024/25 - 2040/41)
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36	2036/37	2037/38	2038/39	2039/40	2040/41	
Permissions:																							
Permissions (Past Completions)	437	516	314																				
Permissions (Estimated Future Completions)				327	449	390	345	281	141	125	125	90											
Permissions (Estimated Future Completions) -8% Lapse Assumption					-36	-31	-28	-22	-11	-10	-10	-7											
Windfall Allowance							180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180
Site Allocations:																							
Previously Developed Land within Urban Areas										547	175	56	37	20	12								
Other Site Allocations within Urban Areas										15	30	20	13										
Previously Developed Land within Green Belt											40	40	40	24									
Other Site Allocations within Green Belt:																							
Hemel Garden Communities										100	175	250	315	340	365	365	440	490	500	495	465	450	4,750
Broad Locations												220	535	535	535	534	443	425	386	277	213	178	4,281
Other Green Belt Site Allocations										210	374	431	338	175	53								1,581
Site Allocations (Total)										872	794	1,017	1,278	1,094	965	899	883	915	886	772	678	628	11,681
Annual Housing Requirement					888	888	888	888	888	888	888	888	888	888	888	888	888	888	888	888	888	888	15,096
Annual Housing Requirement (Stepped)					398	398	710	710	710	710	710	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	950	950	950	950	950	950	15,096
Total Housing Land Supply (Including 20% buffer in years 1-5 and overall 5% buffer)				327	413	359	497	439	310	1,167	1,089	1,280	1,458	1,274	1,145	1,079	1,063	1,095	1,066	952	858	808	15,938

Broad Locations

- 3.27 The District is delivering a significant portion of its growth from the 12 identified Broad Locations.
- 3.28 A Broad Location is considered to be a large development of 250 or more homes that is of sufficient size to deliver significant additional infrastructure and services both for itself and the wider area. There is quite often more than one landowner across the Broad Location and the Council requires a coordinated approach.
- 3.29 Where there is a good range of existing services and facilities that are accessible from the Broad Location, the proposed development will be of a scale to deliver significant additional services for both existing and new communities in the area.
- 3.30 Locally accessible facilities will support a sustainable neighbourhood that reduces the need to travel and encourages a sense of community.
- 3.31 Masterplanning is essential to guide a well-designed development. A coordinated approach will be required with the District and County Council and other parties to ensure essential infrastructure such as sustainable transport, roads, community facilities, open spaces and schools are provided in a timely manner.
- 3.32 These areas are defined on the Policies Map and detailed development requirements are set out in Appendix 1.

LG1 – Broad Locations

Proposals within the defined Broad Locations must:

- a) Demonstrate a coordinated, Masterplanned approach to development with appropriate input from the District and County Council, local communities, landowners and other stakeholders; including Dacorum Borough Council for Hemel Garden Communities. The approach should be in accordance with the District's Strategic Sites Design Guidance¹⁰;
- b) Be undertaken in a coordinated way where there are different landowners;
- c) Demonstrate accordance with Local Plan policies and the requirements set out in Appendix 1;
- d) Demonstrate excellence in design, energy efficiency and water management;
- e) Provide appropriate renewable energy production and supply mechanisms;
- f) Provide necessary transport, community, green, health and other infrastructure in a timely manner to support development;
- g) Demonstrate accordance with any relevant Supplementary Planning Document, Masterplan or Development Brief;
- h) Provide 40% Affordable Housing in accordance with Local Plan policy;

¹⁰ The Strategic Sites Design Guidance is formed of four documents: Design Principles, Design Toolkit, Masterplan Toolkit and Employment Toolkit

- i) Provide land for 3% of homes as custom or self-build housing;
- j) Make efficient and effective use of the site, with a minimum overall net density of 40 dwellings per hectare; utilising a range of densities that take account of adjacent character, uses and identity;
- k) Provide housing size, type and mix as set out in Local Plan Policy; applications will also have regard to the most up-to-date evidence on housing need and be in general conformity with the Council's latest evidence base;
- l) Demonstrate a transport network that includes excellent walking and cycling links, including accessible routes and public transport services upgrades/improvements;
- m) Retain important trees and landscape features;
- n) Plant at least 1 semi-mature tree for each dwelling; for C2 accommodation for each dwelling equivalent bed space;
- o) Provide new or provide contributions to enhance existing strategic, local and recreational public open space, including managed woodland and ecological network links;
- p) Positively relate and integrate the development to the surrounding buildings and landscape;
- q) Ensure that land use, density, landscaping and form have regard to the topography of the site and likely landscape impacts;
- r) Establish a Community Partnership Management Organisation with sufficient assets to provide sustainable management of community facilities and/or open spaces;
- s) Have due regard to any relevant Neighbourhood Plan/s.

Hemel Garden Communities

- 3.33 The Hemel Garden Communities (HGC) Programme is an ambitious proposal to transform Hemel Hempstead into a new town through the regeneration of the existing town and delivery of new housing and infrastructure.
- 3.34 The HGC growth areas are expected to extend beyond the Plan period and will deliver a total of 11,000 new homes and 10,000 new jobs by 2050 across St Albans District and Dacorum Borough. The transformation will include an extended Business Park and a regenerated and transformed town centre for Hemel Hempstead and further new housing, open space and infrastructure across the rest of the town.
- 3.35 Within St Albans District, the Hemel Garden Communities programme will deliver at least 4,750 new homes by 2041, and a total of 5,500 new homes by 2050, delivering this through a network of new garden communities to the north east and east of Hemel Hempstead. Further housing growth within north and east of Hemel Hempstead, Two Waters and Hemel Hempstead Town will be set out in Dacorum's Local Plan.

3.36 The Spatial Vision for Hemel Garden Communities¹¹ sets out the scope for transformation across the town, as well as providing a sustainable approach for growth, in accordance with the Town Country Planning Association (TCPA) Garden City Principles¹². The Spatial Vision was agreed in 2020 following the designation of Hemel Hempstead as a transformational Garden Town.

3.37 A Vision for Hemel Garden Communities: creating a greener, more connected New Town:

Hemel Garden Communities will create new neighbourhoods and transform existing ones and the wider area, building on the best of its heritage and culture to become a greener, more connected New Town. The vision is organised into four thematic pillars, all of which reinforce the aspirations to promote healthy lifestyles and respond to the climate crisis. Hemel Garden Communities will be home to inclusive, integrated neighbourhoods connected by a green network, and thoughtfully designed places with engaged communities, all underpinned by digital connectivity, a self-sustaining economy and pioneering green technology driven by Hertfordshire Innovation Quarter (Herts IQ).

3.38 The Spatial Vision focuses on the creation of a greener, more connected town which builds on its existing strengths, and the heritage and culture of Hemel Hempstead and its New Town legacy.

3.39 The Spatial Vision will be delivered through a new approach to design and delivery of growth areas and wider sites; creating a more innovative and dynamic destination and encouraging investment in business and jobs, alongside new homes. Creating integrated and balanced communities will be key, with improved neighbourhood centres, and leisure and green spaces, which connect established areas with the new growth.

3.40 There are four key pillars within the Vision: a consolidated green network; integrated neighbourhoods; a self-sustaining economy, and engaged communities. The role of the four pillars is to guide the transformation of Hemel Hempstead. This will be further supported by additional detailed guidance.

3.41 Since receiving Garden Town status, the partners (St Albans City and District Council, Dacorum Borough Council, Hertfordshire County Council, Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership and Hertfordshire Innovation Quarter) have been working collaboratively on strategic issues relating to Hemel Garden Communities. As agreed through a Memorandum of Understanding, the partners are working collaboratively to plan for Hemel Hempstead.

3.42 Development will help to deliver key projects and identified in Figure 3.1 below. These include improvements to the Nickey Line, a transformed and regenerated

¹¹ HGC Spatial Vision (2020)

<https://www.hemelgardencommunities.co.uk/media/3hknvayj/hemel-garden-communities-spatial-vision.pdf>

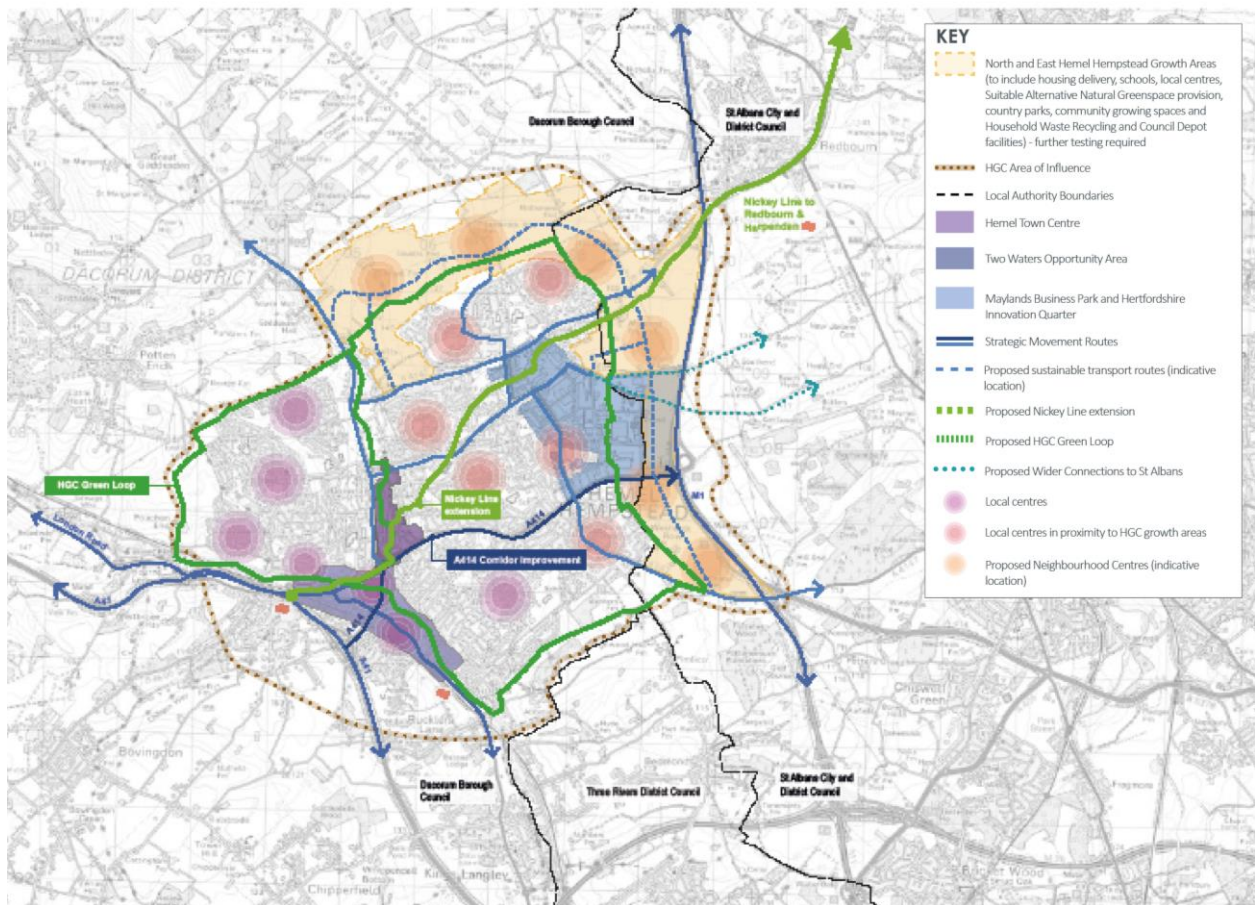
¹² TCPA Garden City Principles

<https://tcpa.org.uk/garden-city-principles/>

Hemel Hempstead Town Centre, a network of mobility hubs across the town, the 'Green Loop' infrastructure around the town, alongside employment opportunities at the Hertfordshire Enviro-Tech Enterprise Zone (Part of Hertfordshire Innovation Quarter, known as Herts IQ).

3.43 The Green Loop, identified in Figure 3.1, is a strategic figure-of-8 cycle and walking route offering connections between places and key locations within Hemel Hempstead and beyond. The loop will be formed by making new routes and enhancing and integrating existing routes such as the Quietway and Grand Union towpath.

Figure 3.1: Key Projects for Hemel Garden Communities



Policy LG2 – Support for Transformation of Hemel Hempstead

The Hemel Garden Communities programme will deliver at least 4,750 new homes by 2041, and 5,500 homes in total by 2050, delivering this through a network of new garden communities to the north east and east of the town, within St Albans District.

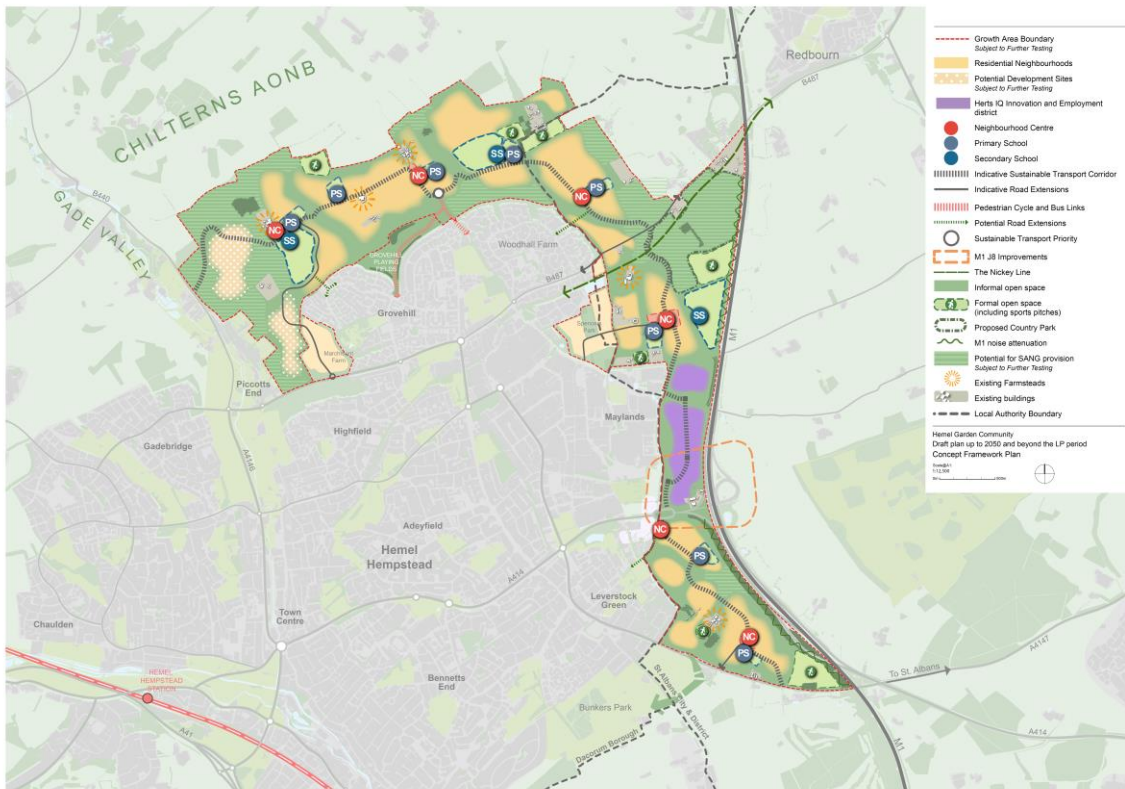
Provision will be made for employment within an expanded Maylands Business Park, with the Hertfordshire Innovation Quarter leading the way for new employment opportunities and the creation of 8,000 jobs. Further job creation, of around 2,000 jobs, will be enabled through the growth of Hemel Hempstead including in the education, retail, health and leisure sectors.

All development must be planned in accordance with Hemel Garden Communities

Spatial Vision, HGC Charter and HGC Place Principles Policy LG3.

Developers and promoters will work closely with the Councils, following Council provided guidance, to develop a coordinated approach to growth and infrastructure and deliver the transformation of Hemel Hempstead. Contributions will be sought to deliver Key Projects and infrastructure on and off-site. Some of these are outlined in Figure 3.2, as well as in the Growth Areas and Strategic Sites within Hemel Hempstead Town.

Figure 3.2: Emerging Indicative Concept Plan



LG3 - Hemel Garden Communities Place Principles

Proposals must have Masterplans and Design Codes agreed with the Council before developing detailed designs. The approach taken in Masterplans and Design Codes should be in accordance with the District's Strategic Sites Design Guidance¹³. There will be a Masterplanned approach to development with appropriate input from the Council, local communities, landowners and other stakeholders.

To enable the transformation of Hemel Hempstead, the design and delivery of development through Hemel Garden Communities is required to adhere to the following place shaping principles:

¹³ The Strategic Sites Design Guidance is formed of four documents: Design Principles, Design Toolkit, Masterplan Toolkit and Employment Toolkit

Pillar 1 - Green Network

This will be enabled by:

- Delivery of a connected and more biodiverse town achieving Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG);
- Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANG) delivery;
- Projects promoting health and wellbeing (in accordance with SP13 Health and wellbeing) - these will include community food growing, delivery of the HGC Green Loop / Quietway, improvements to the Nickey Line, greenways, and leisure and sport facilities;
- Delivery of active and sustainable travel aims that accord with the Spatial Vision;
- Delivery of Key Projects identified in Figure 3.1, and on and off-site parks, adventure play and play along the way, open spaces and ecological corridors.

Pillar 2 - Integrated Neighbourhoods

This will be enabled by:

- Creation of new landscape-led masterplanned neighbourhoods;
- Delivery of transformative sustainable healthy living, engaged communities and climate resilience across the town of Hemel Hempstead;
- Delivery of new and improved existing local centres that support and complement existing centres;
- Interventions to achieve a target of 60% of all journeys within the new Garden Town communities and 40% of all journeys across the existing town of Hemel Hempstead, to be undertaken by sustainable modes by 2050;
- Provision and location of affordable housing will be agreed with the council, taking account of the council's most up-to-date evidence on housing need;
- Minimise the impact on the surrounding landscape setting and delivery of an average of 40 net dwellings per hectare;
- Delivery of Key Projects (Figure 3.1) including a Household Waste Recycling and Council Depot facilities to meet the needs of new and existing communities;
- Delivery of on and off-site projects and infrastructure (IDP) supporting new and existing Neighbourhoods, Local Centres, Town Centre aims, Maylands Business Park/Herts IQ and other destinations;
- High standards of urban design, architecture and landscaping, including use of modern methods of construction (Chapter 12);
- Public realm (Chapter 12) of the highest quality, inclusive and rich with local art and heritage interpretation;
- Delivery of development that responds to climate resilience (as per Chapter 2);

- A fabric first approach contributing towards the delivery of net zero homes;

Pillar 3 - Self-sustaining Economy

- Diverse employment development and jobs creation that supports learning, enterprise, innovation and skills diversification and accords with Chapter 5;
- Maximised opportunities for living, working and socialising locally;
- Regeneration of Hemel Hempstead Town Centre and town centre diversification;
- Digital infrastructure on and off-site including ultra-fast fibre-optic broadband to premises;
- Delivery of remote office hubs, starter units / incubator space, alongside training and higher education facilities in key destinations including local centres;
- Promotion of opportunities for environmental sustainability, green technology, circular economy principles, digital connectivity and innovation;
- Establishing strong community partnerships including voluntary sector organisations.

Pillar 4 - Engaged Communities

This will be enabled by:

- Establishing a stewardship approach with appropriate funding, assets and sustainable governance arrangements;
- Delivering a strong community partnership with landowners, site promoters and voluntary sector organisations;
- Management of community assets including green space, heritage and cultural facilities, public realm, community buildings and other relevant facilities;
- Engagement of existing communities and parishes in design and delivery of the site to inform a Masterplanned approach with appropriate input from the councils, landowners and other stakeholders;
- Delivery of Key Projects (Figure 3.1) and on and off-site assets, initiatives and contributions to support community stewardship, skill-sharing, health promotion, culture, heritage, enterprise and climate resilience;
- Promotion of health-based activities, local cultural and heritage initiatives, skill-sharing, enterprise that support local makers and businesses;
- Early activation projects such as employment opportunities and community facilities ahead of the delivery of homes.

Delivery

New development, infrastructure and initiatives planned and phased in a timely manner to ensure funding opportunities are maximised and people are actively engaged. This will be enabled by:

- Delivery of a detailed Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) for Hemel Garden

Communities;

- Delivery of a detailed phasing strategy for infrastructure;
- Delivery of community partnerships and stewardship approach.

Large, Medium and Small Sites

- 3.44 A significant part of the District's growth will be from those sites that are not in a Broad Location. These are classified in this Plan as Large, Medium or Small sites.
- 3.45 The definition of these in terms of size are: Large Sites (100-249 homes); Medium Sites (10-99 homes); and Small Sites (5-9 homes). These sites are generally concentrated within urban areas and around the higher tiers in the Settlement Hierarchy.

LG4 – Large, Medium and Small Sites

The Council has identified sites to support growth that are smaller in size and delivery expectations than the Broad Locations. These sites are set out in Appendix 1. Proposals on these sites must accord with the following requirements in addition to the site-specific requirements listed in Appendix 1:

- a) Large sites should have Masterplans agreed with the Council before developing detailed designs. The approach should be in accordance with the District's Strategic Sites Design Guidance;
- b) For major developments, demonstrate a Masterplanned approach to development with appropriate input from the Council, local communities, landowners and other stakeholders;
- c) Be undertaken in a coordinated way where there are different landowners;
- d) Demonstrate accordance with Local Plan policies and the requirements set out in Appendix 1;
- e) Excellence in design, energy efficiency and water management;
- f) For sites of 10 or more homes, 40% Affordable Housing in accordance with Local Plan policy;
- g) For Large sites 3% of homes provided to be custom or self-build housing;
- h) Make effective use of the site, with a minimum overall net density 40 dwellings per hectare;
- i) For sites of 10 or more units housing size, type and mix as set out in Local Plan policy;
- j) Demonstrate a transport approach that includes excellent walking and cycling links and public transport services upgrades/ improvements;
- k) Retention of important trees and landscape features;
- l) Plant at least 1 semi-mature tree for each dwelling; for C2 accommodation for each dwelling equivalent bed space;
- m) Provide contributions to enhance existing strategic, local and recreational public open space, including managed woodland and ecological network

links;

- n) Positively relate and integrate the development to the surrounding buildings and landscape;
- o) Ensure that land use, density, landscaping and form have regard to the topography of the site and likely landscape impacts;
- p) Have due regard to any relevant Neighbourhood Plan/s.

Green Belt

- 3.46 The Council attaches great importance to the Metropolitan Green Belt, which will be protected from inappropriate development. The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the essential characteristics of the Green Belt are its openness and permanence.
- 3.47 Green Belt in the District performs important national policy objectives as part of the London Metropolitan Green Belt. The Green Belt is also regarded as performing an important local consideration regarding maintaining the existing settlement pattern and the individual identity of settlements, as far as reasonably possible.

LG5 – Green Belt

Proposals in the Green Belt will be assessed in accordance with national policy.

Where proposals are consistent with Green Belt purposes and objectives the Council will support in principle:

- a) Opportunities that arise through development to proactively manage Green Belt land to:
 - i. Protect and create attractive landscapes and countryside;
 - ii. Promote healthy ecosystem services;
 - iii. Support productive and sustainable farming and forestry;
 - iv. Provide space for local and wider recreational needs.
- b) Infrastructure provision identified in this Plan that is essential to ensure sustainable development across the District and beyond, that demonstrates 'very special circumstances', namely:
 - i. New state schools;
 - ii. The creation of new transport infrastructure;
 - iii. Small scale, largely open forms of infrastructure development such as outdoor sport and recreation facilities and uses (including detached playing fields for state schools), drainage areas and utilities installations.

Green Belt Compensatory Improvements

- 3.48 Where it is concluded that loss of Green Belt land for development is necessary, national policy¹⁴ sets out that compensatory improvements to the environmental quality and accessibility of remaining Green Belt land are expected.

LG6 – Green Belt Compensatory Improvements

The allocations in Appendix 1, that are facilitated by Green Belt boundaries changed by this Plan, are required to:

- a) Submit a Green Belt compensation strategy that sets out compensatory measures that align with national planning guidance, relating to:
 - i. New or enhanced green infrastructure;
 - ii. Woodland planting;
 - iii. Landscape and visual enhancements (beyond those needed to mitigate the immediate impacts of the proposal);
 - iv. Improvements to biodiversity, habitat connectivity and natural capital;
 - v. New or enhanced walking and cycle routes; or
 - vi. Improved access to new, enhanced or existing recreational and playing field provision.
- b) Retain existing hedgerows and trees and other areas of biodiversity value such as ponds;
- c) Enhance existing Green and Blue Infrastructure links within their sites and link up any fragmented ones to provide biodiversity (also known as wildlife corridors). Development must also take account of Green and Blue Infrastructure links beyond their sites and try to integrate their designs with them and not create severance through poor design;
- d) Maintain any Rights of Way across/through the site, ensuring provision of a route that is safe and overlooked, is sufficient in width to easily allow the passing of two people, and is carefully designed to become a positive landscape feature;
- e) Ensure access to adjacent Rights of Way are facilitated in a safe and direct manner and maintain linkages through good design;
- f) Provide woodland buffer planting when adjacent to established urban areas overlooking what was once open countryside.

Housing Policy in the Green Belt

- 3.49 National policy sets out that Plans should support opportunities to bring forward 'rural exception sites' that will provide affordable housing to meet identified local needs. One form of rural exception sites in the Green Belt is set out as limited affordable housing for local community needs under policies set out in the Plan.

¹⁴ NPPF paragraph 142

- 3.50 There may be some needs for lower-income households with a close family or employment connection to the more rural settlements. Parish Councils are encouraged to identify sites in Neighbourhood Plans suitable for community-led affordable housing, including rural exception affordable housing sites which meet the criteria set out in the policy.

LG7 – Affordable housing development in the Green Belt (rural exception sites)

Proposals for affordable-only housing in the Green Belt for local needs must demonstrate that:

- a) The development is small scale – 9 or fewer dwellings on a site area of under 0.5 hectares;
- b) The housing meets the priority need for social rented housing in a local community and is secured in perpetuity by appropriate planning obligations;
- c) The harm to the purposes of the Green Belt is limited;
- d) The development is in an area dominated by buildings rather than in open countryside and will reflect the appearance and character of the surrounding existing development; and
- e) There is a close relationship between the proposed site and existing built up areas, either in settlements excluded from the Green Belt or included in Green Belt Settlement Envelopes.

Any site designated solely for affordable housing in a made Neighbourhood Plan will be supported in principle.

- 3.51 National policy sets out that inappropriate development is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt and should not be approved except in 'very special circumstances'. A local planning authority should regard the construction of new buildings as inappropriate in the Green Belt. Exceptions to this however include limited infilling in villages. Green Belt village settlement boundaries are set out on the Policies map.
- 3.52 A number of homes can be accommodated by limited infilling. There is a continuing pressure for "infill" development to take place between existing dwellings. If this pressure were acceded to, the openness and character of the Green Belt within and around these areas would be markedly altered over time. Clear guidance is needed to assist developers in providing appropriate infill development; whilst providing appropriate protection for the openness and character of the Green Belt which otherwise could be markedly and negatively altered over time.

LG8 – Small Scale Development in Green Belt Settlements

Proposals for small scale development or redevelopment for a residential use, related community facilities and services, or small businesses, within Green Belt Settlement boundaries, must demonstrate that:

- a) The land was previously developed or part of a previously developed

property area;

- b) It is a small scale development consisting of 9 dwellings or fewer or a similar scale of non-residential development;
- c) It is an infill site, defined as a small gap in an otherwise continuously built up road frontage or the small-scale redevelopment of existing properties within such a frontage. Gaps may not be filled where they form an intrinsically important feature that contributes to the environmental character of the settlement or wider area;
- d) The design reflects the existing character of the settlement, with particular reference to any Neighbourhood Plan and/ or Conservation Area Character Statement.

3.53 As set out above, national policy states that the construction of new buildings is inappropriate in the Green Belt. Exceptions to this include the extension or alteration of a building provided that it does not result in disproportionate additions over and above the size of the original building; and the replacement of a building, provided the new building is in the same use and not materially larger than the one it replaces.

3.54 Evidence shows that there is a very strong demand to extend and replace dwellings and other buildings in the Green Belt. Clear policy is needed to assist applicants to meet their aspirations for additional or alternative accommodation; whilst providing appropriate protection for the openness and character of the Green Belt which otherwise could be markedly and negatively altered over time.

LG9 – Extension or Replacement of Buildings in the Green Belt

Extensions to buildings in the Green Belt:

The acceptability of extensions will be assessed against the following criteria:

a) Size of Extensions

Extensions should not create a building that is disproportionately larger or of significantly different character than the original building in terms of scale or visual impact. The original building is defined as the building as it existed at 1st July 1948 or, if constructed after this date, as it was originally built.

The cumulative impact of any previous and proposed extensions to the building will be assessed. In judging whether an extension would result in a disproportionately larger building, the increase in both volume and floor space over the original building will be considered, as set out in Table 3.3.

The figures in Table 3.3 are inclusive of any permitted development rights the building may benefit from.

Outbuildings which are a normal domestic adjunct to a dwelling will be assessed as an extension. Other outbuildings within a residential curtilage will be assessed against the scale of the original dwelling and impact on openness, including a cumulative assessment taking into account all outbuildings within the curtilage.

b) Type of Extension

- i. Side: Single storey side extensions should not close valuable gaps between buildings. Two storey side extensions can often have a detrimental impact on the openness of the Green Belt and landscape character and may therefore be resisted.
- ii. Front: Porches are generally acceptable. More substantial front extensions must not detrimentally alter the character of the building or landscape.
- iii. Rear: Generally viewed more favourably than side/front extensions.
- iv. Roof: Significantly raising the eaves or increasing the ridge height or bulk of a roof will normally be considered to create a building of different character and therefore refused.
- v. Basement: Wholly subterranean basements with no external impact are generally acceptable. Where there are level changes at the site any protrusion of the basement above ground level may be assessed against c) and d). Physical manifestations such as lightwells, sunken terraces, railings etc. will be assessed as to whether they would result in harm to the openness of the Green Belt. The intensification of the use of the site will also be considered.

c) Visibility from Public Viewpoints

The visibility of proposals from public viewpoints is a material consideration.

Extensions or replacement buildings in the Green Belt must not have an adverse effect on the visual openness of the Green Belt.

d) Table 3.3

How well do the proposals perform in relation to criteria b) and c)?	Additional size that will be permitted¹⁵
Poorly	Less than 90m ³ increase in cubic content or Less than 20% increase in floorspace (gross) subject to a maximum increase in cubic content of 300m ³ (whichever is greater)
Moderately / Well	No more than 180m ³ increase in cubic content or No more than 40% increase in floorspace (gross) subject to a maximum increase in cubic content of 300m ³

¹⁵ In the case of extensions, the additional size is measured against the original building as defined in a). In the case of replacement buildings, the additional size is measured against the existing building.

	(whichever is greater)
Very Well	Above the top of the ranges, or maximum, applicable to Moderately / Well performing proposals; assessed on a case-by-case basis

Replacement Buildings in the Green Belt

- e) Replacement buildings should be in the same use and not materially larger than the buildings they replace. Proposals for replacement buildings will be assessed against c) and d) above, as well as consideration of:
 - i. The siting of the new building, which should occupy the site of the existing or be located as close to the existing building as possible. A replacement building may be permitted in a different position if this would improve the visual openness of the Green Belt or if justified on the basis of very special circumstances. In these cases, the removal of the existing building will be secured through a S106 agreement.
 - ii. Whether the new building would be similar in character and size to the existing building, taking into account extensions that could have been permitted under this policy.
- f) The replacement of a temporary dwelling, or short-life dwelling, with a permanent dwelling will be refused.
- g) Permitted development rights¹⁶ may be removed by condition from replacement buildings which are larger than the existing building where this is necessary to prevent further harm to the openness of the Green Belt.

¹⁶ Set out in the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 as amended.

Chapter 4 – Housing

Local Plan Policy Objective

Provide a sufficient amount of good quality housing which meets the needs of all sections of society in sustainable locations

Introduction

- 4.1 National policy sets out that, within the overall context of the supply of housing, that the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed. The findings should be reflected in planning policies including, but not limited to, those who require affordable housing, families with children, older people, students, people with disabilities, service families, travellers, people who rent their homes and people wishing to commission or build their own homes. Where the need for affordable housing is identified planning policies should specify the type of affordable housing required.
- 4.2 St Albans District has high house prices and affordability is an issue for many people. While there is a trend towards smaller household sizes, the District is particularly short of affordable family-sized housing. The provision of medium-sized first family homes (3-bed homes) and opportunities for downsizers are particularly needed and encouraged.

Strategic Policy SP4 - Housing

To provide good quality housing that meets the needs of all parts of society the Council seeks:

- Proposals that provide a suitable mix of housing and affordable housing;
- To preserve the supply of housing by retaining residential accommodation and generally resisting proposals that would result in a net loss of residential accommodation (C2 and C3) through demolition or conversion to other use types;
- The provision of specialist housing to meet the needs of older people and people with disabilities;
- Proposals which provide new accessible and adaptable housing that meets the changing lifetime needs of all occupants;
- To diversify the housing market and increase consumer choice through encouraging self-build and custom build homes in suitable sustainable locations;
- To address the needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People.

All of these matters are addressed by the detailed local policies in this chapter.

Housing Mix

- 4.3 National policy sets out that local planning authorities should plan for a mix of housing, based on current and demographic trends, market trends and the needs of different groups in the community. Local planning authorities should identify the size, type, tenure and range of housing that is required in different locations
- 4.4 The District has a high proportion of large dwellings in its housing stock. Longstanding trends and population forecasts show smaller average household size, including an increasing proportion of single person households. More small and small-medium sized homes are required which would lead to an increase in the proportion of relatively low-cost market housing available to buy, assisting those who are just able to afford to buy on the open market. As well as single person households, this is particularly the case for small-medium sized family housing. This includes one and two bedroom flats and particularly 2 and smaller 3 bedroom first family houses.
- 4.5 The greatest opportunity to provide for the specific locally needed mix of housing is provided by development proposed at the Broad Locations and housing sites with a capacity of 100+ units.
- 4.6 There will be a limited number of urban brownfield sites which may require a different mix of more flatted homes and fewer three and four bedroom homes that reflects the site characteristics, context and viability.

HOU1 – Housing Mix

For new residential development proposals (Use Class C3) the Council expects:

- a) A mix of dwelling types and sizes to meet the needs of current and future households;
- b) In the case of proposals of 10 or more homes to provide a housing mix as follows -

Table 4.1 – Housing Mix by Size and Tenure

Tenure	Home Size			
	1-Bed	2-Bed	3-Bed	4+ Beds
Market Housing	5%	20%	45%	30%
Affordable Housing (Home Ownership)	25%	40%	25%	10%
Affordable Housing (Rent)	30%	35%	25%	10%

Affordable Housing

- 4.7 National policy sets out that where a need for affordable housing is identified, Plans should specify the type of affordable housing required, and expect it to be met on-site unless off-site provision or an appropriate financial contribution in lieu can be robustly

justified; and the agreed approach contributes to the objective of creating mixed and balanced communities.

- 4.8 The District's house prices are amongst the highest not only in Hertfordshire, but across the whole country. As a result local people on lower-level incomes, especially younger people and key workers, often find themselves priced out of the market, and there is clearly a high need for affordable housing. This is also reflected by the number of people on the Council Housing Register.
- 4.9 The Council has a priority to provide an appropriate amount of affordable homes. Housing needs and viability research has been undertaken to establish the realistic level at which affordable housing can be delivered as a percentage of private housing in the District.

HOU2 – Affordable Housing

The Council will seek to meet the District's affordable housing needs by:

- a) Requiring residential development proposals (Use Class C3) with a gain of 10 or more homes, or where the site has an area of 0.5 hectares or more, to provide -
 - i. 40% of homes as on-site affordable housing;
 - ii. A tenure mix of 30% social rented, 30% affordable rented and 40% affordable home ownership, which includes 25% of all affordable housing as First Homes;
 - iii. A design approach where affordable housing is indistinguishable in appearance from market housing on site and distributed evenly across the site with affordable housing dwellings to be clustered in groups of no more than 15 homes;
 - iv. Affordable housing to meet required standards and be of a size and type which meets the requirements of those in housing need.
- b) Requiring development proposals within Use Class C2 with a gain of 10 or more units to provide 40% of the units as on-site affordable housing;
- c) Expecting that, in cases where the 40% calculation provides a part dwelling, the figure should be rounded up;
- d) Ensuring that development proposals which do not propose the full amount of required affordable housing must demonstrate the evidence on why this is the case, and to meet the full amount that is viable;
- e) Only accepting a financial contribution for off-site affordable housing provision in exceptional circumstances where evidence demonstrates that on-site affordable housing provision would not be viable or feasible;
- f) Preventing the artificial subdivision of sites with the same landowner to create separate development schemes which would otherwise cumulatively meet the thresholds of this policy, and will likewise consider the site as a whole where a developer seeks to amalgamate adjacent sites with the same landowner into a single development;
- g) Ensuring that any planning obligations for affordable housing provision or

contributions that are agreed as an exception to full policy compliance (on the basis of viability at the time the permission is granted) must include a financial review mechanism that is based on actual sales values at the time that the development, or development phase, is 80% occupied. The review must allow for further provision, or financial contributions in lieu, when the outturn value of the development exceeds the initial viability assumptions or other circumstances enable increased viability of the scheme;

- h) To ensure Shared Ownership and Discount Market Sales reach the widest and lowest earnings population base; the final purchase price of a discount market sales homes should not exceed the midpoint of the range recommended in the Local Housing Needs Assessment¹⁷.

Specialist Housing

- 4.10 National policy sets out that local authorities should seek to meet the specific accommodation needs of older people and people with disabilities. The Government's reforms of Health and Adult Social Care is underpinned by a principle of sustaining people living at home for as long as possible.
- 4.11 The Council, working with partners such as the County Council, Registered Providers, health care agencies, and developers, needs to plan for increasing housing need and choices in terms of specialist accommodation for older people and people with disabilities.
- 4.12 Accommodation for the elderly is moving towards more flexible forms of living and support, which seek to maintain people's independence. There are several options where residents can enjoy their own self-contained home within a site offering extra care facilities. Offering attractive alternative housing choices for older people will assist in freeing-up some family sized homes that are currently under-occupied.
- 4.13 Specialist housing for older people includes housing with support (retirement living and/or sheltered housing) and housing with care (extra care housing and/or housing with care), residential care homes, nursing care homes and other appropriate forms of accommodation on suitable sites.
- 4.14 Specialist housing is allocated at sites listed in Appendix 1. Planning applications by specialist housing providers on ad hoc sites and on HCC land will deliver additional units of accommodation across the Plan period. Taken together, these sources should meet demand for specialist housing.
- 4.15 In planning for specialist accommodation, there are multiple factors that can introduce uncertainty. For example, when estimating future need, individuals who meet the target profile may prefer to stay in their own home with a care package as an alternative, which will reduce demand for specialist accommodation. In terms of supply, viability in new schemes can be difficult to achieve at some locations. To

¹⁷ Local Housing Needs Assessment (LHNA) 2019

help manage uncertainty, HCC have devised a scheme to assist viability of extra care units; and we will monitor the supply for specialist housing.

HOU3 – Specialist Housing

The Council will support development proposals for specialist housing to meet the needs of older people and people with disabilities in accordance with the following criteria:

- a) Located with good access to public transport and local facilities;
- b) Provision of an appropriate proportion of affordable housing within the special housing development, in accordance with Policy HOU02 for proposals within Use Class C3 or C2; the mix of tenures should have regard to advice from the NHS or Hertfordshire County Council;
- c) Provision to be made for specialist housing to meet the needs of older people and/ or people with disabilities within the Broad Locations and housing sites providing 250 dwellings or more;
- d) For older people, the amount of specialist housing should be broadly in line with the figures in the tables below:

Table 4.2 – Housing with Support and Housing with Care

Housing with support and housing with care	Additional Homes to 2042
Housing with support (Retirement Living or Sheltered Housing in NPPF – Use Class C3)	1,154
Housing with care (Extra Care Housing or Housing with Care in NPPF – Use Class C3 or C2)	809

Table 4.3 – Residential Nursing Homes

Residential Nursing Homes	Additional Bed Spaces to 2042
Nursing Care (Use Class C2)	377

- e) For people with disabilities, the amount of specialist housing should be broadly in line with figures in the table below:

Table 4.4 – Housing with Support

Housing with support	Additional Homes to 2041
Learning Disability supported living units (people)	7
Physical Disability supported living unit (people)	1

Accessible and Adaptable Housing

- 4.16 Accessible and adaptable housing enables people to live more independently, while also saving on health and social costs in the future. It is better to build accessible housing from the outset rather than have to make adaptations at a later stage – both in terms of cost and with regard to people being able to remain safe and independent in their homes.
- 4.17 South West Herts has lower levels of disability compared with other areas, however, an ageing population means that the number of people requiring specialist accommodation and/or with disabilities is likely to increase substantially in the future. There is therefore a clear need to increase the supply of accessible and adaptable dwellings, including for wheelchair users. Such homes could be considered as 'homes for life' and would be suitable for any occupant, regardless of whether or not they have a disability at the time of initial occupation.

HOU4 – Accessible and Adaptable Housing

The Council will support development proposals which:

- a) Provide new accessible and adaptable housing which meets the changing lifetime needs of the occupants;
- b) For all residential development (Use Class C3) achieve compliance with the required Building Regulations (Part M4(2)) except where this is not possible for viability or other reasons such as built form, topography and flooding;
- c) For residential development proposals for 10 homes or more (Use Class C3) 5% of market dwellings comply with Part M4(3)(a) of the Building Regulations and 10% of affordable (rent and home ownership) dwellings comply with wheelchair standard Part M4(3)(b) of the Building Regulations;
- d) For M4(2) and M4(3) housing are located, where possible, with good access to public transport and local facilities.

Self-Build and Custom-Build Housing

- 4.18 Self-build or custom build help to diversify the housing market and increase consumer choice. Self-build and custom housebuilders choose the design and layout of their home, and can be innovative in both design and construction.

HOU5 – Self-Build and Custom-Build Housing

With regard to self-build and custom-build housing the Council:

- a) Requires that on Broad Locations and housing sites with a capacity of 100+ dwellings 3% of the total of the developable plots be provided for self-build and custom-build;
- b) Encourages self-build housing and custom-build housing for residential development proposals of 10 homes or more (Use Class C3) in suitable,

sustainable locations;

- c) Will seek a mix of self-build and custom-build plots to be made available as informed by the Council's Self Build and Custom Housebuilding Register;
- d) Expects that where a plot has been made available and marketed appropriately for at least 12 months but has not sold, the plot must either remain on the open market for self-build or custom-build or be offered to the Council or a Registered Provider before being built out by the developer for market housing.

Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People

- 4.19 National planning policy sets out an overarching aim is to ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way of life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community.
- 4.20 The local authority seeks to establish a positive framework for how provision for Gypsies and Travellers will be made in the District. This will help to prevent unauthorised sites, help guide development to more sustainable parts of the District, provide enhanced quality of life benefits for the Gypsy and Traveller community and ensure that environmental concerns, impact on the Green Belt and community cohesion are proactively addressed.
- 4.21 Evidence shows that there are significant likely future accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers over the Plan period. The Plan provides additional accommodation opportunities. This includes new provision as well as potential expansion and redevelopment at existing sites through planning applications. This is a complex area of work and recent High Court cases have added to the complexity. Further evidence may be required to establish an up to date figure for needs that will have to be further addressed as the draft Plan evolves.

HOU6 – Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People

- a) In considering proposals for such new accommodation, the Council will have regard to the following (in order of priority):
 - i. The suitability and potential of new sites as part of Broad Locations for development. Such new sites should accommodate a maximum of 20 pitches (each pitch being designed to accommodate 1 family / household). Pitch sizes should not exceed 500m²;
 - ii. The potential and suitability of extending existing sites;
 - iii. The suitability of sites with temporary permissions;
 - iv. That development should also take account of any additional criteria contained in Government guidance.
- b) Within the constraint set by the pitch sizes limit above, site design will be judged in relation to the specific circumstances of the site and in particular whether there is a need to make an allowance for integral general amenity and landscaping space.

c) Because of a variety of factors including: proximity to the road network most used by Gypsies and Travellers; development site scale; area topography and landscaping opportunities; and the wide range of uses to be provided in the Broad Locations for development; provision of the following new sites will be required:

- i. East Hemel Hempstead (South) Broad Location - one 15-20 pitch site
- ii. East Hemel Hempstead (Central) Broad Location - one 15-20 pitch site

Chapter 5 – Economy and Employment

Objectives

Encourage strong and resilient economic growth, employment and skills opportunities; including supporting growth in green and creative sectors; and supporting new ways of working across the District

Introduction

- 5.1 St Albans District has numerous economic strengths and competitive advantages that make it an attractive location for businesses, including a highly skilled workforce, high rates of enterprise, good rail connections to London, strategic road connections, centres of research and innovation, and concentrations of high value industries.
- 5.2 The District is a generally wealthy and a highly desirable residential location, reflected in the high average salaries of residents and high house prices.
- 5.3 There is a low rate of unemployment in the District, with the workforce possessing a level of qualifications and skills that is well above national and regional averages. A large portion of the well-paid jobs for the District's workforce are dependent on London, with above-average salaries compared to residents who work in the District. This leads to a relatively high level of daily out-commuting to London, largely using the fast Thameslink rail service which stops at the settlements of St Albans and Harpenden.
- 5.4 Professional services and ICT are areas of strength, with these two sectors accounting for 40% of the business base in the District, which is nearly double the national average. A large proportion of these are micro businesses, underlining the appeal of St Albans for freelancers and lifestyle businesses.
- 5.5 St Albans is home to two of Hertfordshire's main research and innovation assets in the Building Research Establishment (BRE) and Rothamsted Research. R&D and science-based sectors account for a higher share of employment in the District compared to neighbouring authorities.
- 5.6 The District has a high proportion of small businesses, with figures for 2022 showing that out of 8,675 enterprises 91.4% were micro-businesses (employing up to 9 people), 7.1% were small businesses (employing 10 to 49 people), 1.2% were medium sized organisations (employing 50 – 49) and just 0.4% were large organisations (employing 250 plus).
- 5.7 Despite these strengths, a high proportion of recent jobs growth (2019 figures) has been in low skilled and low value sectors, and there is a growing disconnect between the skills profile of residents and the number of good quality job opportunities in the District.

South West Herts Functional Economic Market Area

- 5.8 St Albans District sits within the South West Herts Functional Economic Market Area (SW Herts FEMA) which contains the same councils that are jointly preparing the South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan (see Chapter 1). These councils also jointly commissioned the *South West Herts Economic Update* (2019); this study is being updated and will feed into the next version of the Draft Local Plan.

- 5.9 The FEMA was identified because of strong commuting and migration relationships and shared leisure, retail and public sector catchment areas of the five councils. The FEMA also has an important relation with Welwyn Hatfield District, and with the neighbouring FEMAs of London, and Luton and Central Beds.
- 5.10 The Council supports the wider economic and employment aspirations of the Hertfordshire Growth Board and Hertfordshire Local Economic Partnership with regard to South West Herts.

Office floorspace

- 5.11 St Albans City has the highest concentration of offices in the District, and is second only to central Watford in the South West Herts sub-region. Offices are concentrated within the area around St Albans City Station and around the City Centre Core in the vicinity of St Peters Street.
- 5.12 The District has experienced a loss of office floorspace in recent years, driven in part by residential conversions using Permitted Development Rights.
- 5.13 The restrictions introduced in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic led to a significant increase in homeworking, and there are indications that this may become a long-term trend. Nevertheless, there continues to be a demand for office space and it is important that St Albans provides an appropriate supply of offices uses to support growth, investment and employment in the District.

Industrial and distribution

- 5.14 There is a range of industrial estates and warehousing in the District, from small to medium scale, with the largest concentration within or on the edge of St Albans City. There has also been a steady loss of industrial floorspace over recent years, largely due to conversion to residential uses. To protect the larger and more significant industrial locations from development for other uses, the Council designates Protected Employment Areas, as set out in Table 5.1 below.

The Rural Economy

- 5.15 St Albans District has large rural areas and the Council fully supports a thriving farming sector, along with the leisure and visitor aspects of the rural economy. This includes farm shops and equestrian facilities along with the more flexible use of farm buildings, developing small-scale localised renewable energy projects and improving rural broadband.
- 5.16 Environmental Land Management schemes are intended to support the rural economy while achieving the goals of the 25 Year Environment Plan and a commitment to net zero emissions by 2050. Through these schemes, farmers and other land managers may enter into agreements to be paid for by the Government.

Strategic Policy

Strategic Policy SP5 - Employment and the Local Economy

The Council will work with stakeholders and local businesses to support economic growth and productivity by maintaining current employment areas and creating new ones such that there is sufficient land and floorspace to cater for full employment and provide for different kinds of employment use. It will seek to intensify land uses where suitable and encourage new businesses and seek

inward investment.

The Council will take the following strategic approach to employment land:

- a) Protected Employment Areas – as set out in Table 5.1 and through Policy EMP1 - will be retained for appropriate business uses. The Council will encourage full use of designated employment sites and supports new businesses, business growth, and inward investment.
- b) New industrial and business locations will be designated as follows:
 - i. 55 ha of Employment land at East Hemel Hempstead (Central) providing for a range of uses including offices, research and development, light industrial and distribution, with 10% of any new development or redevelopment required to contain units for Small Medium Enterprises and expansion/ Grow-On units;
 - ii. 33.16 ha of the Government permitted Strategic Rail Freight Interchange at the former Radlett aerodrome - mostly B8 distribution/warehousing;
 - iii. Due to these locations providing an agreed oversupply for St Albans District's own needs, the excess will assist Dacorum Borough and potentially other South West Herts local authorities in meeting some of their employment requirements.

Site allocations for new employment locations are set out on the Policies Map.

The Council also supports a prosperous rural economy and will in principle consider positively the sustainable growth of rural businesses, including diversification of agriculture, tourism, schemes that retain local services and community facilities, broadband provision, small-scale renewable energy for local use, and support for Environmental Land Management Schemes.

Protected Employment Areas

- 5.17 The existing allocated employment sites in the District are typically performing well with generally high levels of occupancy. There is a need to continue protecting these sites as important locations for economic activity, business start-ups and growth, provision of commercial services for the District, and employment.
- 5.18 Table 5.1 includes both key office and industrial locations in the District. The proposed East Hemel Hempstead (Central) Employment Area and proposed Government-permitted Strategic Rail Freight Interchange are also included.
- 5.19 The designated protected employment areas are shown on the Policies Map.

Table 5.1 - Protected Employment Areas in St Albans District

Employment Area	Location	Site Ref
St Albans City Core Principal Office Location	St Albans City	PEA 1
St Albans City Station	St Albans City	PEA 2
St Albans Abbey Station	St Albans City	PEA 3
Porters Wood/ Soothouse Spring	St Albans City	PEA 4
Council Depot and adjoining land, St. Albans Road	St Albans City	PEA 5

Alban Park/ Acrewood Way/Lyon Way, Hatfield Road	St Albans City	PEA 6
Brick Knoll Park, Ashley Road	St Albans City	PEA 7
Executive Park and adjoining land, Hatfield Road	St Albans City	PEA 8
Camp Road/ Campfield Road	St Albans City	PEA 9
North Orbital Trading Estate, Napsbury Road	Park Street	PEA 10
Building Research Establishment, Bricket Wood	Bricketts Wood	PEA 11
Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (new allocation)	Between Frogmore and London Colney	PEA 12
Coldharbour Lane	Harpenden	PEA 13
Batford Mill Industrial Estate	Harpenden	PEA 14
Southdown Industrial Estate, Southdown Road	Harpenden	PEA 15
Rothamsted Research	Harpenden	PEA 16
Redbourn Industrial Park	Redbourn	PEA 17
Codicote Road	Wheathampstead	PEA 18
Station Road	Wheathampstead	PEA 19
North of Buncefield	Adjacent to Hemel Hempstead	PEA 20
East Hemel Hempstead (Central) Enterprise Zone (new allocation)	Adjacent to Hemel Hempstead	PEA 21
Wellington Road	London Colney	PEA 22
The Hertfordshire Business Centre, Alexander Road	London Colney	PEA 23
Riverside Estate	London Colney	PEA 24
Watling Street	Frogmore	PEA 25
Colney Street Industrial/Warehousing Estate	Colney Street	PEA 26

Source: St Albans Authority Monitoring Report

EMP1 - Protected Employment Areas

To protect and enhance the designated Protected Employment Areas in the District, proposals that are within the locations set out in Table 5.1 must demonstrate:

- a) No net loss of employment floorspace – redevelopment or intensification of existing employment uses will usually be supported;
- b) That the use class will normally be B2, B8, or E(g); in the case of E(g) applications conditions may be applied to prevent a permitted development change of use to E(a-f) use classes;
- c) That small-scale services such as a Creche or Café are ancillary and do not compromise the functioning of the location for commercial uses.

Strategic Rail Freight Interchange

- 5.20 The Government gave planning permission for the construction of a Strategic Rail Freight Interchange in July 2014, comprising an intermodal terminal and rail and road served distribution units comprising 331,665 metres² employment floorspace.
- 5.21 Aside from employment floorspace the Strategic Rail Freight Interchange will provide associated road, rail and other infrastructure facilities and works including earth mounds and a Park Street/ Frogmore relief road in a landscaped setting. Further landscaping and other works will provide publicly accessible open space and a community forest on land in and around the site.
- 5.22 The scheme is located south of the North Orbital Road, north of the M25 and east of the village of Frogmore, between the Abbey Line and the West Coast Mainline.

EMP2 – Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (SRFI)

There is now a reasonable prospect that the SRFI will be delivered during the Plan period. All of the public benefits including all the country parks and community forest and the Park Street/ Frogmore relief road and other requirements set out in the 2014 Planning permission will be required to be delivered.

On review of this Plan and once the SRFI has been completed, Green Belt boundaries will be reviewed and revised as appropriate.

The Strategic Rail Freight Interchange is shown on the Policies Map.

St Albans City Core

- 5.23 St Albans City centre has the highest demand for office space in the District and is identified as the Principal Office Location. A sufficient supply of office space can help to attract and retain businesses and keep rental costs lower due to sufficient supply.

EMP3 - St Albans City Core Principal Office Location

St Albans City Core is the key office location in the District. Development proposals within this area must:

- a) Avoid net loss of office floorspace that falls within Use Class E(g)(i);
- b) Provide an active frontage on the ground floor; that within the defined town centre boundary can include retail and leisure uses.

The St Albans City Core Principal Office Location boundary is identified on the Policies Map.

Hertfordshire Innovation Quarter

- 5.24 St Albans District is home to two nationally and internationally leading research organisations:
- Rothamsted Research, which is a world leader in the agri-tech sector and supports an ecosystem of related research and development;

- The Building Research Establishment (BRE), which is engaged in research and innovation in building science and also possesses an innovation park that attracts and supports innovative businesses.

5.25 The Hertfordshire Local Economic Partnership (LEP) recognises the growth potential of green sectors. The BRE and Rothamsted sites are included in the Hertfordshire multi-site Envirotech Enterprise Zone, which focused on environmental technologies. This has been re-branded as Hertfordshire Innovation Quarter (Herts IQ), and includes The University of Hertfordshire’s Centre for Climate Change Research.

5.26 Herts IQ includes the proposed 55 hectare East Hemel Central Broad Location in St Albans District. There are also proposals in this Plan, as can be seen on the Policies Map, for a modest expansion of the current Rothamsted campus to the south.

EMP4 - Hertfordshire Innovation Quarter (Herts IQ)

The Council supports development and redevelopment which provides or supports knowledge-based research and development activities for Herts IQ at the following locations:

- Rothamsted Research;
- Building Research Establishment (BRE);
- The proposed employment area at East Hemel Hempstead (Central).

Employment Skills

5.27 While the District has a low overall rate of unemployment, for people with low skill levels and low incomes it is important that growth in the District provides employment opportunities and training schemes for local people, this includes in particular younger people and people in need of retraining.

EMP5 – Employment Skills

To improve employment skills within the District larger proposals must ensure the employment of a proportion of local people in the construction of larger scale new housing or significant scale commercial. This policy applies to proposals that are of 100 or more dwellings, or with a proposed floorspace of 10,000 square metres or greater of commercial space. Local people for this policy are defined as residents of South West Herts (as set out in Paragraph 1.13). Relevant proposals must submit an Employment Skills Strategy as part of the planning application that:

- a) Demonstrates how the local people employed will be given training in skills required by the construction industry, including but not exclusively limited to electrician, gas fitter, plasterer, plumber, carpenter, brick mason, scaffolder, painter, tiler, roofer, excavator, concreter and landscaper;
- b) Avoids employment work as a general labourer;
- c) Is agreed by the Council and secured via a planning obligation.

Chapter 6 – City, Town and Village Centres and Retail

Objective

Support the role that the town, village and neighbourhood centres play at the heart of local communities, sustainable lifestyles and the visitor economy, by taking a positive approach to their growth, management and adaptation.

Introduction

- 6.1 St Albans District's city, town and village centres are vital elements in supporting vibrant and sustainable communities. The centres are retail, leisure, economic and civic hubs and for the District to grow successfully it is important that these are thriving centres. Each has a special character that contributes to the distinctiveness of the District and it is important that this character is retained and enhanced.
- 6.2 St Albans City Centre is the largest and most important shopping centre in the District, with a healthy economy that has a distinctive offer including a wide range of independent outlets, chain stores, retail, financial services, cafes, restaurants and public houses. A notable feature is the large historic Charter Market on St Peters Street. Combined with the generally attractive historical townscape and good accessibility, St Albans centre draws in a wide range of people and is a shopping and leisure destination. There is, however, some leakage of expenditure to surrounding areas outside the District for shopping and leisure activities. The importance of St Albans City Centre has led to the Council working with local groups to develop a specific City Vision.
- 6.3 Harpenden Town Centre has a good range of independent outlets, chain stores, retail, financial services, cafes, restaurants and public houses. The town centre includes areas of green space and is generally attractive, historic and high quality. There is also a lively and well-attended farmers market.
- 6.4 The District Centres include small town and village centres such as London Colney, Redbourn and Wheathampstead, and large suburban centres, which generally provide a good range of local retail and other town centre uses providing for local needs.
- 6.5 There are also many small Local Centres across the District that provide essential local retail and other services.
- 6.6 Outside of the centres are shops that provide for local need within walking distance of their customers.
- 6.7 The Council is required by national policy to define a network and hierarchy of town centres and promote their long-term vitality and viability. This includes defining the extent of the town centres, district centres and local centres and make clear the range of uses permitted in such locations. The District's Centre Hierarchy consists of one city centre, one town centre, seven District Centres (Small towns, villages and large suburban), and 23 Local Centres, as well as street markets, and three out of town retail parks.

- 6.8 Town centres have been affected by the growth of online shopping and the impacts of COVID-19. To succeed centres need to attract visitors for a variety of reasons, such as leisure and community infrastructure, and not just purely shopping. There are opportunities for centres to improve their visitor economy, making better connections to local character, and building on unique identities.
- 6.9 The definition of main town centre uses under national policy is broad, and includes retail, leisure, entertainment, cinemas, restaurants, bars and pubs, nightclubs, health and fitness centres, indoor bowling centres and bingo halls, offices, theatres, museums, galleries and concert halls, hotels and conference facilities.
- 6.10 The Council expects retail and other town centre uses to be located in the District's town centres, using a 'town centre first' approach, in accordance with national policy¹⁸.
- 6.11 Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework in recent years have reduced the Council's control over town centre uses. Many town centre uses fall within the E 'Commercial, Business and Service' Use Class, which incorporates retail, financial and professional services, restaurants and cafes, offices, medical services, creches and nurseries, and indoor sports. Planning permission is not required to move between these uses. There have also been changes to permitted development rights that expanded the scope of changing from commercial to residential uses.
- 6.12 The boundaries of City, Town, District and Local centres are identified on the Policies Map.

Strategic Policy SP6 – City, Town and Village Centres and Retail

The Council supports the District's City, Town and Village Centres as essential locations that provides retail, services, leisure and entertainment, and many other functions to local people, workers and visitors. The continuing vitality and viability of Centres will be promoted, along with diversification where appropriate.

The Council will support Centres through:

- a) Applying a 'town centre first' approach to proposals for retail, services and other main town centres uses in accordance with the defined Centre Hierarchy and the sequential approach set out in the NPPF;
- b) Managing and evolving the District's Centres to provide a range of town centre uses and functions;
- c) Maintaining the District's Centre Hierarchy as per Table 6.1;
- d) Seeking to enhance the role of St Albans City Centre as a key, sustainable destination through proposal that improve the quality and broaden the range of retail, service, leisure, cultural and civic/ community facilities, including St Albans Charter Market;
- e) Setting out a **City Vision** for St Albans City Centre;
- f) Seeking to enhance the role of Harpenden Town Centre as a key, sustainable destination through proposals that improve the quality and broaden the range of retail, service, leisure, cultural and civic/ community

¹⁸ NPPF paragraph 87

facilities, including the existing farmers market;

g) Seeking to maintain and enhance as appropriate the District and Local Centres through proposals that improve the quality and broaden the range of main town centre uses, in particular for local users;

h) Developing new Local Centres within Broad Locations as required.

Table 6.1: Centre Hierarchy

Category	Centre
City Centre	St Albans City Centre
Town Centre	Harpenden Town Centre
District (Small towns, villages and large suburban)	London Colney (High Street)
	Fleetville (St Albans)
	The Quadrant, Marshalswick (St Albans)
	Verulam Estate (St Albans)
	Southdown (Harpenden)
	Redbourn
	Wheathampstead
Local Centres	St Albans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 153 & 191-207 Cell Barnes Lane • 15-23 Central Drive • 2-36 Beech Road • 8-26 High Oaks • 35-41A Abbey Avenue • 38-54 New House Park • 23-39A Vesta Avenue & 1 Watling View • 30-38 Abbots Avenue West • 399-417 Hatfield Road • 1 Cloughton Court, 1-3 Loyd Court & 1 Jacob Court, Russet Drive • 1-10 St Brelades Place
	Harpenden: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 95-105 Luton Road • 103-107 Station Road • 138-146 Lower Luton Road • 50-54 Westfield Road • 385-397 Luton Road
	Bricket Wood:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19-27 Black Boy Wood • 81A-97 Old Watford Road • 95-127 Oakwood Road
	<p>Chiswell Green:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2A Tippendell Lane; 301-305, 192-204, 210-212 & 216A Watford Road
	<p>How Wood:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-30 How Wood
	<p>Park Street:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 69-71 & 68-78 Park Street; 1-2 Park Street Lane
	<p>Colney Heath:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11-15A & 14-18 High Street
	<p>New Local Centres within Broad Locations</p>

Protecting Retail and Main Town Centre Uses

- 6.13 The District's town centres are places that provide retail, services, leisure and entertainment, and many other uses for residents and visitors. These locations are a key focus for local communities and are often accessible by sustainable transport options. The Council will therefore resist the loss of town centre uses.
- 6.14 A Primary Shopping Area is a defined area within a centre where retail uses are concentrated. The Council is required by national policy¹⁹ to define the extent of town centres and Primary Shopping Areas, and make clear the range of uses permitted in such locations as part of a positive strategy for the future of each centre. St Albans and Harpenden centres have designated Primary Shopping Areas due to their size, diversity and function.

TCR1 – Protecting Retail and Main Town Centre Uses

The Council will protect retail and main town centre uses through the following approach:

- a) Within the defined Primary Shopping Areas -
 - i. Resist the loss of existing retail (Use Class E(a));
 - ii. Support development proposals at ground floor level for the following uses:
 - Retail (Use Class E(a));
 - Food and drink (Use Class E.b);
 - Financial, professional and other services (Use Class E(c));

¹⁹ NPPF paragraph 86

- Drinking establishments (including bars and pubs) (sui generis).
- iii. Support development proposals at above ground floor level for the following uses:
- Retail (Use Class E(a));
 - Food and drink (Use Class E(b));
 - Financial, professional and other services (Use Class E(c));
 - Drinking establishments (including bars and pubs) (sui generis);
 - Crèches, day nurseries or day centres (Use Class E(f));
 - Other main town centre uses as defined in the NPPF;
 - Learning and non-residential institutions (Use Class F1);
 - Residential (Use Class C3).
- b) Within the defined City and Town Centres but outside of the Primary Shopping Areas -
- i. Support development proposals at ground floor level for the following uses -
- Commercial, Business and Service (Use Class E);
 - Learning and non-residential institutions (Use Class F1).
- ii. Support development proposals at above ground floor level for the following uses:
- Commercial, Business and Service (Use Class E);
 - Other main town centre uses as defined in the NPPF;
 - Learning and non-residential institutions (Use Class F1);
 - Residential (Use Class C3).
- c) To protect main town centre uses within the defined Centre development proposals that result in the loss of Commercial, Business and Service (E), Learning and non-residential institutions (F1) or Local Community (F2) Class Uses at ground floor level must demonstrate that:
- i. The unit has been proactively and appropriately marketed for at least 18 months (within the defined Primary Shopping Areas) or at least 12 months (outside the defined Primary Shopping Areas), and it has been demonstrated that there is no longer a realistic prospect of the unit being used for E, F1 or F2 Class uses in the foreseeable future;
 - ii. The proposal meets the needs of the community within the local neighbourhood; and
 - iii. The proposal will not have an adverse impact on the vitality and viability of the centre as a whole.

Town Centre Uses Outside of Existing Centres

- 6.15 The Council will seek to protect local shops (sometimes referred to as ‘the corner shop’) that are outside of the Centre Hierarchy, but which provide a valuable role in the community through servicing the day to day needs of residents, often within walking distance of people’s homes.

TCR2 – Retail Uses outside Existing Centres

Outside of the Town Centre Hierarchy the Council will:

- a) Refuse proposals for new town centre uses unless they are within isolated rural areas that meet the definition of Local Community Shop under Use Class F2(a);
- b) Refuse proposals that result in the loss of retail use under Use Class E(a) unless the following can be demonstrated:
 - i. The unit has been proactively and appropriately marketed for at least 12 months, and it has been demonstrated that there is no longer a realistic prospect of the unit being used for E(a) or F2(a) uses in the foreseeable future; and
 - ii. The unit does not meet the needs of the community within the local area.

Out-of-Centre Retail Parks

- 6.16 Out-of-centre retail parks provide large retailing units that cannot be accommodated in town centres, together with extensive, typically free, car parking. The units will typically be for national or regional retail chains. The transport focus is very much on the access by private car, which can lead to issues with congestion. Together with the relatively low building density, access issues for pedestrians and cyclists, and a lack of green space, retail parks can relate poorly to the surrounding areas and be low in terms of environmental sustainability. The District has large retail parks at London Colney, Hatfield Road and Griffiths Way, St Albans.

TCR3 - Out-of-Centre Retail Parks

The Council supports the existing retail parks to provide large-scale retailing. Proposals within the existing retail parks will be required to improve sustainability by:

- i. Providing layouts, public realm and building designs to respond to the surrounding area;
- ii. Providing high quality and effective pedestrian and cycling infrastructure;
- iii. Increasing green coverage through tree planting and providing areas of natural planting;
- iv. Use of Sustainable Drainage Systems.

Visitor Economy

- 6.17 The District has many attractions including museums and unique heritage such as the Roman town of Verulamium and St Albans Cathedral. Visitors are drawn in by the attractive and vibrant town centres such as St Albans City Centre and at Harpenden. The villages, rural areas and natural environment such as Heartwood Forest also provide places which bring people into the District. Visitors to the District also contribute to the local rural economy and support local businesses and jobs.

TCR4 - Visitor Economy

The Council will support the rural and visitor economy by:

- a) Supporting in principle the development of new or improved visitor infrastructure, including hotels, cafes and restaurants and transport, and visitor attractions including historic buildings, museums, theatres, markets, subject to other policies in this Plan;
- b) Seeking where appropriate to provide information boards, heritage trails, route markers and other infrastructure that assists visitors to understand, appreciate and move around the District's visitor attractions.

St Albans City Vision

- 6.18 St Albans City Centre makes up much of the core of the cathedral city and market town which has a distinctive heritage which includes historic buildings, landscapes and archaeology. It has a defined conservation area, established over 50 years ago, which covers the medieval core of the city plus key nineteenth century developments and areas of townscape and landscape value. It has a vibrant street market, good shopping, entertainment, eating and hospitality facilities and well-located hotels.
- 6.19 There have been successful recent buildings that had responded positively to the local heritage whilst providing modern architectural approaches and valued new facilities. There will continue to be change and growth most particularly in St Peters Street and its vicinity.
- 6.20 A large number of people live within the city centre. This residential role is an important one and both residential amenity and the vibrancy of the wide mix of uses need to continue to be balanced. Development that would cause significant harm to residential amenity will not be supported.
- 6.21 The City Vision area does not have a defined area – it comprises the City Centre (as defined in Policy TCR 6) plus a wider area with strong linkages to the central area; this area is deliberately not defined precisely on the Policies Map.

TCR5 – St Albans City Centre Culture, Heritage, Civic Pride and the Leisure Economy

It is vital to provide a framework and protection is needed to preserve or enhance local historic assets, culture and heritage to be enjoyed and appreciated by local people and visitors both now and in the future, in a context of positive change and growth. To achieve this the Council will support the following:

- a) Cultural and civic areas will be enhanced and managed to encourage business, commercial, cultural and visitor activities which are a focus of community activity and pride. The Council will seek to encourage activities

which celebrate local culture, community and history.

- b) Existing cultural and entertainment facilities will be retained unless alternative provision of an equivalent or greater community value and accessibility is provided and it can be clearly demonstrated that they are no longer viable.
- c) The delivery of a cultural cluster in St Albans City centre, including improved facilities for cinemas, museums and theatres. The Cathedral Quarter is a key asset and is integral to the identity of central St Albans.
- d) The future evolution of the main performance space offering within the city centre – currently the Alban Arena. This is likely to need to be: fit for purpose, flexible space(s) with indoor/outdoor potential and scope to be utilised day times/evening/night times, seven days a week.
- e) Heritage trails through the city centre – including blue plaques.
- f) Live music – St Albans has a thriving local live music scene which is a distinctive feature. New development must not inhibit existing venues from continued successful operation.
- g) Film and TV production.
- h) Improved youth provision – including in relation to music and culture.
- i) Commitment to support of the Charter Market.
- j) New major developments will be expected to contribute appropriately to such enhancements, including projects beyond these specific development sites.

A large number of people live within the city centre. This residential role is an important one and both residential amenity and the vibrancy of the wide mix of uses need to continue to be balanced. Development that would cause significant harm to residential amenity will not be supported.

- 6.22 High quality public realm should provide an environment that is attractive, welcoming, safe and intuitive to move through. While many aspects of the St Albans City Centre public realm are good, there are improvements that can be made, for example in terms of green spaces and play areas and the routes through which visitors access the centre.

TCR6 – St Albans City Centre Public Realm and movement

To enable an improved public realm and improved movement through city centre areas the Council will support:

- a) Positive change on the route from the railway station to the city centre along Victoria Street that includes providing visitors with an understanding of the culture and history of the City.
- b) A specific new compact city centre green area, potentially linked to positive change around the Alban Arena area / land to the east side of St Peters Street, including children's play / 'pocket park' / 'play on the way'.
- c) The river Ver project in principle to bring benefit for residents and visitors,

for example seeking to re-naturalise the river and lake where possible, taking into account the significant heritage assets.

- d) Improved wayfinding.
- e) More places to sit and socialise with additional benches and green spaces.
- f) The principle of central car clubs/ car-sharing, bike-hire, cargo bikes and secure cycle parking.
- g) Continuing to work with St Albans City Station and St Albans Abbey Station stakeholders to make the most of sustainable transport opportunities at, and emanating from, the stations, while recognising the hub and gateway roles the stations play.
- h) Cycle routes to the stations to be improved.
- i) Implementation of walking and cycling improvements identified in the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).
- j) Environmental enhancements which may involve:
 - i. Street scene and public realm – including improvements to the historic ‘alleys’ and where possible rationalisation of bin/waste storage
 - ii. Landscaping
 - iii. Lighting
 - iv. Public art.

6.23 A successful mixed economy for St Albans City Centre underpins its future as an attractive place to visit. The vibrant economy provides jobs and makes effective use of the buildings and spaces. St Albans has a wide range of shops, eating out opportunities, services and offices which contribute to maintaining the dynamism of the city centre. The exceptional range of independent businesses/ retail/ food and drink offering should be celebrated and encouraged.

TCR7 – St Albans City Centre – Vibrant and Mixed City Centre Economy

To continue to support and enable a vibrant and mixed city centre economy the Council will support:

- a) A distinctive concentration and diversity of independent businesses/ retail/ food and drink offering.
- b) Residential uses on upper floors on appropriate sites in the city centre, whilst maintaining active ground floor uses.
- c) A positive evolution of St Peters Street and its immediate vicinity which includes a variety of building heights, respecting and complementing existing scale, massing, and materials, with a role for residential and hotels on upper floors – noting that these must not conflict with a lively city centre environment, for example the Charter Market.
- d) Expansion of health uses in city centre locations.

- e) Flexible rentable meeting rooms and workstations or pods, online businesses and start-ups.
- f) Proposals that protect or enhance the amenity and wellbeing of existing and new residents in the city centre.

Chapter 7 – Community Infrastructure

Objective

Make sufficient provision for and access to community infrastructure in sustainable locations

Introduction

- 7.1 The growth of the District will create opportunities to improve existing and provide new infrastructure. Community Infrastructure covers a wide range of needs, and a wide variety of scales from the largest such as a new secondary school down to a children's play area.

The Infrastructure Delivery Plan

- 7.2 The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) sets out an understanding of the infrastructure requirements of the District and will continue to be developed as work on this draft Local Plan progresses.
- 7.3 The IDP assesses the quality and capacity of existing infrastructure in the District and its ability to meet forecast demands. The document also takes account of the likely cost of delivery, potential funding gaps, the phasing of delivery, funding sources, and who is responsible for delivery.

Community Infrastructure in the District

- 7.4 Where new development or redevelopment is dependent on, or creates, a specific need for new or improved community infrastructure, the Council may require suitable provision and / or financial contributions to enable development. Planning Obligations are considered further in Chapter 14.

Healthcare

- 7.5 Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board are currently working with Hertfordshire County Council and local NHS organisations to consider the effective delivery of current and future health and social care provision. The District has one main NHS hospital at St Albans City Hospital operated by West Herts Hospital Trust (WHHT). There is also the Kingsley Green mental health and learning disability site, which opened in 2014 and is operated by Hertfordshire Partnership Foundation Trust (HPFT). A limited number of services are also provided at Harpenden Memorial Hospital. Existing provision also includes community health facilities, GP surgeries, dentists and chemists.

Education

- 7.6 Education includes nursery, primary, secondary and Sixth Form education and special needs services and facilities. Forecasting schools places demand is a task undertaken by Hertfordshire County Council, who must provide the sites for schools, through work with landowners and the District Council. Oakland College is the main provider of further education and is identified as a sports hub, based at the Smallford campus.

Emergency Services

- 7.7 The key emergency services are two police stations in the District, at St Albans and Harpenden, and four fire stations in the District, St Albans, Redbourn, Harpenden and Wheathampstead, and ambulance services.

Leisure and cultural facilities

- 7.8 These include community centres, village halls and community halls, libraries, sports and leisure facilities including swimming pools and gymnasiums, sports pitches, museums and arts centres. Notable venues include the Alban Arena auditorium, the Maltings Theatre, the Odyssey Cinema, the Abbey Theatre, and the Eric Morecambe Centre. Other community facilities include religious buildings such as the Abbey Cathedral, churches, temples and mosques, and public realm areas for outdoor exercise and socialising as well as public art.

Libraries

- 7.9 Libraries are provided by Hertfordshire County Council, and there are six in the District located at St Albans Central Library, Harpenden, Marshalswick, London Colney, Wheathampstead and Redbourn.

Cemeteries

- 7.10 There are three cemeteries in the District: two in St Albans and one in Harpenden; and five Churches which carry out burials.

Youth facilities

- 7.11 Development proposals will increase the need for, and use of, youth facilities in the future. Existing facilities are likely to be able to meet some of this demand, including re-provision of the Pioneer Centre on the former Ariston site in St Albans. There are also expected to be improvements elsewhere to smaller youth facilities and play areas, including as part of school joint use, or in community buildings and new open spaces. These can be delivered through new developments.

Strategic Policy SP7 - Community Infrastructure

In relation to Community Infrastructure the Council:

- a) Strongly supports and seeks to protect existing Community Infrastructure in the District;
- b) Encourages increased and improved provision in areas that are deficient;
- c) Requires that provision is made for enhancing and providing additional capacity for Community Infrastructure if required as a result of the impacts of new development;
- d) Will not permit development which would lead to the loss of Community Infrastructure, or land or buildings previously used for such purposes, unless suitably re-provided elsewhere, or unless it can be clearly demonstrated that the building or facility is no longer required;
- e) Will only permit the loss of Community Infrastructure if it can be clearly demonstrated that the facility is no longer required;

In relation to the above, Community Infrastructure includes the following

categories:

- i. A range of local healthcare facilities including acute care hospitals, GPs surgeries and dentists;
- ii. Secondary and primary schools, Sixth Forms and further education, early education including nursery provision and special needs services;
- iii. Emergency services;
- iv. Facilities such as community centres and new or improved village halls;
- v. Libraries, sports and leisure facilities, sports pitches, cultural services including places of worship, public realm, public art and Public Houses;
- vi. Cemeteries and burial and crematorium facilities.

Education

- 7.12 National policy sets out that it is important to have a sufficient choice of school places available to meet the needs of existing and new communities. A proactive, positive and collaborative approach is encouraged for school planning and to any development that will widen the choice in education. Great weight should be given to the need to create, expand or alter schools. Collaborative working with school promoters, delivery partners and statutory bodies to identify and resolve key planning issues is supported.
- 7.13 Evidence indicates that new and expanded Primary and Secondary Schools, as well as Early Years provision, are required to support the housing growth included in the Plan.

COM1 – Education

- a) Major residential development will be required to make appropriate provision for new schools and early years facilities either on-site or by making a suitable contribution towards the improvement or expansion of nearby existing facilities.
- b) Requirements for schools within Broad Locations are set out in in the Site Allocations (Appendix 1). The associated outdoors sports facilities should serve a community joint use function. When not located in the Green Belt, playing fields will be treated as designated Local Green Space.
- c) Allocated school sites identified in the Plan are reserved for state funded education purposes.
- d) Proposals for the expansion of existing schools and new detached school playing fields will be assessed against all the following criteria:
 - i. Expansion of existing schools within Green Belt locations must provide evidence of long-term pressing education need;
 - ii. New building(s) within Green Belt locations should integrate with the existing landscape and be sited as unobtrusively as possible while

- providing a good relationship with any existing buildings;
 - iii. Proposals for detached school playing fields in Green Belt locations must preserve the openness of the Green Belt and must not conflict with the Green Belt purposes;
 - iv. Design, external appearance and new landscaping must be to a high standard;
 - v. Effects on the amenity of the surrounding area in terms of visual impact, noise, disturbance, road access and traffic generation must be acceptable;
 - vi. Sufficient onsite servicing must shall be provided;
 - vii. Appropriate local infrastructure must be in place, or provided, to encourage cycling and walking, and a Travel Plan will be required to demonstrate a reduction in car based journeys;
 - viii. It is generally expected that provision of the new facilities for wider community uses will be secured.
- e) St Albans is an area of high primary school need and with growth there will likely be a long term need for the provision of a new primary school. A site has been identified at the former Ariston site.
 - f) East Hemel Hempstead has an identified need for a new secondary school. A site has been identified within the St Albans Green Belt and is shown on the Policies Map.

Cemeteries and Burial Grounds

- 7.14 National guidance sets out that the provision of appropriate facilities for cemeteries and burial grounds are not classified as inappropriate development in the Green Belt as long as the facilities preserve the openness of the Green Belt and do not conflict with the purposes of including land within it.
- 7.15 Evidence suggests that additional cemetery facilities and burial grounds will be required during the Plan period. London Road cemetery is currently considered to be the most suitable and sustainable way of providing additional capacity for the Council and for residents.

COM2 - Cemeteries and Burial Grounds

- a) The Council will seek to ensure adequate provision of additional cemetery facilities and burial grounds during the Plan period.
- b) Expansion of the existing facilities at the St Albans Cemetery at London Road, will be supported in principle, provided it complies with a Green Belt Impact Assessment.
- c) Development for cemeteries and burial grounds in the Green Belt may be acceptable where proposals would not constitute inappropriate development in the Green Belt as set out in the NPPF.

Community, Leisure and Sports Facilities

- 7.16 National policy sets out that the Council should plan positively to provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services that the community needs to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments.
- 7.17 Evidence suggests generally good existing provision of sport and recreation facilities, however there are some deficiencies. As well as addressing deficits, there are opportunities to cater to new communities and improve overall provision. New modern sport and recreational facilities, together with improvements to existing indoor leisure centres, are generally encouraged. The Broad Locations will require some new facilities, some possibly provided as part of joint-use education buildings.
- 7.18 It is recognised that there is a deficit of worship space for some existing and growing communities within the District. This is particularly the case in existing urban areas. Some of these communities have particular challenges in finding appropriate space for religious observance. Their aspirations are positively supported, subject to appropriate consideration of impacts on neighbours, parking, highways etc. Opportunities for new provision can be created as part of development of new Local Centres in the Broad Locations, including in joint use community buildings.

COM3 - Community, Leisure and Sports Facilities

The Council supports new, retained and improved community, leisure and sports buildings and facilities.

- a) The Council will encourage new and enhanced community, sport and recreational facilities in appropriate and sustainable locations, including in particular:
- i. Located in the City Centre, Town Centres, District Centres or Local Centres;
 - ii. Improvements to existing Council facilities through refurbishment or redevelopment;
 - iii. New local provision as part of major residential development at Broad Locations and strategic sites, including possible joint use of education and multi-purpose community buildings / halls or improvements to existing parish halls / centres near to the new housing areas.

Public houses

- 7.19 National policy sets out that that Councils should plan positively for the provision and use of community facilities such as public houses. They also play a role in supporting rural communities and the rural economy.
- 7.20 Pubs are an important and distinctive part of the District's built, social and cultural heritage. Whether alone, or as part of a cultural mix of activities or venues, pubs are often an integral part of local culture and the economy. An individual pub can be at the heart of a community's social life, providing a local meeting place, a venue for entertainment or a focus for social gatherings.

COM4 - Public Houses

The Council seeks to retain the Districts' valued public houses.

- a) Applications which involve the change of use or demolition of a pub will be refused unless the following is demonstrated:
 - i. The business is unviable;
 - ii. Marketing of the premises as a pub has been unsuccessful over a minimum period of 12 months;
 - iii. Initiatives have been undertaken to boost viability, including consideration of alternative business models;
 - iv. There is adequate provision of reasonable alternatives in the area to ensure the community's ability to meet its day to day needs.
- b) Where a pub plays a significant social role in a local community, and adequate provision of reasonable alternatives in the area cannot be demonstrated, alternative uses of community value must be fully explored with the aim to retain a community use on, or near, the site.

St Albans City Football Club

- 7.21 St Albans City Football Club has been looking at opportunities for a new stadium for many years which will include a significant hospitality offer. The Council recognises that a thriving football club and the development of a new stadium and training facilities would be likely to bring community benefits.

COM5 - St Albans City Football Club

The Council supports the principle of the development of a new stadium and training facilities for St Albans City Football Club—and it is likely that the community benefits arising from a thriving football club would carry considerable weight in considering any future application for a new stadium.

The development may potentially include such enabling development that is demonstrably necessary and required to ensure the delivery of the stadium and its continuing viability as a facility for the use of the wider community. Community benefits must be secured in perpetuity by planning agreements;

- a) Such development may be supported within the Green Belt if very special circumstances can be clearly demonstrated;
- b) Factors that might contribute to 'very special circumstances' considerations include:
 - i. It is demonstrated, by means of a sequential test, that no alternative site exists for the proposal outside the Green Belt;
 - ii. The impact upon the Green Belt is minimised;
 - iii. The scale of the proposal, including any enabling development, is appropriate and necessary for the delivery and viability of the stadium;
 - iv. Such viability is demonstrated through the submission of evidence in the form of a business case and viability appraisal;

- v. A location that aligns to the transport vision, including a prioritisation of sustainable transport connections for both local and longer journeys that will be made to such a destination.

Chapter 8 – Transport

Local Plan Policy Objective

Encourage the use of active and sustainable means of transport and reduce the need for people to travel

Introduction

- 8.1 This Chapter focusses on the transport issues in St Albans District and the Council's support for the use of active and sustainable means of transport and reducing the need for people to travel, particularly by private car.
- 8.2 National policy sets out that transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals. This draft Local Plan has already directly addressed 'transport issues' from the start, through the overall approach of significant development in the District being primarily focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable, by limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes. This can help to reduce congestion and emissions and improve air quality and public health. However, opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary between urban and rural areas, and this should be taken into account in both plan-making and decision-making. On site and settlement level facilities can also reduce the need to travel. Further detailed transport technical work will be taken forward as the Plan progresses.
- 8.3 More than 50 percent of all journeys taken in the county are less than two miles and many more could be undertaken by sustainable modes. Whilst private car use will be needed for some journeys, this Plan seeks to reduce this reliance. A focus will be on ensuring local communities can access local facilities using attractive routes.
- 8.4 Evidence suggests that with travel demand increasing in future years, continued reliance on high levels of private car use will lead to worsening congestion and journey time reliability. These would be constraints on economic growth and negatively impact the environment and public health and the attractiveness of the District's places. Addressing the challenge of increased future travel demand cannot be solved solely through capacity driven highway infrastructure improvements. It will require: delivery of walking and cycling infrastructure to provide new and improved facilities making walking and cycling a genuinely attractive alternative to the car; passenger transport improvements and; traffic demand management measures where appropriate.
- 8.5 Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) are the transport authority for Hertfordshire, while National Highways are responsible for motorways and major A roads in England. Local Plan policy seeks to build on key principles within HCC Local Transport Plan 2018-2031 (LTP4) which promotes sustainable modes of transport and related infrastructure, encourages change in travel behaviour and seeks to reduce the need to travel. A key tool to maximise use of sustainable travel modes will be the widespread use of effective Travel Plans which are required for major developments. HCC have started work on a revised LTP, which is at an early stage of production, and will eventually replace LTP4.

- 8.6 The transport user hierarchy in the LTP sets the following priority: Opportunities to reduce travel demand and the need to travel; Vulnerable road user needs (such as pedestrians and cyclists); Passenger transport user needs; Powered two wheeler (mopeds and motorbikes) user needs; Other motor vehicle user needs.
- 8.7 South West Herts Growth and Transport Plan (GTP) and South Central Herts GTP are supporting strategies to LTP4 which contain transport schemes for the District. The District is working jointly with HCC to produce a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and the Council is developing further transport evidence with HCC. Transport is also being addressed in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP). These will set out the main transport schemes in the District and together they will provide relevant sustainable transport infrastructure and approaches which promote sustainable modes and create a foundation for enabling significant changes in travel behaviour. They will encourage and enable shorter journeys to be made by sustainable means, including by walking and cycling, delivering the wider community benefits of active travel.

Strategic Policy SP8 - Transport Strategy

The Council will prioritise the use of active and sustainable transport modes and deliver accessibility improvements to the transport and highways network by:

- a) Taking account of Hertfordshire County Council Local Transport Plan (LTP) and other evidence and supporting documents, as relevant;
- b) Supporting development in locations which enable active and/or sustainable transport journeys; where this is not possible ensuring that sustainable and active transport infrastructure is delivered at the earliest reasonable opportunity;
- c) Supporting reductions in car journeys for existing and new settlements; including in relation to education sites and school journey planning initiatives;
- d) Requiring all high trip generating uses to prepare, submit and implement Travel Plans to embed sustainable and active travel at an early stage;
- e) Working in partnership with stakeholders including Hertfordshire County Council, neighbouring authorities, National Highways and service providers to ensure that a range of sustainable and active transport options are available to all existing and future users of the transport network;
- f) Requiring new development to assess future air quality impacts from transport, where necessary, including funding contributions to wider schemes that will mitigate the impact of the scheme being proposed where appropriate;
- g) Protecting existing rights of way, walking and cycling networks and equestrian routes and, should diversion be unavoidable, require replacement routes to the satisfaction of the Council and the relevant highway authority;
- h) Supporting inter-settlement connectivity for active modes (e.g. Alban Way, Nickey Line, Ayot Greenway) and identification and delivery of new routes;
- i) Seeking Masterplans at Broad Locations and the earliest reasonable

opportunity to implement sustainable travel infrastructure on Broad Locations in order that sustainable travel patterns become embedded at an early stage;

- j) Supporting a network of local hubs at suitable locations such as railway stations and co-located in city, town and district centres where appropriate. The scale and nature of proposals must be appropriate to the size and function of the centre or station and proposals should contribute towards the vitality of a centre. A local hub should support sustainable travel and can include: a local bus service, car club facilities, bike repair service, e-bike charging, bike share facilities, ride hailing & ride sharing stop, real time and digital travel information, wifi and phone charging, parcel delivery storage lockers and public realm improvements. Local hubs should be supported by online presence and digital functionality.

Transport Considerations for New Development

- 8.8 National policy sets out that transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making, seeking to address the potential impacts of development on transport networks.
- 8.9 In order to be successfully accommodated, new development must give due consideration to road safety, road hierarchy and national level and Highways authority advice. Appropriate provision must be made for sustainable transport measures and their delivery. The District will work closely with Hertfordshire County Council when assessing the likely impact of development proposals, to assist in delivering this policy.

TRA1 – Transport Considerations for New Development

- a. Proposals must demonstrate:
 - i. That safe and suitable access can be provided;
 - ii. That development would not lead to highway safety problems or cause unacceptable impacts upon the transport network;
 - iii. How provision of suitable Transport Statements or Transport Assessments along with other appropriate evidence-where required;
- b. Major proposals must demonstrate as appropriate how:
 - i. Measures to reduce the need to travel by private car are identified and implemented;
 - ii. Active and sustainable connections to key destinations are deliverable at an early stage of development;
 - iii. How the proposed scheme would be served by public transport and would not have a detrimental impact to any existing or planned public transport provision;
 - iv. Safe, direct and convenient routes for active journeys to key destinations are provided and prioritised in their design;
 - v. Comprehensive and coherent integration into the existing pedestrian and cycle, public transport and road networks will be

- secured;
- vi. Adequate servicing arrangements will be provided;
- vii. The needs of people with disabilities and reduced mobility will be addressed;
- viii. The charging of plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles will be enabled in safe, accessible and convenient locations;
- ix. Suitable travel plans will be provided and appropriate measures for implementation will be secured. Such plans will set out measures to encourage people to use alternative modes of travel to single-occupancy car use;
- x. Suitable mechanisms will be provided to secure sustainable transport measures, including delivery of schemes identified in LCWIP and IDP and improvements to the existing highway network and other appropriate transport mitigations.

Major Transport Schemes

8.10 Major transport schemes are required to ensure appropriate provision of transport infrastructure. The policy seeks to support the delivery of new schemes and the retention of existing transport infrastructure.

TRA2 – Major Transport Schemes

- a) The Council supports the delivery of the following transport schemes:
 - i. Improvements to Walking and Cycle Infrastructure as identified in the LCWIP;
 - ii. M1 Junction 8 (M1 J8) Enhancement in association with Hemel Garden Communities (HGC);
 - iii. Mobility Hubs located at Land East of Hemel Hempstead in association with HGC;
 - iv. Transport schemes identified in the IDP;
 - v. Abbey Line enhanced service;
 - vi. Hertfordshire Mass Rapid Transport Scheme (HERT).
- b) There is now a reasonable prospect that the Government permitted Strategic Rail Freight Interchange identified in policy EMP2 will be delivered during the Plan period. The Council supports the road and sustainable transport infrastructure needed to mitigate it, in particular A414 enhancement.
- c) Development should not prejudice the construction or effective operation of the existing transport infrastructure and schemes listed above. Any proposals for development that may reasonably be considered to impact upon transport infrastructure or the delivery of the identified schemes will not be supported unless it is demonstrated the proposal would not harm their delivery.
- d) As the options for the transport schemes progress, the impact of the

delivery of the major transport schemes will be subject to assessment in accordance with policies in the plan such as archaeological assessment, environment assessment and flood risk.

Development Generating New Lorry Movements

- 8.11 A key aspect of managing traffic on the network is managing the movement of freight and logistics vehicles. Effective freight and logistics operations are important to local and national economy, Local Transport Plan (LTP) 4 aims to support these operations but in a way that does not compromise the natural environment and quality of life for residents. Proposals at the Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (SRFI) and East Hemel Hempstead Central employment area are likely to generate new lorry and freight movements and the policy seeks to reduce impacts of these movements.

TRA3 – Development Generating New Lorry Movements

- a) Proposals for development leading to significant increases in lorry movements shall demonstrate that:
 - i. Any increase in lorry movements can be appropriately accommodated on the surrounding road network;
 - ii. The opportunities for sustainable transport access have been maximised;
 - iii. The development does not result in adverse environmental effects on the surrounding area;
 - iv. There is adequate and suitable provision for lorry parking overnight;
 - v. The site is accessible by other modes as set out by the user hierarchy for residents/employees/visitors.
- b) To reduce impact on the environment and congestion in both towns and rural areas, major development proposals should:
 - i. Encourage Heavy Goods Vehicles to use the primary route network by means of signing and traffic management. In locations where problems persist, appropriate measures to restrict inappropriate heavy goods movements shall be promoted;
 - ii. Minimise the number of freight, servicing and delivery trips to and from developments at the operational and construction phases;
 - iii. Manage road danger resulting from freight and servicing vehicles by using suppliers that meet Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS) Silver standard;
 - iv. Promote facilities to enable efficient online retailing and minimise additional freight trips arising from missed deliveries, including storage lockers or concierge services.

Parking

- 8.12 National policy states that, when setting local parking standards for residential and non-residential development, policies should take into account: a) the accessibility of

the development; b) the type, mix and use of development; c) the availability of and opportunities for public transport; d) local car ownership levels; and e) the need to ensure an adequate provision of spaces for charging plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles.

- 8.13 The County Council's Local Transport Plan 2018-2031 (LTP4) seeks to achieve a modal shift away from car use to more sustainable modes such as passenger transport, walking and cycling. For significant new developments including those on sites allocated under Policy LG1 (Broad Locations), there is scope to prioritise sustainable modes of transport in line with the aims of national policy and LTP4.
- 8.14 The amount of parking provision associated with development can have a significant effect on the mode of transport used to access it. Provision should also be considered in relation to how the needs of users may change over time, including the predicted shift to low and ultra low emission vehicles that will require charging points.
- 8.15 Building Regulations include various requirements for provision of charge points and cable routes for new homes and new non-residential buildings, and indications from the County Council are that local highway authority policy and guidance will be strengthened in this regard.
- 8.16 In St Albans District, car ownership and usage levels are high and accessibility by non-car modes of transport in most of the District is insufficient to justify a significant level of parking restraint. For planning purposes the operation of the car parking standards is based on a zonal approach, with a degree of parking restraint imposed in locations that are most accessible to services, community facilities and public transport (Zone 2), and a particular focus on full mitigation for any shortfall in areas of likely overnight parking stress (Zone 3). There is also scope for large new developments at Broad Location sites (Zone 4) to prioritise sustainable and active modes of transport such as to require reduced parking provision, as part of a bespoke parking strategy. Zone 1 comprises the parts of the District not within Zones 2, 3 or 4. The draft zones will be available on the Council's evidence base and this information will be reviewed as required.
- 8.17 Zone 2 comprises the District's most sustainable and accessible areas, which are those areas within 800m (10 minute walk) of the City / town centre and mainline railway stations of St Albans and Harpenden. This includes the main town centre services and facilities, bus stops and mainline railway stations for the District's largest settlements. Within Zone 2 there is reduced need for parking for private cars.
- 8.18 Zone 3 comprises areas of likely overnight parking stress; where the type and scale of development and local streetscene characteristics indicate that there is likely to be overnight parking stress, and where evidence for existing Controlled Parking Zones indicates that demand for on-street parking exceeds available space.
- 8.19 There are parts of central St Albans which fall within both Zones 2 and 3. The Policy and standards allow for this situation by requiring robust mitigation against any shortfall in provision having first applied the reduction against standards allowed for in Zone 2.
- 8.20 Parking standards can be found at Appendix 2.

TRA4 – Parking
Parking Standards

- a) On-site car and cycle parking standards for new residential and non-residential development are set out in Appendix 2. Development proposals should:
- i. Meet car parking standards as set out in Appendix 2, taking into account the accessibility of the site to public transport and the nature of the use;
 - ii. Provide at least the cycle parking standards in Appendix 2; and
 - iii. Provide at least the disabled and inclusive parking standards in Appendix 2.

Public Parking

- b) Within St Albans and Harpenden town centres²⁰, and within areas of likely overnight parking stress²¹ (Zone 3), on and off street car parking available for public use should be maintained at least at current levels for shoppers, residents and workers; unless otherwise allowed for specifically in an allocation in Appendix 1.

Areas of Likely Overnight Parking Stress

- c) Within areas of likely overnight parking stress (Zone 3), proposals for new homes that do not meet the parking standards in Appendix 2 (including a Zone 2 reduction where applicable) will be refused unless sufficient measures are provided to fully mitigate the shortfall in parking space provision. To meet this requirement it must be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Council that attractive alternatives to the private car would reduce parking demand. This could include car clubs, public transport, micro-mobility and active transport, through measures such as discount vouchers, low cost membership fees and discount travel passes for new occupiers. Measures should be secured through a planning obligation.

Cycle Parking

- d) Cycle parking provision must meet the standards and requirements in Appendix 2.

New Development at Broad Locations

- e) New development at Broad Locations should:
- i. Prioritise sustainable and active modes of transport;
 - ii. Demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Council that attractive alternatives to the private car would lead to reduced demand, such as to justify a reduction in parking provision against the standards; and
 - iii. Develop an appropriate parking strategy with lower than standard parking requirements which must be agreed with the Council and which can realistically be enforced by planning obligations and/or

²⁰ As shown on the Policies Map

²¹ Areas of parking stress are shown on SADC's Evidence Base

on-street parking controls.

Car Clubs

- f) The Council supports provision for car clubs to help reduce the need for private car parking. Provision of suitable onsite car club facilities is required for development of 100 or more dwellings or 10,000m² of non-residential floorspace. The Council will seek appropriate financial contributions from all major developments to car club facilities and schemes.

Bike Share Scheme

- g) The Council supports provision for bike share schemes to help reduce car journeys. The Council will seek appropriate financial contributions from all major developments to Bike Share facilities and schemes.

Electric Vehicle Parking

- h) Electric vehicle charging points or the infrastructure to ensure their future provision within a development must meet Building Regulations standards and should seek to accord with the up to date guidance from the Local Highway Authority (Hertfordshire County Council) where proportionate.

Layout

- i) Where parking is provided, it must be of a design and layout that will function satisfactorily and safely, as set out in up to date guidance from the Local Highway Authority.

Chapter 9 – Utilities Infrastructure

Objective

Ensure that essential utilities infrastructure, including broadband, is delivered to support our existing residents and services as well as growth.

Introduction

- 9.1 This chapter sets out the strategic policy for sufficient provision of utilities infrastructure, along with specific policies relating to the provision of fibre broadband and telecommunications.
- 9.2 Utilities infrastructure is provided as part of statutory market / commercial systems, including water, energy and digital infrastructure. The growth that is planned for the District as set out in this Local Plan leads to associated requirements for this utilities infrastructure.
- 9.3 The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) sets out the detailed assessment of the infrastructure requirements of the District, including in relation to utilities infrastructure. It assesses the quality and capacity of existing infrastructure in the District and its ability to meet forecast demands due to population growth and the provision of new homes and jobs, and identifies provision requirements of planned growth. It is for utility providers and developers to provide the utilities infrastructure required to enable the planned growth in the District.

Water Infrastructure

- 9.4 Water infrastructure includes infrastructure relating to water supply, wastewater, foul drainage and sewage treatment. The District is supplied water by Affinity Water, which has a legal requirement to supply water to new developments. It has produced a Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) which sets out how it plans to provide a reliable, resilient, efficient and affordable water supply to customers whilst protecting the environment. At the core of this is the need to balance the amount of water available for supply with the demand for water. The most recent WRMP covers the period 2020-2080 and identifies a significant supply / demand deficit in the Central Region (which covers St Albans District); which it plans to address through demand management and leakage reduction measures, and through transferring water from neighbouring areas.
- 9.5 Thames Water is the statutory sewerage undertaker for the District, and their network includes sewers, pumping stations and other equipment used to capture and transport sewage. The Hertfordshire Water Study confirms that there is available water supply to support projected levels of growth in Hertfordshire in the current round of Local Plans. Additionally, the Study confirms that wastewater treatment capacity is available to support current growth levels in Hertfordshire to 2031; however, investment in capacity will be required to service growth beyond that period.

Energy Infrastructure

- 9.6 Energy infrastructure includes infrastructure relating to electricity and gas. UK Power Networks (UKPN) manages the local electricity distribution network in St Albans District, and they have an obligation to develop and maintain an economic and efficient network. National Grid has a duty to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical transmission system for the conveyance of gas, and Cadent Gas is

the regional distribution network operator. It is the responsibility of the developer to engage with consultants to determine their load requirements and determine the connection to the electricity and gas networks. Where proposed development triggers the need for reinforcement then the developer will pay all or a proportion of the costs.

Digital Infrastructure

9.7 Digital infrastructure includes infrastructure relating to broadband and communications. National policy sets out that advanced, high quality and reliable communications infrastructure is essential for economic growth and social well-being, and that planning policies should support the expansion of electronic communications networks, including full fibre broadband connections and next generation mobile technology (such as 4G, 5G and future technologies).

Strategic Policy SP9 – Utilities Infrastructure

- a) The Council requires and supports the programmed delivery of utilities infrastructure within the District to meet identified needs relating to water, wastewater, foul drainage, sewage treatment, electricity, gas, broadband and communications. Early planning for full and effective provision of these utilities will be required and should include consideration of phased / co-ordinated provision and strategic routing of underground utilities to ease management and maintenance.
- b) Planning permission will only be granted for developments where the utilities infrastructure required to meet the needs of the new development is already in place or will be provided to an agreed timescale.
- c) The siting and appearance of utilities infrastructure should be designed to minimise impacts on amenity and to contribute to the creation of a high quality built environment wherever possible.
- d) Development proposals must not impact on existing utilities infrastructure provision, unless impacts are mitigated.

Broadband

9.8 Access to broadband is a vital component of infrastructure in today’s world. It is key to growing a sustainable local economy, vital for education and home working and an increasingly central part of community cohesion and resilience. Local planning authorities and property developers have a pivotal role in ensuring that new developments are ‘future proofed’ by installing direct fibre access.

9.9 Within the District, full fibre (‘Fibre to the Premises’ (FTTP)) broadband has become more widespread but the IDP identifies some gaps in existing provision. There is a need in the District to improve outcomes for early provision of comprehensive broadband infrastructure to facilitate viable home working, business creation and economic growth. Since December 2022 it has been a requirement of Building Regulations that developers install gigabit-ready physical infrastructure and gigabit-capable connections during the construction of new homes, but full fibre provision is of a higher standard and will also be beneficial for other forms of development. Broadband provision is commercially based, and within the District the two major providers of infrastructure (as opposed to specific services through that infrastructure) are Openreach and Virgin Media.

9.10 Installation of ‘Fibre to the Premises’ (FTTP) Broadband is currently free for developments of 20 units or more and service providers can deliver direct fibre access

if given sufficient time. Early contact between developers and service providers is necessary to ensure provision within new developments.

UIN1 – Broadband

The council considers that full fibre broadband is essential infrastructure and vital to the delivery of sustainable development.

Planning applications for major developments²² must be supported by information demonstrating that appropriate infrastructure is to be provided during construction, sufficient to enable all the development to be connected to full fibre broadband from first occupation without any post development works.

For major non-residential development, exceptions to this requirement may be made in circumstances where it is not practical, viable or feasible to deliver full fibre broadband and where suitable non-fibre internet access is provided; or where internet access is not necessary for the type of development proposed.

Telecommunications

- 9.11 National policy supports the expansion of communications networks and sets out detailed requirements for evidence to support applications to enable this. It states that the number of radio and electronic communications masts, and the sites for such installations, should be kept to a minimum consistent with the needs of consumers, the efficient operation of the network and providing reasonable capacity for future expansion; and notes that local planning authorities should not seek to prevent competition between different operators, question the need for an electronic communications system, or set health safeguards different from the International Commission guidelines for public exposure. Legislation setting out a prior approval process for telecommunications apparatus within certain size parameters allows control over matters of siting and appearance only.
- 9.12 The apparatus primarily takes the form of street furniture but can also potentially be installed on suitably located rooftops and buildings. In this context, the provision of telecommunications installations to further the expansion of electronic communication networks is supported, subject to acceptable siting and appearance.

UIN2 – Telecommunications

The siting and appearance of telecommunications apparatus and associated structures must:

- a) Minimise negative impacts on the visual amenity, character or appearance of the surrounding area; and
- b) Be acceptable in relation to other planning matters.

²² As defined in The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (or subsequent amendments)

Chapter 10 – Natural Environment and Biodiversity

Objective

Protect, maintain and enhance the natural environment, including biodiversity, the landscape, green infrastructure and our waterways.

Introduction

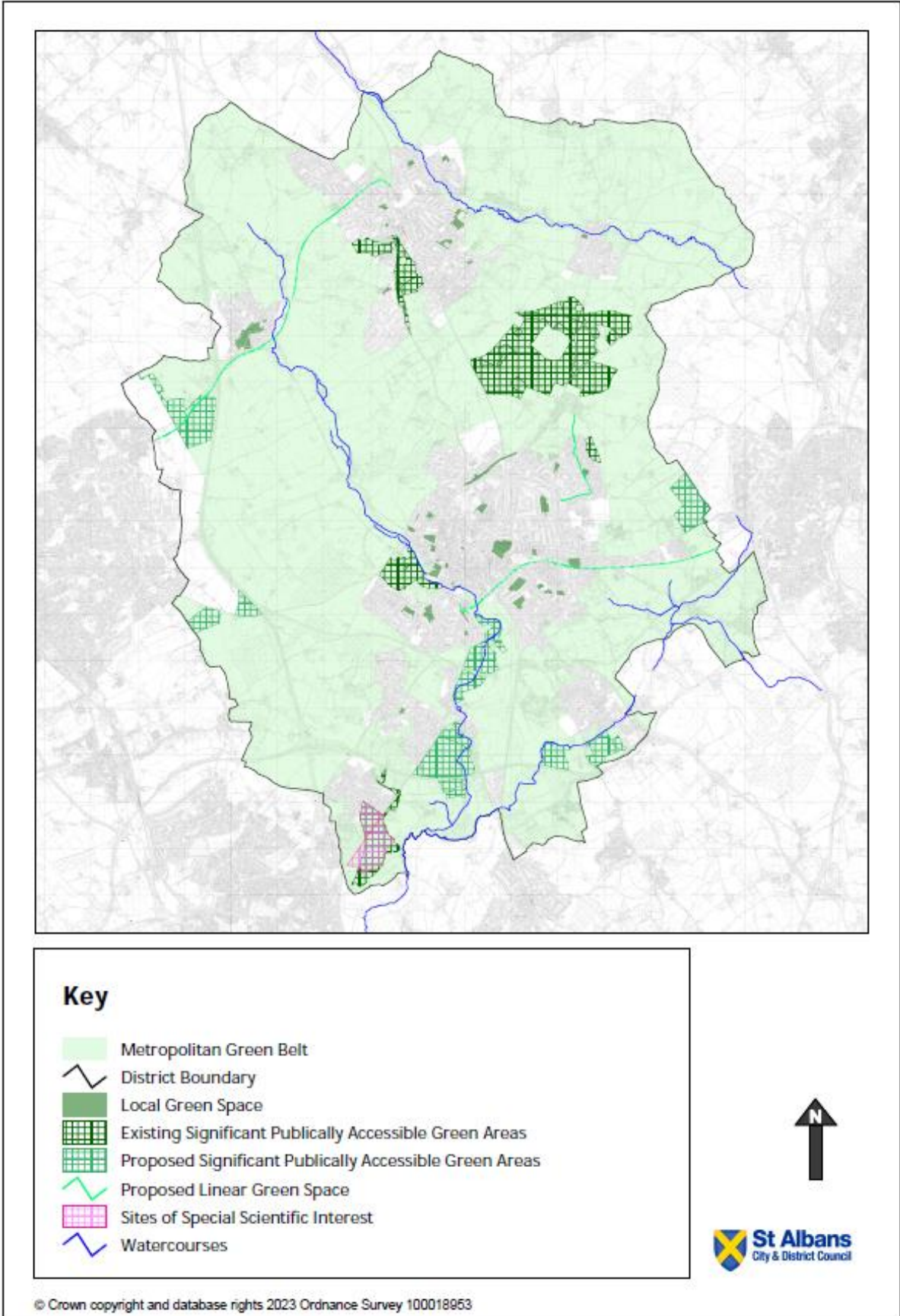
- 10.1 St Albans District possesses a rich natural environment and biodiversity both within the built up areas and rural spaces. There are extensive areas of woodland, including some ancient woodland, heathland, farmland, country parks and urban parks, along with many waterbodies, including the rivers Ver, Colne, and Lea. Private gardens, street trees, ‘in-between’ places such as road verges, and buildings, can also all provide places for nature to thrive.
- 10.2 The natural environment plays an important role in tackling Climate Change through, for example, absorption and storage of greenhouse gases, ameliorating and managing flood risk, and supporting biodiversity. Trees within built-up areas provide shade and help to lower the impact of high summer temperatures. The Council is committed to increasing tree planting in the District, both within the rural and urban areas.
- 10.3 In recent years’ the District has benefited from the planting of the new Heartwood Forest. New country parks are planned at the former airfield at Ellenbrook, as part of Hemel Garden Communities and as a compensatory measure as part of the Government-permitted Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (SRFI).
- 10.4 The natural environment is fundamental to people’s health through its everyday uses for recreation, sports and leisure. Experiencing nature can be relaxing and highly beneficial to wellbeing. In many places the natural landscapes of St Albans are valued for their visual amenity and role in providing a sense of place. The District’s public open spaces are also locations for popular outdoor activities such as children’s play areas and trim trails.
- 10.5 The District has many playing pitches for outdoor sports including football, rugby, cricket and tennis. These are generally very popular and well-used by a wide range of age groups. The ‘Playing Pitch Strategy’ (2023) undertook a survey of the provision across the District and provides evidence for future provision.
- 10.6 Allotments provide an important resource for people to grow their own food in a way that is healthy and environmentally sustainable. The Council manages eleven allotments around the City of St Albans and has waiting lists than run from one to seven years. A further 29 allotment sites providing approximately 1,069 plots are located in the parishes of: London Colney, Colney Heath, Wheathampstead, Redbourn, St Stephens and Harpenden Town. An additional 2 sites totalling 82 plots are managed privately by the Highfield Park Trust.
- 10.7 Flood risk is increased by Climate Change, with the waterways in the District posing a fluvial flood risk, while surface water flood risk occurs where rainwater is unable to drain away.

- 10.8 The Environment Act (2021) is a significant piece of legislation that for the first time sets clear statutory targets for the recovery of the natural world. In particular, the Act brought in the requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).
- 10.9 St Albans District Council is a member of the Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP). The HCCSP has produced the '*Strategic Action Plan for Biodiversity*' (2022).
- 10.10 While the District lies outside of the Chiltern Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), Natural England is undertaking a review of the AONB boundary and there is potential for the boundary to extend so that it includes part of St Albans District.
- 10.11 An assessment of the Chiltern Beechwoods Special Area of Conservation (SAC) by Dacorum Borough Council in 2022 revealed that more action is needed to help protect Ashridge Estate on the Hertfordshire-Buckinghamshire border, and Tring Woodlands, which are under increasing visitor pressure from the surrounding areas. If nothing is done, new development will lead to further visitor pressures and damage to the integrity of the SAC. A buffer Zone of Influence of 12.6km around this covers part of St Albans District, and the Council is legally required not to issue decisions within this buffer until appropriate mitigation is secured through a Mitigation Strategy. A key element in the Mitigation Strategy will be the identification and/ or creation of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) to draw people away from using the SAC.
- 10.12 Green Infrastructure is defined by the NPPF as 'a network of multi-functional green and blue spaces and other natural features, urban and rural, which are capable of delivering a wide range of environmental, economic, health and wellbeing benefits for nature, climate, local and wider communities and prosperity'. Plans should take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure, and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries²³. Planning policies should also recognise that some undeveloped land can perform many functions, such as for wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, cooling/shading, carbon storage or food production²⁴.
- 10.13 The Council will work in partnership with stakeholders to protect, enhance and, where necessary, restore the District's existing natural environment and biodiversity green infrastructure assets.
- 10.14 The Council will also seek opportunities to create new diverse, linked networks of multi-functional green across the District, including Local Green Spaces.

²³ NPPF paragraph 175

²⁴ NPPF paragraph 120

Figure 10.1 – Green Infrastructure



Strategic Policy SP10 – Natural Environment and Biodiversity

The Council will protect and enhance Green Infrastructure for its role in combating Climate Change and supporting biodiversity, along with its value for recreation, health and wellbeing, and landscape value. Tree planting in both rural and urban locations is a priority for the Council and will be required as part of new developments.

To ensure the protection and improvement of the District's green infrastructure and the wider natural environment, development proposals are required to:

- a) Connect to existing green infrastructure assets including opportunities to enhance connections and extensions to footpaths, bridleways and other rights of way, where appropriate;
- b) Explore opportunities to add to the District's green infrastructure, including key linear green spaces;
- c) Avoid the loss, fragmentation or reduced functionality of Green Infrastructure and restore them within a development site where practical;
- d) Contribute towards local green infrastructure projects via planning obligations, where appropriate;
- e) Secure provision of long term maintenance through Section 106 agreements, including for Green Belt Compensatory Improvements (see Chapter 3); and
- f) Make appropriate contributions towards the Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Strategy (SAMMS), where the proposal is for additional housing within the Chilterns Beechwoods Special Area of Conservation (CBSAC) Zone of Influence (ZOI). Such development proposals will also need to make provision for a new Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG), or alternatively contribute towards the maintenance of a suitable SANG project elsewhere.

Woodlands, Trees and Landscape Features

- 10.15 The Council greatly values the Districts existing trees and natural landscapes, and fully supports planting of trees. New developments are expected to fully contribute to increasing the number of trees. This includes through a requirements for a minimum of 'at least 1 semi-mature tree for each dwelling' for the Broad Locations.
- 10.16 There is a preference for the planting of species native to the local area, particularly outside of the urban areas, since these will be best adapted to the local conditions and help to form a suitable environment for the other local plants and animals. Planting from stock sourced within the UK is also preferred for biosecurity reasons.

NEB 1 – Woodlands, Trees and Landscape Features

The Council will enhance tree cover in the District and protect existing woodlands, trees and landscape features through the following approach:

- a) Development proposals for the Broad Locations must demonstrate the delivery of a minimum of at least 1 semi-mature tree for each dwelling, predominantly of native local species and where possible supplied from UK

sourced stock.

- b) Development proposals that affect sites with significant existing woodland and trees must:
 - i. Be supported by a Landscape Survey - Landscape and tree surveys must conform to the requirements within BS5837 (2012) and subsequent revisions (landscape features on the site and adjoining land, tree species, canopy spread, trunk diameter and levels at the base of each tree should be recorded);
 - ii. Ensure that woodland and trees to be retained on the site are not endangered by construction works or underground services or proximity to development. Sufficient provision should be made for root protection. New development must not be sited where it is likely to lead to future requests for tree felling or surgery for reasons of safety, excessive shading, nuisance or structural damage.
- c) Where appropriate or necessary, Tree Preservation Orders will be made and / or planning conditions attached to planning consents, to protect existing woodland and trees (specified in accordance with BS 5837 (2012), and subsequent revisions).
- d) There will be a presumption against the removal or destruction of any hedgerow that is considered important (according to the Hedgerow Regulations 1997).

Local Green Spaces

- 10.17 Local Green Spaces are open spaces of particular importance which are not in the Green Belt. Local Green Spaces will be identified on the Policies Map and may be further supplemented in Neighbourhood Plans. These areas represent a strategic public and private open space network and are an essential part of the District's green infrastructure.
- 10.18 Local Green Space designation is a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a Local or Neighbourhood plan is prepared or updated, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period²⁵.
- 10.19 Designating a green area as Local Green Space provides protection consistent with that in respect of the Green Belt.
- 10.20 Character assessments and proposals for use, management and enhancement of Local Green Spaces, (including new areas created in the Broad Locations), may also be included in Neighbourhood Plans or Supplementary Planning Documents.
- 10.21 The District's Local Green Spaces are identified in the 'Open Spaces Study' (2023) and/or the Policies Map.

NEB 2 – Local Green Spaces

Local Green Spaces provide an essential resource that are supported by the Council. Existing Local Green Spaces will be protected and new Local Green Spaces sought where this is beneficial to the local community or a new

²⁵ NPPF paragraph 101

development.

Proposals within designated Local Green Spaces will be refused permission that:

- a) Result in the loss of all or part of the Local Green Space;
- b) Seek ancillary forms of built development, other than those strictly necessary to support community access to and use of the spaces.

New significant green spaces delivered by development will be treated as designated Local Green Space.

Non-Designated Local Green Spaces

10.22 National policy²⁶ states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- a) An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- b) The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- c) The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

10.23 The emerging Open Spaces Study (2023) provides an assessment of provision across the District.

NEB 3 – Non-Designated Local Green Space

Development of non-designated areas of public green space, or green space in community use, will be refused permission unless the following criteria are met:

- a) The land no longer serves an important recreational, sporting, amenity or biodiversity purpose, or, if this does not apply, suitable replacement land and facilities can be provided elsewhere and must be laid out and playable before the existing site is lost;
- b) The proposed development would not damage the character of any remaining green space, or the environment of the surrounding area, or the strategic function of any green space with which the site is associated;
- c) Maintaining and improving biodiversity has been provided for in the design and landscaping of the proposed development;
- d) Proposals to provide ancillary forms of built development necessary to support community access to, and use of, the spaces will be supported in principle;
- e) If existing green space is to be developed, details of the enhancement of the remaining areas and future management of these spaces may be required and secured through planning obligation;
- f) The loss of allotments will be refused permission unless it can be shown that

²⁶ NPPF paragraph 99

suitable replacement allotments are to be provided, or it is demonstrated that there is no need for the allotments, taking into account current and previous usage of the site and any others in the vicinity, and not likely to be a need in the future.

Significant Publicly Accessible Green Areas

- 10.24 In recent years the District has benefited from the planting of the new Heartwood Forest. New country parks are planned at the former airfield at Ellenbrook Fields, as part of Hemel Garden Communities and as a compensatory measure as part of the Government-permitted Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (SRFI).
- 10.25 The Council wants to identify them to reflect the significance of their importance to the District. This includes a wide variety of aspects, such as access to semi-natural green space, facilities for recreation and biodiversity. These locations have a critical role in assisting maintaining a high quality of life and supporting mental and physical health.

NEB 4 - Significant Publicly Accessible Green Areas

The Council will protect and enhance the following areas:

- Heartwood Forest
- Ellenbrook Fields
- Rothamsted Park
- Harpenden Common
- Nomansland Common
- Verulamium Park
- Jersey Farm Open Space
- Bricket Wood Common
- SRFI Country Park(s)
- Hemel Garden Communities Country Park

Key Linear Green Spaces:

- Jersey Lane
- Alban Way
- Nickey Line

The Council will seek development contributions to support the maintenance and enhancement of these areas, including through delivery of Greenspace Action Plans (GAPs) and Greenspace Management Plans.

Blue Infrastructure

- 10.26 The District has long stretches of water in the rivers Ver, Colne and Lea, along with many lakes and ponds. High quality, clean watercourses are important for human health and for maintaining biodiversity. While recreational access to waterbodies is highly valued, it must also be recognised that the impact of people and pets can be

detrimental to the environment. The District's chalk streams in particular are a globally rare habitat that must be carefully protected and enhanced.

NEB 5 - Blue Infrastructure

Watercourses and their settings will be protected for their biodiversity value (in particularly the District's globally rare chalk stream habitats) and to improve water quality to meet the standards set out in the Environment Agency Thames River Basin Management Plan.

Development proposals that include or are likely to impact upon watercourses or waterbodies are required, as appropriate, to:

- a) Include river restoration, including naturalisation and the removal of culverted sections of river or watercourse, or in exceptional circumstances, where restoration is not feasible, contributions to restore another section of the same watercourse will be sought and secured via a Section 106 Agreement;
- b) Conservation of watercourses and their settings for biodiversity value (particularly for globally rare chalk stream habitats) and to improve water quality to meet the standards set out in Environment Agency River Basin Management Plans;
- c) Improve the habitat to increase biodiversity;
- d) Ensure no increase in flood risk;
- e) Improve public access to watercourse or waterbody where feasible and it can be done without causing habitat damage.

Biodiversity and Biodiversity Net Gain

- 10.27 Biodiversity can be defined as the variety of life that can be found in an area, including animals, plants, fungi, and microorganisms like bacteria that make up the natural world. These species and organisms work together in ecosystems. Maintaining healthy ecosystems is important for the health of the natural world and the health of people.
- 10.28 The impacts of human activity have often reduced biodiversity and damaged ecosystems. Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is an approach that supports and enables the recovery of the natural world. BNG of 10% is a requirement under the Environmental Act (2021) from November 2023. This can be calculated using DEFRA's Biodiversity Metric.
- 10.29 The Council will work in partnership with the County Council, the Office for Environmental Protection and Natural England and to protect designated areas and species of national and local importance for biodiversity (see Policies Map). Identified and designated areas, sites and networks of importance for biodiversity including sites of local importance will be conserved, enhanced and managed. The Council will seek to implement the objectives of Hertfordshire-wide and local habitat and biodiversity strategies. The Hertfordshire Local Nature recovery Strategy is in development and will be a key tool in identifying species/ habitats of importance.
- 10.30 Information on landscapes, habitats and sites of particular importance will be maintained and regularly updated as a current GIS data set.

NEB 6 – Biodiversity and Biodiversity Net Gain

Proposals that are likely to impact on protected designated areas and species of

national and local importance for biodiversity must:

- a) Undertake an ecological assessment for the planning application. Proposals will be refused if harm is caused to any of the following:
 - i. Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
 - ii. Nature Reserves (international, national, regional and local);
 - iii. Any other sites of wildlife, geological or geomorphological importance;
 - iv. Any site supporting species protected by UK or European law;
 - v. The natural regime of either surface or ground waters in river valleys and their wetlands.
- b) Apply the mitigation hierarchy (avoidance, mitigation, restoration, compensation) and in addition provide Biodiversity Net Gain (see below);
- c) Demonstrate ecological enhancement of the site through planning gain which should be based upon ecological advice Hertfordshire Ecology and Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, and on data from the Herts Environmental Records Centre (HERC), or from any of their successor bodies as appropriate;
- d) Seek opportunities to link or reconnect fragmented wildlife habitats;
- e) Provision of green infrastructure in new developments;
- f) Make use of on-site features to improve biodiversity include bird boxes and bat boxes. Off-site initiatives supporting biodiversity will be through environmental land management schemes including on farmland.

Biodiversity Net Gain

In line with national guidance, development should provide a net gain in biodiversity on site.

Development proposals must ensure that they:

- i. Meet a minimum 10% net gain in biodiversity on-site that is calculated using the Biodiversity Metric from Government guidance and is approved via a Net Gain Plan. Off-site contributions in the District will be allowed only where on-site is not possible or desirable. Payments in lieu to the national statutory biodiversity credit scheme will only be allowed in exceptional circumstances;
- ii. Secure long term management and maintenance for existing and new biodiversity, including any net gains, through Section 106 agreements and conservation covenants.

10.31 The development of new buildings and open spaces must avoid creating places which are sterile and low biodiversity. The Council is highly supportive of measures within new developments that increase wildlife.

NEB 7 - Biodiversity Provision in the Design of New Buildings and Open Spaces

The Council requires that:

- a) Development proposals have regard to the biodiversity already present within the site;
- b) Development proposals identify opportunities to maximise the provision for biodiversity within new buildings in line with national and local nature conservation priorities;
- c) All housing developments provide at least one integrated feature appropriate to the location of the development such as integrated bird, bat or insect boxes provided in close association with the properties, including for building dependent birds (breeding swifts, house sparrows, starlings and house martins);
- d) All proposals for suitable non-residential building must include integrated bird box features for building dependent birds (breeding swifts, house sparrows, starlings and house martins) in keeping with the scale of development;
- e) New wildlife habitats and features, including predominantly native trees and shrubs, and durable tree mounted nest boxes, bat boxes and insect boxes, will be incorporated into landscaping schemes and the general layout of the built environment;
- f) All fencing be hedgehog friendly, and hedgehog highways should be incorporated throughout the development.

Flood Risk

- 10.32 Development in the District may be susceptible to the risk of flooding, both from the network of rivers, and from surface water. As noted above, Climate Change is expected to increase the frequency and severity of flood events.
- 10.33 National policy requires that strategic plans should be informed by a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)²⁷. St Albans prepared a SFRA Level 1 jointly with the other South West Hertfordshire local authorities, published in 2018.
- 10.34 Water management and flood risk issues must be fully addressed by new development and the Council will work with the Environment Agency avoid and mitigate flood risk impacts.

NEB 8 – Managing Flood Risk

The Council will apply a sequential approach to locating development that seeks to avoid development in areas at risk from flooding, in accordance with national policy.

Where a development may affect a watercourse or waterbody, the proposal must demonstrate:

- a) A comprehensive approach to watercourse management;
- b) The full use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS);
- c) Flood and drainage storage areas as necessary.

²⁷ NPPF paragraph 160

Agricultural Land

- 10.35 National policy sets out that planning policies should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by recognising the benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land.

NEB 9 – Agricultural Land

Other than where development is allocated in this Plan, where major development on agricultural land is proposed, a detailed survey (approved by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) or an independent expert), which includes an assessment of grading, should be submitted. Development resulting in the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land (grades 1, 2 or 3a) will normally be refused. An exception may be made where it can be evidenced that there is an overriding need for the development and there is no alternative land of a lower quality which could reasonably be used.

Landscape and Design

- 10.36 The District has a wealth of attractive landscapes, much of it classified as Green Belt, that provides a valuable natural resource for biodiversity, recreation and farming. Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued landscape²⁸.
- 10.37 Good landscape design in new developments is vital, and must be considered among the design principles and policies provided in Chapter 12 High Quality Design.

NEB 10 – Landscape and Design

The Council considers that the landscaping elements of development are essential to creating sustainable and attractive places.

a) Proposals must demonstrate:

- i. How the landscaping contributes to delivering an attractive and sustainable place that enhances the area for new and existing residents;
- ii. For major developments, how the existing landscape will be protected, enhanced and integrated into the development, detailed in a Landscape Strategy, along with new tree planting as part of any new green space provision;
- iii. That the landscaping will not adversely affect the outlook and amenity of existing and future residents;
- iv. The planting of trees along new streets, roads and public places, as appropriate;
- v. That opportunities are taken for biodiversity net gain, and making connections to existing biodiversity and habitat networks outside of the site;

²⁸ NPPF paragraph 174

- vi. The use of appropriate native species with all stock sourced and grown in the UK;
 - vii. Where changes to landscape may be required, details must be provided of existing landscaping, trees and shrubs trees to be felled; the planting of new trees, shrubs and grass; and level changes, enclosure, screening and paving;
 - viii. Provision for ongoing management and maintenance.
- b) Any development proposal in a Landscape Character Area must:
- i. Conserve, restore or enhance the prevailing quality, character and condition of the natural and historic landscape;
 - ii. Be accompanied by a statement to demonstrate how the proposal responds to managing change, including restoration of historic field, transport, settlement and built forms where appropriate.
- c) Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs) will be required for all major development located outside of the settlement area.

Green Space Standards and New Green Space Provision

- 10.38 National policy states that policies on the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate²⁹. The Council prepared the 'Playing Pitch Strategy' (2023) which surveyed provision across the District and provides recommendations for future potential provision.
- 10.39 Green Space requirements need to be set out for future development, including amenity green space, areas for nature and biodiversity, parks and gardens, allotments, and children's play areas. The proportion of any site to be set aside will be assessed in accordance with standards and guidance set out in the policy with regard to the extent, nature and accessibility of existing provision, the suitability of the site and the form of the proposed development. Policy sets out expectations in terms of future maintenance and management of green spaces. Detailed information on the District's Local Green Spaces is provided in the 'Open Spaces Study' (2023).

²⁹ NPPF paragraph 98

NEB 11 - Green Space Standards and New Green Space Provision

New development in the District should meet the standards set out in this policy.

- a) New Green Space** - The creation of new green space within a new development must be based on the following approach:
- i. The new green space should be provided within the development site to meet the needs of the new development and any existing local green space needs and deficiencies, with suitable arrangements provided for ongoing management to be secured by planning obligation;
 - ii. Larger strategic open spaces/play areas are preferable where possible so as to maximise use options and ease management and maintenance;
 - iii. Spaces should be multi-functional and provide varied aspects for all age groups in an appropriate way so as to avoid potential conflict between different age groups;
 - iv. As well as good general public access and appropriate recreational and sporting use, design and management should also seek to be for the benefit of ecological/wildlife habitats;
 - v. Design and management arrangements should incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) features as needed.
- b) Quantity Standards** - The quantity of new green space provision required for new housing development is set out in Table 10.1 below. Where possible, all green space should be multi-functional and provide for various types of users.

Table 10.1 - Quantity Standards

Type of green space		Quantity standard (sqm per person)
Multi-functional green space	Amenity green space (including use as multi-functional space to include playing pitch provision)	15
	Natural and semi-natural green spaces	5
	Parks and gardens (including use as multi-functional space to include playing pitch provision)	12
Total multi-functional green space standard		32
Allotments		4.5
Children's play areas		0.6
Teenage areas		0.18

- c) New Development Provision** - Developments should provide new multi-functional green spaces as set out on Table 10.2 below.
- i. In some exceptional cases it may be acceptable to for this

requirement to be in the form of a financial payment to support maintenance and improvement of an existing green space; this space should be located within the accessibility standard set out in Table 10.3 and be suitable to serve the residents of the new housing.

- ii. Children’s play facilities will generally be designed and provided in accordance with national best practice guidance (set out by Fields in Trust (FIT)³⁰), or in other local guidance. Where additional play facilities are required, provision through the enhancement of existing play facilities or through the creation of new, larger, and strategic play facilities, (rather than smaller facilities within the housing area) may be preferred.

Table 10.2 - New Development Provision

Size of development	Provision required
30 – 100 dwellings	Amenity green space and play areas on site
100+ dwellings	Full provision on site

Table 10.3 - Accessibility Standards

Type of green space		Accessibility standard (metres) *
Multi-functional green space	Amenity green space (including use as multi-functional space to include playing pitch provision)	300
	Natural and semi-natural green spaces	600 (walking) 5,000 (driving)
	Parks and gardens (including use as multi-functional space to include playing pitch provision)	500
Allotments		600
Children’s play areas		Younger children: 300 Older children: 450 Strategic play area: 900
Teenage areas		600 (walking) 1,500 (cycling)

* Distance from nearest edge of the development site.

³⁰ Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard
<http://www.fieldsintrust.org/Upload/file/PAD/FINAL%20ONLINE%20Planning%20Guidance%20for%20Outdoor%20Sport%20and%20Play%20Provision%20Oct%202015.pdf>

Chapter 11 - Historic Environment

Objective

Conserve and enhance our rich and varied historic assets and their settings, celebrating their local distinctiveness and character

Introduction

- 11.1 St Albans District has a rich and varied historic environment which greatly contributes to a distinctive local 'sense of place' and a high quality of life for residents, businesses and stakeholders. The District has a large number of Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Scheduled Monuments, as well as Registered Parks and Gardens, locally identified non-designated heritage assets and extensive archaeological remains. However, these irreplaceable resources can be vulnerable when neglected or when development is proposed.
- 11.2 Heritage and the historic environment also play an important role in other areas of sustainable development including as a source of economic prosperity, and growth³¹. The historic environment is an essential aspect of a distinct and special place which is more likely to prosper. This in turn, not only helps visitor economies, but other areas of economic growth and sustainable development³².
- 11.3 In National Policy, the historic environment is one aspect of the environmental objective which must be achieved when pursuing sustainable development³³. National Policy places great emphasis on conserving and enhancing the historic environment and local distinctiveness. However, the NPPF makes it clear that whilst great weight should be given to the conservation of heritage assets, this should be balanced against facilitating development where it provides benefits which outweigh harm.
- 11.4 Currently the District's designated heritage assets³⁴ include:
- 17 Scheduled Monuments
 - 19 Conservation Areas
 - Registered Parks and Gardens
 - Over 800 listed buildings
- 11.5 In addition, there are numerous other heritage assets that, whilst not designated, are considered to be nationally, regionally or locally significant. The Historic Environment Record maintained by Hertfordshire County Council forms a primary source of information for planning, and development-control management work.
- 11.6 Non-designated built heritage assets will also be periodically reviewed and added formally to the 'local list'. Keeping and periodically reviewing a formal list means that

³¹ Historic England, Heritage and the Economy 2020 - <https://historicengland.org.uk/content/heritage-counts/pub/2020/heritage-and-the-economy-2020/>

³² NPPF paragraph 7-8

³³ NPPF Paragraph 8

³⁴ NPPF Glossary

these non-designated heritage assets can be recognised and form a material planning consideration.

- 11.7 As part of a proactive strategy for the conservation of the historic environment, the Council has maintained a local list of heritage at risk within the District since 1993. This is a list of heritage assets which are most at risk of being lost as a result of neglect, decay or inappropriate development. The Council works with owners and occupiers to find new, appropriate uses and solutions to secure the future of heritage assets so that they can be positively removed from the list. This is used in conjunction with Historic England's national register of heritage at risk.
- 11.8 Over the lifetime of the Plan, a programme of work will be carried out to appraise the Districts Conservation Areas and produce character statements and consider amending boundaries where appropriate. Priority will be given to those which are the oldest and/or most in need of updating and, where applicable, have the highest development pressure. The 19 Conservation Areas are shown on the Policies Map.
- 11.9 Other guidance documents relating to detailed design guidance for listed buildings and development within conservation areas will be produced throughout the lifetime of the Plan. Where this is pursued these documents will form a material planning consideration.
- 11.10 The Council will seek high quality design for all new development and accordingly proposals should also comply with the policies within the High Quality Design Chapter, with particular reference to policy DE5, DES 6, DES7 and DES8, where these have implications for proposals affecting heritage assets. The Council will produce guidance for where these policies affect heritage assets, including guidance on the design of shopfronts and advertisements within the Conservation Area.

Strategic Policy SP11 – Historic Environment

The Council will balance the need for growth with the proper conservation and enhancement of the historic environment. When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight will be given to the asset's conservation and its setting. The Council will have a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment through:

- a) Maintaining a strong presumption in favour of the retention, conservation and enhancement of heritage assets and their setting according to their significance;
- b) Ensuring new development makes a positive contribution to local distinctiveness and character;
- c) Ensuring appropriate consideration is given to the archaeological impact of new development and management of the archaeological resource of the District;
- d) Identifying, and monitoring sites on the national register of Heritage at Risk or on the Council's 'At Risk' register and work towards removing them positively from the register;
- e) Periodic reviews of Conservation Areas and other locally identified non-designated assets; and

Designated heritage assets

- 11.11 Designated heritage assets include Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, and Registered Parks and Gardens. The districts contains a large number of designated heritage assets and their conservation and preservation is an important consideration within the planning process and these assets are recognised within specific legislation³⁵.
- 11.12 National Policy states that great weight should be given to the conservation of designated heritage assets irrespective of the scale of the harm a proposed scheme would have³⁶. National Policy also states that any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset, should require clear and convincing justification³⁷ and that sufficient information should be provided to assess the proposals impact on the heritage assets significance. The Council will require applicants to assess the significance of any designated heritage asset affected by the proposals, including from development within its setting, and justify and detail the impact of the proposal upon the significance of the asset.
- 11.13 The NPPF sets out that substantial harm to designated heritage assets should be avoided, unless it is demonstrated that such a loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits which outweigh that harm or specific exception criteria are met³⁸. The NPPF also sets out that where proposals will lead to less than substantial harm to a designated heritage asset, it is necessary to weigh any harm against the public benefits of the proposal including (where appropriate) securing an asset's optimum viable use³⁹.
- 11.14 The Council will require proposals to be designed to respond to the designated heritage assets they affect. Proposals shall appropriately consider the characteristics and significance of each designated heritage asset affected and be demonstrably be designed to minimise any potential adverse impacts. Particular care will be required when considering the scale, layout, design and materials of development proposals within, or adjacent to, conservation areas. Proposals should be designed to complement their surroundings and preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the Conservation Area. Similarly development within registered parks and gardens will be required to suitably respect the special interest and characteristics of the designed landscape. Scheduled monument consent is required for works to a scheduled monument and this process is administered through Historic England.

HE1 – Designated heritage assets

- a) Development which could affect designated heritage assets or their setting shall be accompanied by a heritage statement, proportionate to the scale of the proposal, which will include:
- i. An assessment of the significance of the heritage asset, including

³⁵ Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953

³⁶ NPPF Paragraph 199

³⁷ NPPF Paragraph 200

³⁸ NPPF Paragraph 201

³⁹ NPPF Paragraph 202

any contribution made by their setting;

- ii. Reference the appropriate Historic Environment Record including conservation area character statements; and
- iii. An impact assessment of the proposed development including the measures taken to avoid, or if not possible to minimise any identified harm and any mitigation measures.

Listed Buildings

- b) The Council will support works to listed buildings which will:
 - i. Preserve their special architectural and/or historic interest;
 - ii. Relate sensitively to the period and architectural detail of the building; and
 - iii. Protect or, where appropriate restore, features, detail and fabric of significance;
 - iv. Development which affects the setting or views of listed buildings will be supported where they take opportunities to enhance or better reveal their significance.

Conservation Areas

- c) Development which is within Conservation Areas, or affects their setting, or views, should preserve features and characteristics which contribute to their special character and appearance, including any identified in an adopted Conservation Area Character Statement, and take opportunities to enhance the significance of the Conservation Area and their setting, wherever possible. Proposals should:
 - i. Retain the existing urban grain, street patterns and hierarchy, historic building lines and groups of buildings which contribute to the special character and appearance of the area;
 - ii. Retain and reinforce local distinctiveness and character, appropriately responding to the local height, massing, scale, form, proportions, and architectural detailing, including wall to window ratios;
 - iii. Appropriately respond to the local areas roofscape, reflecting the local roof forms. Dormers shall be supported where they are appropriately sized, avoid terracing effects, and are appropriate to the local roofscape. Flat roof dormers and other flat roof forms (such as crown roofs) will only be supported where they are characteristic of the local area;
 - iv. Use good quality, natural materials which have good long-term weathering characteristics and are compatible with the local distinctiveness of the area;
 - v. Retain the public realm characteristics which contribute to the special character and appearance of the area including surface materials street furniture, boundary treatments and the balance of soft and hard landscaping; and
 - vi. Where relevant and practical, remove features which have a negative impact on the character and appearance of the

Conservation Area.

Registered Parks and Gardens

- d) Development will be supported where it respects and appropriately responds to the design, character, appearance and setting of registered parks and gardens and safeguards those features which contribute to their significance and are important to their character and appearance.

Scheduled Monuments

- e) Scheduled Monuments and their settings will be preserved, and opportunities taken to enhance and communicate their significance, where appropriate.

Non-designated heritage assets

11.15 The District's rich heritage is also comprised of historic buildings, designed landscapes and archaeological deposits which though not designated, are of local interest and contribute to a strong sense of place. Non-designated heritage assets are identified by the Council and are buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes noted as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions but which are not formally designated heritage assets.

11.16 Non-designated heritage assets may be identified for conservation during the development management process or other planning processes to assess local character. These include conservation area appraisals, emerging Neighbourhood Plans and when assessing potential development sites.

11.17 National Policy states that when assessing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset. The Council will seek the retention of non-designated heritage assets and their characteristics and features of interest which contribute to their significance.

HE2 – Non-designated heritage assets

- a) Proposals affecting non-designated heritage assets should ensure they are conserved, responding appropriately to their significance. Any special features which contribute to a non-designated heritage asset's significance should be retained and, where possible and well evidenced, reinstated.
- b) Demolition of buildings identified on the local list of buildings shall only be supported where there are acceptable and detailed plans for any redevelopment which show what is to be substituted and how it will fit into the area, and either:
 - i. Sufficient evidence is provided which demonstrates that the viability of alternative uses for the buildings has been fully explored (including the possibility of sale to an alternative user) and that the building cannot at reasonable expense be retained; or
 - ii. Public benefits will decisively outweigh the loss resulting from demolition.

Archaeology

- 11.18 St Albans is rich in archaeological heritage, spanning the whole range of British pre-history and history. The Roman city of Verulamium was the third largest town in Roman Britain. It developed alongside a major Iron Age settlement in the valley of the River Ver. Other highly significant sites are Beech Bottom, the replica of the Mohne Dam, Devils Dyke and the monastic earthworks of St Albans Abbey. Much of the archaeology of the District is buried with a continual process of new sites being identified as a result of survey, development and aerial photography
- 11.19 Archaeological sites are of considerable importance academically, educationally, as tourist attractions, as landscape or townscape features and as places of local interest. The archaeological deposits are a non-renewable resource and once damaged or destroyed they cannot be replaced.
- 11.20 There will be a presumption in favour of the physical preservation in situ of nationally important archaeological remains (whether scheduled or not). The more important the asset, the greater the weight will be for preservation in situ. In accordance with national legislation, preservation of remains may require the refusal of development that could be detrimental.
- 11.21 Developers will be required to make appropriate provision for the recording of any heritage assets adversely impacted by development and to make provision for full analysis and reporting, and to ensure this, and any archive generated, is publicly accessible. Provision will be required to enhance the Urban Archaeological Database and to provide for the long-term curation of the archive.
- 11.22 Where appropriate, provision will be required for interpretation and access in situ, where public access is possible without detriment to the site, or at a suitable off-site location, and for realising the social, cultural, economic, and environment benefits of the historic environment.

HE3 – Archaeology

The Council will seek to protect the District's unique and significant heritage assets. This policy seeks to ensure that the damage to archaeological remains caused by development is minimised; that well preserved remains of national significance are preserved in situ; and that development in St Albans protects and enhances the city's unique archaeological and historic character.

Development which would adversely affect the significance of, or fail to preserve or enhance, a designated or known archaeological site (including a Scheduled Monument) will not be permitted.

Development may be permitted following appropriate assessment of the significance of archaeological deposits, and if important remains would not be damaged or the character of the site adversely affected. Proposals should define that:

- a) Sites of archaeological interest will be clearly identified and protected, and sites that become known, whether through formal evaluation as part of a Planning Application or otherwise, will similarly be protected according to their importance;

- b) Where appropriate pre-determination desk-based assessment, and/or an archaeological field evaluation, must be submitted where proposals are on or adjacent to sites of known archaeological interest or sites believed to possess potential archaeological significance and the results submitted in support of a planning application;
- c) Where the loss of the whole or a part of a heritage asset's archaeological significance is justified, planning conditions will be attached to a planning permission to ensure that an adequate record is made of the heritage asset before it is lost. Appropriate publication and interpretation (such as public access/interpretation) will be required.

11.23 The Council will seek to ensure the conservation of remains designated as Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Sites for Local Preservation and to resist their destruction through development works. Developments near to archaeological sites and monuments have the potential to damage the character and historic atmosphere of remains.

HE4 – Scheduled Ancient Monuments

Planning applications for development which would adversely affect a Scheduled Ancient Monument, as listed in Appendix 3, will be refused on archaeological grounds unless prior scheduled monument consent⁴⁰ has been obtained from the Secretary of State for the Environment. If scheduled monument consent has been granted, the Council will seek to preserve the amenity of ancient monuments by resisting proposals within scheduled areas which would detract from their character.

HE5 – Archaeological Sites for Local Preservation

Planning permission will not be granted for development which would adversely affect the remains within, or the character of, the sites for local preservation as defined in Appendix 4. Development may be permitted in exceptional circumstances, following evaluation, if the Council is satisfied that important remains would not be destroyed or the character of the site adversely affected. The evaluation, which may involve limited excavation or other work (e.g. geophysical survey) is to be carried out by the Council or an archaeologist approved by the Council. Planning permissions will normally be subject to conditions requiring facilities for the Council to record remains by excavation in advance of construction and/or during construction.

11.24 Preservation is not essential in other Areas of Archaeological significance. However, it is often crucial that a record of the area be made, normally by excavation, in advance of or during development.

⁴⁰ As required by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

HE6 – Archaeological Sites Subject to a Recording Condition

Within the sites listed in Appendix 5, the Council will not normally refuse planning applications on archaeological grounds. However, following evaluation, planning permissions may be subjected to a condition requiring facilities for the Council to record remains by excavation in advance of construction and/or during construction. The evaluation, which may involve limited excavation or other work (e.g. geophysical survey).

Change of use and heritage assets

- 11.25 Keeping heritage assets in a viable use, where capable, is important for their maintenance and continuing conservation. A heritage asset's use should be viable in the long-term to avoid any unnecessary successive changes to a heritage asset. Uses can also contribute to the significance of a heritage asset, for example a public house or church a focus point for a community. Within area designations such as conservation areas, these patterns of use can be important in defining the character and function of the area. The Council will seek to maintain and uses which contribute to the significance of a heritage asset.
- 11.26 Changing the use of a heritage asset, such a listed building, can involve considerable and irreversible changes and it is important that any proposed change of use is based on an understanding of the heritage assets significance, its relationship to the wider setting and its sensitivity to, and capacity for, change. National guidance states that the optimum viable use of a heritage asset *"is the one likely to cause the least harm to the significance of the asset, not just through necessary initial changes, but also as a result of subsequent wear and tear and likely future change"*⁴¹. However, if there is only one economically viable use, then this would be the optimum viable use. The Council will support applications which seek the optimum viable use of heritage assets, or uses which are consistent with their long-term conservation and do not cause harm to the significance of the heritage asset.
- 11.27 Changing the use of a listed building can potentially result in considerable, and sometimes irreversible change. The Council will seek sufficient information on the changes necessary for a proposed change of use to ensure that the impact of the change of use is fully assessed as part of the application process.

HE7 – Change of use and heritage assets

- a) The contribution of existing uses to the character, function and appearance of conservation areas will be considered when assessing a change of use application. Applications for change of use will be refused where the proposed use, or the loss of the existing use would cause harm to the significance a Conservation Area, taking into account cumulative impacts.
- b) Any proposed change of use to a Listed Building, will be consistent with the Listed Buildings long-term conservation. Proposals will be supported where:
 - i. The proposed use can be accommodated without causing harm to

⁴¹ NPPG Paragraph: 015 Reference ID: 18a-015-20190723, last accessed 13/12/2022, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/conserving-and-enhancing-the-historic-environment#contents>

the significance of the building and its setting; and

- ii. The proposed use would not diminish its ability to remain in a viable use in the long term;

Or

- iii. The proposals are sufficiently demonstrated to be the optimum viable use⁴² for the building (including the possibility of sale to an alternative user).

Proposals should include sufficient information to assess the impact of the change of use on the significance of the listed building. Where appropriate and proportionate, proposals should include information on subdivision and servicing.

Responsible retro-fitting

11.28 The Council is committed to tackling the climate emergency and reducing the carbon footprint of the District. As the same time, the Council is committed to conserving the District's historic environment and preserving and enhancing its heritage assets, The Councils aim is to ensure a balanced approach between protecting the District's heritage assets and reducing the carbon footprint of the District.

11.29 Vernacular buildings and traditional construction have evolved over time and respond to local conditions. Due to the nature of their construction, historic buildings often do not appear to meet the performance of modern construction, particularly if standardised approaches to assessing energy efficiency are used⁴³. Adaptive re-use of building saves significantly on embodied carbon and energy in a buildings fabric, so focusing on improving environmental performance is an important part of tackling climate change.

11.30 Acceptable levels of intervention will vary dependent upon the impact on the significance of the heritage asset in question. Additionally, traditionally constructed buildings have different technical requirements and specifications, and inappropriate retrofitting can cause long-term problems to the condition of a building. Accordingly the Council will support works to heritage assets where they are based upon a thorough understanding of the heritage assets significance and the environmental performance of the existing building. Works should be based on the current best practise guidance for retro-fitting buildings and should, where appropriate reference energy efficiency guidance form Historic England⁴⁴, and other relevant bodies, such as the Sustainable Traditional Buildings Alliance⁴⁵ or the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers' guidance on building services.

HE8 – Responsible retrofitting

- a) Proposals to enhance the environmental performance of heritage assets will be supported where:

⁴² Optimum viable use as defined as NPG Paragraph: 015 Reference ID: 18a-015-20190723, last accessed 13/12/2022, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/conserving-and-enhancing-the-historic-environment#contents>

⁴³ <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/retrofit-and-energy-efficiency-in-historic-buildings/energy-performance-certificates/>

⁴⁴ <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/retrofit-and-energy-efficiency-in-historic-buildings/>

⁴⁵ <https://stbauk.org/>

- i. The proposed works are designed to preserve or enhance the significance of the heritage assets affected by the proposals; and
 - ii. Proposed works are designed to have a sensitive and hierarchical approach to improving performance, including a statement which demonstrates a thorough understanding of the building's environmental performance and is accompanied by an assessment of the building's current fabric and energy performance and the impact of the proposed works on both the environmental performance and the significance of the heritage asset; and
 - iii. The design and specification of the works would not compromise the heritage asset through inappropriate interventions, including through aggravating long-term deterioration
- b) Works to remove or rectify previous inappropriate retrofitting adaptations will be supported where there is an appropriate scheme for replacement works and the method for removal would preserve or enhance the heritage asset.

Chapter 12 – High Quality Design

Objective

Achieve high quality, innovative, well designed and locally distinctive developments in existing and new places.

Introduction

- 12.1 St Albans District has a varied built environment with a rich heritage that includes historic buildings and a wealth of archaeology. The largest settlements are the historic cathedral City of St Albans and the town of Harpenden. The District has several smaller settlements including London Colney, Redbourn, Wheathampstead, Bricket Wood and How Wood, each with their own character. While historic centres are a distinctive feature for many settlements, much of the District's developed areas comprise a residential suburban form that was built in the late Nineteenth or Twentieth centuries. The majority of the District is designated Green Belt, and the farmland and woodland helps to form the setting for the city, towns and villages. Land values are high and the District is subject to significant development pressure, which presents both challenges and opportunities.
- 12.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)⁴⁶ sets out that the creation of high quality, beautiful and sustainable buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve. A successfully designed development will be a positive addition to its surroundings. New development should help to create or enhance a sense of place where people want to live, work and visit, and which helps make development acceptable to existing communities. Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development that supports the Council's approach to tackling the Climate Emergency.
- 12.3 The National Design Guide⁴⁷ reflects the government's priorities and provides a common overarching framework for design. The District's Strategic Sites Design Guidance⁴⁸ (SSDG) accords with the approach taken in national guidance and sets out design principles and a Masterplanning process for the high quality design of new strategic-scale developments⁴⁹, tailored to the local area context. The SSDG should be followed for the design of strategic-scale development on the edge of existing urban areas, as set out in Chapter 3 of this Plan; and it may usefully inform the design of other significant or complex development. Furthermore, for most significant or complex schemes it will be beneficial to undertake formal design review.
- 12.4 In addition to Government and local guidance, designs should be informed by other best practice guidance including Building for a Healthy Life, along with other national and County Council guidance as appropriate. Further design policy may be set out in neighbourhood plans or in future design-related development plan documents.

⁴⁶ NPPF paragraph 126

⁴⁷ National Design Guide 2021

⁴⁸ The Strategic Sites Design Guidance is formed of four documents: Design Principles, Design Toolkit, Masterplan Toolkit and Employment Toolkit, and is available via the SADC website

⁴⁹ Residential development of at least 100 dwellings or non-residential development of at least 10,000m² floorspace

Strategic Policy SP12 – High-Quality Design

High quality design is an important component of sustainable development across the District. New development should:

- a) Respond positively to its context;
- b) Be of high quality architecture;
- c) Enhance public space;
- d) Make efficient use of land; and
- e) Provide for a high standard of amenity.

Design and Layout of New Development

- 12.5 The Council requires new development to respond positively to its context and provide for a high standard of amenity. Development with high quality architecture, including innovative and contemporary styles where appropriate, will be encouraged. The design quality of development should be retained through to completion, and samples or further information regarding materials and detailed design features may be required by condition in order to ensure high quality design is delivered.
- 12.6 National policy sets out that policies should ensure that developments create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible and which promote health and well-being, with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users, and where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience. In providing for a high standard of amenity, the design of new development should take account of the needs of users including where they may change over time, and should seek to address the issue of crime and disorder. This may be through following the principles set out in 'Secured by Design', which is the official UK Police security initiative supporting the principles of 'designing out crime' through physical security, or through following other best practice guidance.

DES1 – Design of New Development

New development should:

- a) Be of a layout that takes account of the character and pattern of development in the locality and avoids prejudicing the future development potential of adjacent sites;
- b) Respond positively to its context, taking into account the local distinctiveness of an area, its scale, form, massing, setting, height, character and building line;
- c) Take an inclusive approach that provides for a diverse community including people with disabilities, and be adaptable for changing need over time;
- d) Be designed to minimise the likelihood of crime and antisocial behaviour;
- e) Use high quality materials with good long-term weathering characteristics;
- f) Provide high quality detailing that adds to the visual interest and distinctiveness of the building; and
- g) Provide active frontages to the ground floor of buildings which interact with and animate the surrounding areas and are visually interesting.

Public Space

- 12.7 Public spaces are streets, squares and any other spaces that are open to all. High quality and well-functioning public space is important for creating places that support communities and businesses, and can contribute to improved health and wellbeing. Spaces should be accessible, inclusive and safe, and should cater to a range of needs including spaces for rest and shelter, as well as more active spaces. Public spaces when well-designed can encourage sustainable and active forms of travel that help to reduce carbon emissions. Public space is space that is open to all, irrespective of ownership.
- 12.8 Public spaces and the buildings around them should be designed as an integrated whole. Private spaces also contribute to the quality of the public realm, and the interaction between the private and public should be a consideration in the design approach. Development proposals should deliver enhancements to public space both as part of the development and through appropriate contributions. Proposals should comply with other relevant policies, particularly those within Chapter 10, Natural Environment and Biodiversity, and Chapter 11, Historic Environment.
- 12.9 Street furniture includes features such as benches, planters, bollards, railings and signage. These are important elements in creating successful public spaces and must be provided through appropriate and coherent design; and ongoing management and maintenance of street furniture is vital. Poorly designed street furniture, or the cumulative impact of badly coordinated decisions, can lead to visual discord and clutter that negatively affect the character of an area and can provide barriers to movement of pedestrians and cyclists.

DES2 – Public Space

Proposals that create or affect public space should:

- a) Create legible and easily navigated routes and spaces that are designed for all users and make appropriate links to existing movement routes;
- b) Prioritise pedestrian and bicycle movements;
- c) Contribute to the creation of places where car movements interact safely with pedestrians and bicycles, and where cars and associated infrastructure is not visually dominant; with any parking, garaging and service access providing a visually attractive setting;
- d) Create an attractive environment with soft landscaping that provides appropriate planting of trees and shrubs, incorporates and protects existing planting and landscape features of value, integrates naturalised Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), and supports biodiversity conservation and enhancement. Satisfactory provision must be made for future growth and long term maintenance and management;
- e) Provide and/or protect spaces for community events, including street markets;
- f) Provide appropriate street furniture and consider providing suitable public art where appropriate; which is designed to be compatible with the surrounding area and to not result in visual clutter;
- g) Retain heritage features including historic light columns, railings and other

street furniture or townscape features;

- h) Provide surfacing materials that are compatible with and appropriate to the character and appearance of the site's context;
- i) Be designed to integrate public space with surrounding buildings and landscaping in a coherent and attractive manner, with clear transitions between the private and public realm;
- j) Only include lighting provision that is appropriate to the character of the location, increases safety at night, and that does not negatively affect the amenity of nearby residents and users of the public spaces, or ecology; and
- k) Avoid enclosing publicly accessible amenity land where this would detract from the character of the surrounding area or lead to other negative impacts on amenity.

Efficient use of Land

- 12.10 National Policy sets out that planning policies should promote an effective use of land in meeting the need for homes and other uses, while safeguarding and improving the environment and ensuring safe and healthy living conditions. The Council's approach is to encourage higher density development within the District's more sustainable and accessible areas, and to require that new development makes efficient use of land. This approach assists in meeting development needs within settlements and in reducing the pressure on the Green Belt. Furthermore, concentrating development in locations with more options for active travel and public transport is in line with the aims of national policy and supports the Council's Sustainability and Climate Crisis Strategy.
- 12.11 Higher densities can often be achieved without increasing building heights, through consideration of design, layout, building type and housing mix. For example, density may be increased through incorporation of suitably designed flats, maisonettes or cluster houses. Careful analysis and consideration of the site's context and constraints should be taken to ensure denser development does not detract from the character of an area. The optimum density for a particular development will be influenced by these site-specific factors and constraints.
- 12.12 There are many ways in which density can be measured but the simplest and most common way is dwellings per hectare (dph); with net dph representing the density of the developable area only, excluding land for infrastructure, open space, main roads, schools and community facilities. In accordance with previous Council density studies, current best practice and the need to make efficient use of land; it is considered that 40 net dph is a minimum density that can be generally readily achieved throughout the District. Furthermore, in existing higher-density areas, new development should not fall below the density of the site context.

DES3 – Efficient Use of Land

Development proposals should make efficient use of land. Development should:

- a) Where additional residential units are proposed, achieve at least the density of the existing site context or 40 net dwellings per hectare, whichever is higher; and
- b) Optimise site capacity within city and town centres and other locations that are well served by public transport. This requires development to be of the most appropriate form and land use for the site, having regard to site context

and constraints.

Development proposals that do not make efficient use of land will be refused.

Extensions to Existing Buildings

- 12.13 A high proportion of planning applications are for extensions to existing buildings. This form of development commonly leads to impacts in relation to amenity, landscaping and parking, and reference to such matters and the related policies is included in the policy; development must also be acceptable in relation to other planning matters where applicable.

DES4 – Extensions to Existing Buildings

Proposals for extensions to existing buildings should conform to the requirements below:

- a) **Scale and character** - The development must relate well to the scale, character and appearance of the streetscene and area;
- b) **Compatibility with existing building** - Extensions and alterations must be compatible with the architectural style, roof form, fenestration, detailing and materials of the existing building;
- c) **Cumulative effect** - In areas of specific and repetitive character, application proposals that would, if repeated, lead to an adverse cumulative effect will be refused;
- d) **Terracing effect** - Side extensions, and other development where the cumulative effect would result in an undesirable terracing effect, must be a minimum of 1m from the property / party boundary above ground floor level;
- e) **Landscaping** - The development must protect and enhance the landscaping of the site and street scene or mitigate negative impacts, in accordance with Policy NEB8;
- f) **Impacts on adjoining Property** - The light, privacy and amenity of adjoining property must not be unacceptably harmed, and the development must be in accordance with the amenity standards in Policy DES5;
- g) **Single storey extensions** - Single storey extensions, whether at ground floor level or above, should not normally extend more than 3 metres along a party boundary;
- h) **Annex accommodation** - Annex accommodation for relatives, dependents or staff must be subordinate to the main dwelling and designed in such a way that it can be easily (re-)incorporated into the main house accommodation if use as an annex ceases. A condition may be added to ensure that the annex remains ancillary to the main dwelling; and
- i) **Parking** - Parking provision must be in accordance with Policy TRA4.

Residential Amenity Standards

- 12.14 National policy sets out that planning policies should ensure that developments create places with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users. Impacts on users of both the new development and neighbouring sites should be considered. Factors to consider include a development's impacts in relation to privacy, sunlight, daylight and outlook, internal space standards and amenity space standards.

- 12.15 Careful consideration of design, layout and orientation is essential to ensure proposals do not adversely affect others, and to ensure they provide for the wellbeing of occupiers. New residential development should provide adequate internal living space and external amenity space. The amount and type of private outdoor amenity space required will vary depending on the type of unit and the location of the development.
- 12.16 Policy DES5 replaces the amenity standards set out in “Design advice Leaflet No. 1: Design and Layout of New Housing” (1999) and is applicable to new buildings and extensions.

DES5 – Residential Amenity Standards

- a) **Privacy and separation** – Proposals for both residential and non-residential development should provide for an appropriate degree of privacy for existing users of adjacent sites and for future users of the proposed development, and should avoid compromising the future development of adjoining land for residential uses. Privacy should be provided for habitable rooms⁵⁰ of dwellings, and to a lesser extent for private residential gardens and other private amenity areas and to adjacent sites with potential for residential development. Impacts will be less severe where affected rooms or private amenity spaces are already overlooked to some degree, or where there is effective mitigation. The following standards and distances should normally be achieved:
- i. New balconies or upper-floor windows serving habitable rooms should not lead to a harmful degree of overlooking for existing and future users of both the new development and neighbouring sites;
 - ii. A minimum distance of 22m should be achieved between upper floor rear windows of habitable rooms and facing windows of habitable rooms; and
 - iii. A minimum distance of 11m should be achieved between new upper floor rear windows and the rear boundary.
- b) **Daylight and Sunlight** – Development proposals should provide adequate access to daylight and sunlight for any new residential units and should maintain adequate access to daylight and sunlight for occupants of neighbouring sites, including adjoining land with potential for residential development. Development should:
- i. Accord with the Building Research Establishment (BRE) guide “Site Layout Planning for Daylight and Sunlight, A Guide to Good Practice”⁵¹; and
 - ii. Maximise the provision of dual aspect dwellings; proposals for single aspect dwellings should demonstrate that they will all provide for adequate passive ventilation, daylight and privacy, and avoid overheating.
- c) **Internal space standards** – New residential development must meet or exceed the nationally described space standards⁵².

⁵⁰ Habitable rooms are rooms used or intended to be used for sleeping or living, but does not include bath or toilet facilities, service rooms, corridors, laundry rooms, hallways or utility rooms.

⁵¹ As set out in the 2022 edition, or as amended in subsequent editions

⁵² ‘Technical housing standards – nationally described space standard’ of March 2015 (or a subsequent amendment)

d) **Private amenity space** - New residential development must provide sufficient private amenity space for future occupants, and should normally achieve the following amenity space provision⁵³ - :

- i. Studios – 15m² for each room e.g. 75m² for a block of 5 x 1 bed studios;
- ii. Flats – 20m² for the first bedroom of each flat and 10m² for each additional bedroom e.g. 180m² for a block of 6 x 2 bed flats. Communal amenity space should be provided for flatted developments, although ground floor flats may be able to benefit from private space immediately adjacent to the residential unit;
- iii. Houses/ bungalows - private gardens – 40m² for the first bedroom and 20m² for each additional bedroom e.g. 80m² for a 3 bedroom house.

Building Heights

- 12.17 The District's current built form is predominantly suburban and low-rise, with building heights generally of no more than three storeys. Taller buildings are predominantly located around St Albans City centre and adjacent areas, in particular around St Albans City Station. The historic core of the city contains many designated heritage assets, with St Albans Abbey as a dominant feature.
- 12.18 Buildings which are significantly taller than the surrounding built form can have a considerable impact on townscape. Accordingly, their design should be carefully considered and applications must be sufficiently supported including by accurate visual representations and any relevant technical assessments, to enable proper assessment.
- 12.19 St Albans City centre sits on a hill adjacent to the Ver valley which allows for long-distance views of the historic city and its skyline. While the Abbey dominates, there are other landmarks which punctuate the skyline, and the traditional clay and slate pitched roofs create a varied and interesting roofscape. St Albans has a Building Height Control Area that protects these important characteristics of the city which contribute to the significance of the St Albans Conservation Area, St Albans Abbey and the other identified heritage assets. The potential impact that a building that is taller than the surrounding built form has on the significance of these assets will be a critical factor in the consideration of the proposal. The extent of the Building Height Control Area is shown in Figure 12.1.

DES6 – Building Heights

- a) Proposals that are significantly taller than the prevailing built form will be refused unless:
 - i. The height, massing and design of the proposed development positively responds to the character and distinctiveness of the surrounding area;
 - ii. The design positively contributes to valued townscapes and landscapes where applicable, and does not detract from important

⁵³ Only useable areas of amenity space, such as gardens, balconies and roof terraces, will be counted as contributing to the required provision. Unusable areas will be excluded, for example car parking, narrow landscaping strips, or strips of land less than 1m wide, and areas under tree canopies.

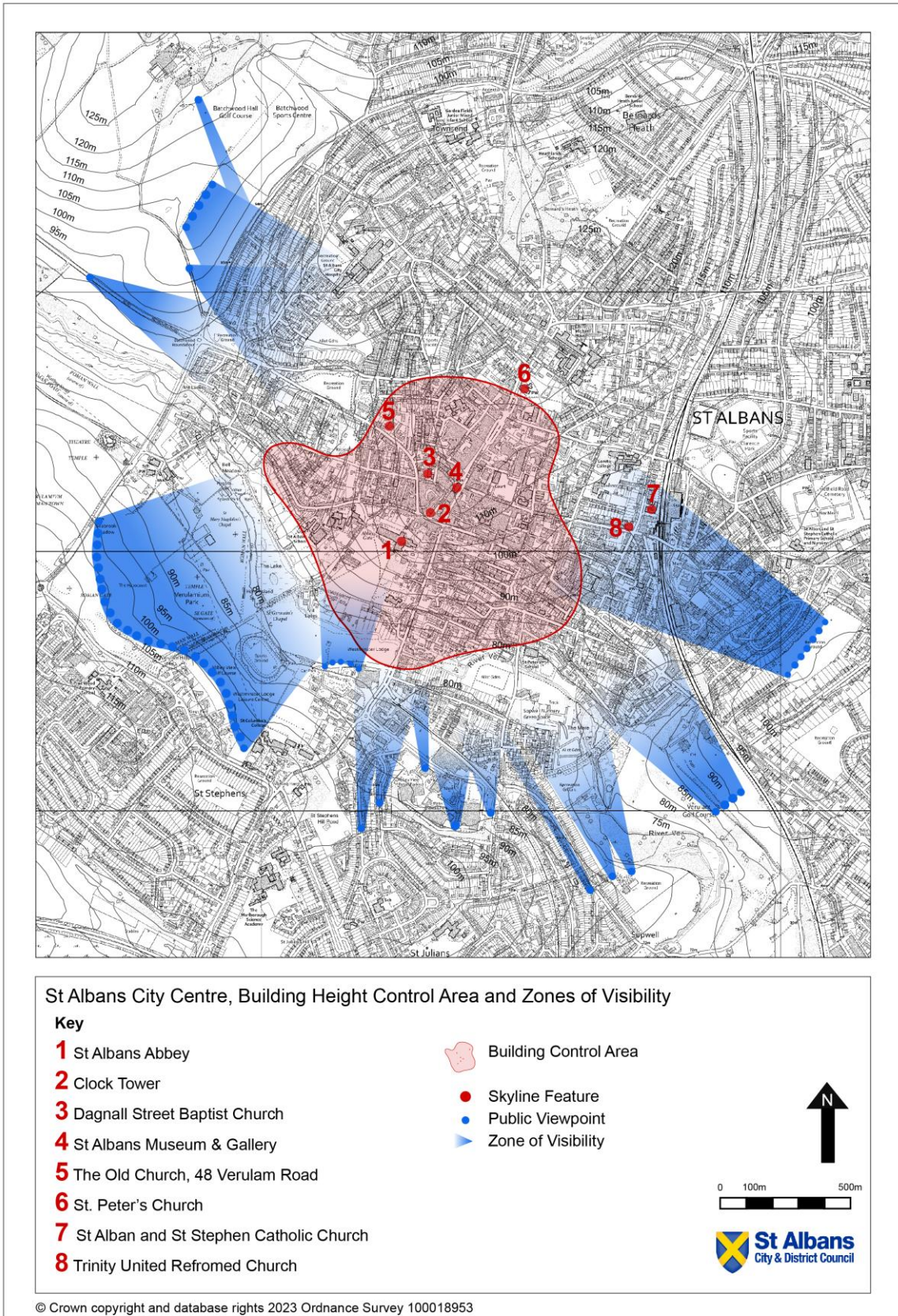
landmarks, heritage assets, key views and their settings;

- iii. The design retains the variety, features and articulation of the existing surrounding roofscape and does not result in the simplification of the roofscape through the creation of large continuous blocks of development, taking into account the location and siting of plant equipment;
- iv. The amenity of users of neighbouring buildings and open spaces would not be adversely impacted.

b) Proposals within the **Building Height Control Area** must:

- i. Not break the skyline;
- ii. Not create large and/ or bulky monotonous building forms;
- iii. Appropriately respond to the topography of the area;
- iv. Not have a negative impact from the viewpoints shown in Figure 12.1;
- v. Not mask or diminish the historic features of:
 - St Albans Abbey
 - Clock Tower
 - Upper Dagnall Street Baptist Church
 - Town Hall
 - Christ Church
 - St Peter's Church
 - St Alban and St Stephen Catholic Church
 - Trinity United Reformed Church

Figure 12.1: St Albans Building Height Control Area



Building Servicing

- 12.20 Good design considers how buildings operate in practice and how people access and use them on a day-to-day basis, both now and in future. It incorporates building servicing as an integral part of the design to ensure that the building functions properly for its users. Building servicing includes refuse storage, bicycle storage, facilities for handling post and parcel deliveries, and mechanical systems.
- 12.21 While servicing is important for all buildings, particular consideration is needed for larger buildings such as blocks of flats or offices. These buildings will generate a high number of trips by the occupants and visitors, and a significant degree of servicing activity including refuse collection and deliveries. To operate safely and effectively these buildings must accommodate the needs for different types of storage and servicing activity, along with mechanical servicing and plant.
- 12.22 Mechanical servicing and plant systems include ventilation, heating and cooling, extraction equipment, fire equipment, lifts and plumbing, water and sprinkler tanks, and micro renewables; along with associated screening and environmental health mitigation measures. The systems and equipment should be integrated into the design at an early stage to ensure high quality design.

DES7 – Building Servicing

The Council expects building servicing to be considered at an early stage in the design process to ensure a high level of integration with the development and to ensure overall design quality is not compromised. Proposals must demonstrate compliance with the following building servicing requirements, as appropriate to the scale and complexity of the development:

- a) **Refuse Storage** - Refuse and recycling storage must be accessible and should be in accordance with current local and County Council guidance unless it can be demonstrated that suitable alternative arrangements will be made. The location and design of refuse and recycling storage must not detract from the overall appearance of the development. The layout of new residential and commercial development should allow for efficient refuse collection, and should be in accordance with applicable current guidance unless it can be demonstrated that suitable alternative arrangements will be made.
- b) **Cycle Storage** - Cycle storage must be accessible, attractive, secure and safe to use with sufficient space to enable moving of cycles within the storage facility. It should be accessed externally and located close to building entrances; cycle storage in front gardens / forecourts will only be supported where it does not compromise visual amenity or access.
- c) **Parcel and Deliveries** - New flatted development should include secure, safe and convenient provision for parcel receipt and storage that should generally be located on the ground floor within the main building. The layout of new residential and commercial development should allow for efficient deliveries to occupants.
- d) **Mechanical Servicing and Plant** - Mechanical servicing and plant systems and equipment must be integrated into the overall design of the development. Proposals will be refused where mechanical services and plant equipment would have an adverse impact on the appearance of the development. Proposals should ensure that:

- i. Rooftop and external plant and lift overruns are sensitively located, away from conspicuous or prominent locations so as to minimise or negate visual impact;
- ii. Ventilation shafts, pipework and flue routes, and other ancillary service equipment such as meter boxes, are integrated into the development design and are not sited in visually intrusive locations or constructed of materials or finishes that lead to a harmful visual impact.

Shopfronts and Advertisements

- 12.23 Shopfronts, external signage and other advertisements can have significant impacts on the character of an area, and are an important factor in the amenity of town centres. When designed and placed well, these features contribute greatly to the vibrancy and vitality of the street scene and the public realm. However, when poorly designed and inappropriately placed they can create visual discord and clutter, and cumulative impacts can be severely detrimental to the character of an area.
- 12.24 A separate consent process within the planning system controls the display of advertisements, and the NPPF sets out that advertisements should be subject to control only in the interests of amenity and public safety, taking account of cumulative impacts⁵⁴.

DES8 – Shopfronts and Advertisements

- a) Proposals for new shopfronts and advertisements must not conflict with the specific guidance in the ‘Design Guidance: Shopfronts and Advertisements’ document⁵⁵.

Shopfronts

- b) Proposals for shopfronts must:
- i. Retain existing historic shopfronts and features of architectural and historic interest and, where appropriate, restore historic shopfronts;
 - ii. Reflect the scale, proportions, character and materials of the whole building and, where appropriate, adjoining buildings and the wider street scene; and
 - iii. Incorporate materials appropriate to the age and character of the building.

Advertisements

- c) Proposals for advertisements must:
- i. Preserve or enhance the significance of heritage assets;
 - ii. Avoid contributing to visual clutter, taking into account cumulative impacts, and should remove redundant signage;
 - iii. Only provide illumination where designed to respond positively to the site’s context. Internal illumination within conservation areas will be refused; and
 - iv. Not be placed above fascia level on shopfronts or above ground floor

⁵⁴ NPPF paragraph 136

⁵⁵ ‘Design Guidance: Shopfronts and Advertisements’ is available via the SADC website

level.

- d) Advertisements on buildings must respect the scale, proportions, character, features and materials of the whole building and, where appropriate, adjoining buildings and the wider street scene.
- e) Within Areas of Special Control, advertisements must preserve the special character of the District's countryside.
- f) Poster and banner advertisements will normally be resisted, particularly where they are located in residential areas, villages and conservation areas.

Chapter 13 – Public Health and Wellbeing

Objective

Promote active, healthy and sustainable communities and a high quality of life.

Introduction

- 13.1 National policy supports local authorities creating and maintaining healthy and safe communities. This chapter sets out the key areas where the Council can have a positive influence through this Plan.
- 13.2 The Royal Town Planning Institute document ‘Enabling Healthy Placemaking’ (2020) sets out that health needs to be a core consideration for planning. While the land use planning system cannot resolve all of this on its own, it can play its part to help, and health is a key thread running through the Local Plan, from encouraging active populations through priority for pedestrians and cyclists, to better quality green spaces to exercise in, and access to jobs and more affordable homes. *The District Council Contribution to Public Health* (2015), published by the Kings Fund, showed that district councils perform several key public health functions, most notably in terms of housing, leisure, green spaces and environmental health.
- 13.3 The overall health of St Albans District residents is ‘Good’ against England monitored indicators; excess weight, smoking and physical activity.
- 13.4 It is important to support and encourage an active population to help tackle health issues such as obesity and heart disease.
- 13.5 While St Albans District is wealthy overall and has a high average wage it does, however, have some areas of relatively higher deprivation in terms of income, jobs and health outcomes. Nowhere in the District comes within the top 20% most deprived areas in England as per the ONS Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Strategic Policy SP13 – Health and Wellbeing

The Council aims to improve people’s health and wellbeing and encourage them to adopt a healthy lifestyle through non-clinical initiatives. The overall priorities are to:

- Improve physical health and wellbeing;
- Improve mental health and wellbeing; and
- Reduce inequalities

These priorities will be sought through relevant policies throughout this Plan, with particular relevance to pursuing the following:

- a) Improved walking and cycle infrastructure to allow people to move around more easily using active modes of travel, so reducing air pollution and increasing levels of everyday exercise;
- b) Creating more opportunities for active play for children;
- c) Seek provision for exercise and sports, including trim trails in areas of

- open space;
- d) Consider using areas of open space to provide sensory gardens to benefit physical and mental relaxation;
- e) New development to provide new or enhance existing green spaces, where appropriate;
- f) Increased tree planting and support for biodiversity;
- g) Large developments (100+ homes) must be provided with appropriate public open space including children's playground;
- h) Ensuring major developments promote active design having regard to relevant guidance, including that from Sport England;
- i) Encourage designs that reduce community severance and improve opportunities for social interaction, including reducing the dominance of the car;
- j) Affordable housing provision so local people have more opportunities to live locally;
- k) Protect allotments and seek to create new allotment where appropriate.

Air Pollution

- 13.6 The Council recognises three main types of pollution that it can have a direct influence over; air, noise and light pollution.
- 13.7 Air pollution is identified as an issue in national policy. It is damaging to human health, as well as wildlife and ecosystems, and buildings. Much of the air pollution is caused by motor vehicles and there is one Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in St Albans District.

Noise pollution

- 13.8 Noise and light pollution are raised as issues to address in national policy. There are many sources of noise pollution, most commonly from road traffic, as well as from commerce and industry, and social, entertainment or sporting venues. Road traffic noise impacts negatively on the urban and rural areas of the District. In some cases noise pollution can affecting a person’s wellbeing. Inappropriate traffic speeds can also generate excess noise and affect the quality of the local environment and people. The DEFRA England Noise and Air Quality Viewer online shows three large noise corridors affecting the District: the M1, A1 and M25.

- 13.9 Noise pollution uses the following scale:

Not present	Present and not intrusive	Present and intrusive	Present and disruptive	Present and very disruptive
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Source: Planning Practice Guidance: Noise

- 13.10 Where noise pollution cannot be prevented, mitigation should be sought. Mitigation measures will depend on the proposed development and needs to be proportionate to the likely impact.
- 13.11 Examples of mitigation include maintaining adequate separation distances between roads sources of air pollution and people, and using green infrastructure, in particular

trees, where this can create a barrier or maintain separation between sources of pollution and receptors. Appropriate soundproofing on affected properties can be used.

HW1 – Noise and Air Pollution

Development proposals, including those for new residential dwellings, schools, nurseries and care homes and other uses which are noise and pollution sensitive, or in areas which may exceed national legislative air quality pollution limits, must carry out suitable assessments for noise / air pollution.

Proposals which are found to be affected by noise or air pollution must demonstrate suitable mitigation, including:

- a) Maintaining distances between road and other sources of noise and air pollution (including odour pollution) and people;
- b) Using green infrastructure, in particular trees, where this can create a barrier or maintain separation between sources of pollution and receptors;
- c) Appropriate means of filtration, ventilation and soundproofing on affected properties;
- d) Controlling dust and emissions from construction, operation and demolition;
- e) Use optimal layout and orientation to promote avoidance of elevated pollution without mitigation which will reduce the level of mitigation where necessary;
- f) Air quality and/or noise assessments at the earliest stage of development.

Development proposals that would generate new noise and air pollution in proximity to residential and other noise-sensitive uses must demonstrate and put in place measures to avoid or mitigate any such impacts.

Light Pollution

13.12 Artificial lighting needs to be considered when a development may increase levels of lighting, or where an area would be sensitive to prevailing levels of artificial lighting. Artificial light provides benefits such as illumination of public areas for safety and security, and extended hours for sports and recreation. It can, however, also be harmful, potentially causing sleep and physiological problems, and can negatively affect wildlife and plants.

13.13 The natural view of stars and planets are vanishing under the impacts of light pollution known as 'skyglow,' affecting scientists and the casual observer alike. The *Reduction of Intrusive Light* document by the Institute of Lighting professionals contains guidance on how to limit the impacts.

HW 2 – Light Pollution

Development must be designed to minimise or prevent any detrimental impact of external lighting on local amenity and safety, biodiversity, heritage assets, roads

and watercourses.

This includes new residential, employment, retail development, as well as sporting and entertainment venues and new roads and their associated infrastructure. This should be achieved by careful consideration of the lighting used in terms of its level of luminosity, siting, direction of the lighting beam, and hours of operation.

Redevelopment or refurbishment of existing buildings and infrastructure that are subject to planning approval should seek to minimise the impact of light pollution.

Health Impact Assessments

13.14 Health Impact Assessments consider how the local population will be affected assessing both positive and negative health impacts. Hertfordshire County Council has a Health Impact Position Statement online which outlines their position on the need for them. They are concerned about groups who are particularly vulnerable to health inequalities, which includes;

- Children and young people
- Older adults
- People with disabilities
- People from lower socio-economic groups, and
- People with long term illnesses

13.15 A Health Impact Assessment looks at wider determinants of health and in particular the effects on the vulnerable populations listed above, who are more likely to experience health inequalities.

HW3 – Health Impact Assessments

Health Impacts Assessments are required for proposals that may have an adverse impact on the immediate area and affect people living in the development and close by. More specifically, Health Impact Assessments should be provided as part of a planning application submitted for the following types of applications:

- a) Residential proposals of 100 dwellings or more (however this threshold may be reduced depending on the nature and scale of the development);
- b) Major transport infrastructure improvements, including major new roads or major new junctions, existing rail networks, rail stations, the Government permitted Strategic Rail Freight Interchange and the proposed Hertfordshire Essex Rapid Transit;
- c) Any other locally or nationally significant infrastructure project. Where a Health Impact Assessment has identified an issue that may have a significant adverse impact, the applicant should set out how this has been addressed and mitigated as part of the proposal;
- d) Landfill, waste treatment and management facilities, major composting facilities, anaerobic digesters, new minerals workings and aggregate depots, other permanent infrastructure such as coated stone plants or

ready mix plants and recycling centres; and

Where a Health Impact Assessment has identified an issue that may have a significant adverse impact, the applicant should set out how this will be addressed and mitigated as part of the proposal.

New development and existing uses (agent of change principle)

- 13.16 National Policy⁵⁶ sets out that planning policies and decisions should ensure that new development can be integrated effectively with existing businesses and community facilities (such as places of worship, pubs, music venues and sports clubs). It sets out that existing businesses and facilities should not have unreasonable restrictions placed on them as a result of development permitted after they were established; and that where the operation of an existing business or community facility could have a significant adverse effect on new development (including changes of use) in its vicinity, the applicant (or 'agent of change') should be required to provide suitable mitigation before the development has been completed.
- 13.17 Development should be designed to protect the amenity of adjacent land uses and their occupants and local amenity, and to enhance the public realm. In accordance with the 'agent of change' principle, new development must ensure it does not cause existing uses in the vicinity to curtail their activities. New development will be required to assess its potential impacts on neighbouring land uses, including the cumulative effects, and set out mitigation measures where appropriate. Policy HW1 requires mitigation of new development that would generate new noise and air pollution, and Policy HW4 seeks to protect such existing development from being curtailed by new development.

HW4 – New development and existing uses (agent of change principle)

New development must effectively integrate with existing uses, and existing businesses and community facilities must not have unreasonable restrictions placed on them as a result of it. Where the operation of an existing business or facility could have a significant adverse effect on a proposed new development in its vicinity, the applicant shall submit appropriate information to demonstrate that such impacts will not arise or can be prevented through suitable mitigation measures. Where such impacts will arise and cannot be avoided through mitigation, planning permission will be refused.

⁵⁶ NPPF paragraph 187

Chapter 14 – Implementation

Introduction

- 14.1 A key test for the Local Plan at Examination in Public is that it must be shown to be effective, meaning that it should be deliverable over the Plan period, and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters.
- 14.2 Planning Practice Guidance states that early discussions with infrastructure providers and service delivery organisations is particularly important to identifying infrastructure deficits and requirements, and opportunities for addressing them.
- 14.3 Details of infrastructure requirements are set out in the initial Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) which identifies infrastructure requirements across the District, setting out what is needed, where, and when. Developers must ensure that new development provides fully integrated infrastructure in line with the most recent Infrastructure Delivery Plan, and facilitate the growth proposals in this Local Plan through its provision.

Planning Obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy

- 14.4 Under the 2008 Planning Act, the Government introduced the Community Infrastructure Levy. The aim of the levy is to encourage development to contribute to the provision of strategic and local infrastructure. Section 106 (S106) contributions provide only a partial and variable response to funding infrastructure and it is intended that CIL will operate alongside S106 obligations. It is acknowledged that changes could be introduced to the developer contribution system during the lifetime of the plan.
- 14.5 Currently, the Council seeks various contributions in respect of large scale development. The contributions normally sought on new developments are payable to either the Council or Hertfordshire County Council. Contributions sought by the County Council are set out in the Hertfordshire Planning Obligations Toolkit.

Delivery of Infrastructure

Strategic Policy SP14 - Delivery of Infrastructure

Proposals should make provision for infrastructure that is necessary in order to accommodate additional demands resulting from the development. The Council will therefore:

- a) Require developers to provide, finance and/ or contribute towards provision which is fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development. This includes on-site and/or off-site improvements and infrastructure necessary to mitigate the impacts of the development in order to:
 - i. Ensure appropriate provision of facilities and infrastructure for new residents;
 - ii. Help address cumulative impacts that might arise across multiple developments;
 - iii. Avoid placing unreasonable additional burdens on the existing

- community or existing infrastructure;
 - iv. Mitigate any adverse impacts;
 - v. Enhance existing infrastructure, where appropriate, or make good their loss or damage;
 - vi. Fund maintenance and/or operating costs of any such new provision.
- b) Ensure new infrastructure to support new development is operational no later than the completion of development or phase in which it is needed, unless otherwise agreed with relevant providers;
 - c) Refuse planning permission where appropriate agreements or processes ensuring criteria (a) and (b) can be met are not in place;
 - d) Require proposals to have regard to any guidance or requirements in relation to planning obligations and any Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), or their replacement;
 - e) Work with landowners, developers and other agencies in facilitating the delivery of sites identified in the Local Plan and seek to overcome known obstacles;
 - f) Require developers to fully justify their approach if they consider that viability issues impact the delivery of key infrastructure and/or mitigation measures;
 - g) Expect that infrastructure requirements set out in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan will be delivered. Where infrastructure requirements could render major development unviable, proposals should be supported by an independent and transparent viability assessment that accords with Planning Practice Guidance. Where viability constraints are demonstrated by evidence, the Council will:
 - i. Prioritise developer contributions for critical, essential and required infrastructure based upon the detail of requirements outlines in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan; and/or
 - ii. Use an appropriate mechanism to defer part of the developer contributions requirement to a later date; or
 - iii. Refuse planning permission if the development would be unsustainable without the inclusion of the unfunded infrastructure requirements, taking into account reasonable contributions from elsewhere.

Additional Requirements for Strategic Scale Development

- 14.6 To ensure appropriate delivery of infrastructure, there are additional requirements for major development.

IMP1 – Additional Infrastructure Requirements for Strategic Scale Development

- a) Developers/applicants for Broad Locations and other Strategic Scale developments, defined as 100+ homes or 10,000 square metres of commercial floorspace (retail, leisure and industrial); will be required to:

- i. Engage with the Council and infrastructure providers and service delivery organisations in early pre-application discussions;
 - ii. Deliver infrastructure to a set of timescales agreed with the Council, infrastructure providers, service delivery organisations and any other relevant organisations, and set this out in the planning application;
- b) In order to deliver optimum infrastructure outcomes neighbouring landowners/developers will be strongly encouraged to facilitate and co-ordinate infrastructure provision together, or to demonstrate why this cannot be achieved.
- c) Strategic Scale planning applications will be supported by information demonstrating that the developer has explored existing capacity (and opportunities for extending it) with the appropriate utilities providers. Planning permission will not be granted where there is insufficient evidence on utilities capacity to support the development and that the capacity will be delivered to meet the needs of the development. The siting and appearance of utilities infrastructure should be designed to minimise impacts on amenity and to be as unobtrusive as possible.

Glossary

Active Frontage - Ground floors where windows and doors face onto the street, avoiding blank walls and which enable people to see into and out of buildings.

Active Travel - Non-motorised travel, such as walking and cycling.

Adaptation (Climate Change) -

Adjustments made to natural or human systems in response to the actual or anticipated impacts of climate change, to mitigate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities.

Affordable Homes - Housing for sale or for rent for those whose needs are not being met by the market. This includes social rented housing, affordable rented housing and intermediate housing.

Agent of Change Principle - The new use is responsible for mitigating any future impacts on existing surrounding uses. New development must ensure it does not cause existing uses in the vicinity to curtail their activities, or have a negative impact on the local area (for example noise pollution).

Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) - Areas designated by local authorities because they are not likely to achieve national air quality objectives by the relevant deadlines.

Area of archaeological interest - A locally designated area which holds, or potentially may hold, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point. Heritage assets with archaeological interest are the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places, and of the people and cultures that made them.

Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) - report that summarises the performance of planning policies and is used to identify how effectively the Local Plan is implemented.

Biodiversity - The amount of variety in plants, animals and insects within a specific area. Higher amounts of biodiversity are important for sustaining ecosystems and habitats.

Biodiversity Impact Assessment Calculator (BIAC) - A calculator aimed at developers who wish to obtain an estimate of how many conservation credits they might need to purchase in order to compensate for the impacts caused by a particular development.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) - An approach that supports and enables the recovery of the natural world. It requires developers to provide an increase in appropriate natural habitat and ecological features over and above that level identified on site before development commences.

Biodiversity Metric - The biodiversity metric is a habitat based approach used to assess an area's value to wildlife. The metric uses habitat features to calculate a biodiversity value.

Blue Infrastructure - Networks of water including (but not limited to) rivers, ponds, lakes and canals.

BRE - Building Research Establishment

BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) - An assessment that measures the sustainability of a new building including issues related to energy, health and wellbeing, innovation, land use, materials, management, pollution, transport, waste and water.

Brownfield Sites - Previously developed land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land and any associated fixed surface infrastructure.

Building Regulations - Government standards set for design and construction

which apply to most new buildings and alterations to existing buildings in England and Wales.

Carbon Offset - A method to reduce emissions by compensating elsewhere. These offsets are measures in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - A levy allowing local authorities to raise funds from owners or developers of land undertaking new building projects in their area.

Comparison Retail - Retail items not bought on a frequent basis, for example televisions and white goods (fridges, dishwashers etc).

Convenience Goods – Convenience goods include everyday items such as food and drink.

Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) - A legal function that allows certain bodies which need to obtain land or property to do so without the consent of the owner.

Conservation Area - An area designated by the Council for its special architectural or historical interest. Within these areas planning authorities have extra powers to control works and demolition of buildings to protect or enhance the character or appearance of the area.

Controlled Parking Zones - An area where all on street parking is controlled and restricted by the local Council.

Density – A measurement of how intensively land is occupied by built development. For housing, this is often measured in dwellings per hectare. Net dwellings per hectare is the density of the developable area only, and excludes land for infrastructure, main roads, schools and public facilities.

Development Brief - Informs developers and other interested parties of the constraints and opportunities presented by a site, and the type of development expected or encouraged by local planning policies.

Development Contributions -

Contribution in the form of money, land or other means collected from developers to deliver infrastructure. This could be through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) or a Section 106 Agreement as well as onsite contributions.

Development Plan Document (DPD) -

Development Plan Documents are prepared by local planning authorities and outline the key development goals. Examples of Development Plan Documents include Local Plans and Area Action Plans. DPDs form part of the statutory development plan for an area.

District Centre - A group of shops and some service outlets serving part of an urban area and providing a geographic focus for it, separate from the town centre but with more variety than local centres. As listed in policy RTC1 and defined on the Policies Map.

Duty to Cooperate - The duty to cooperate was created in the Localism Act 2011. It places a legal duty on local planning authorities, county councils in England and public bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of Local and Marine Plan preparation in the context of strategic cross boundary matters.

Evidence Base - The information and data gathered by local authorities to justify the "soundness" of the policy approach set out in the Local Plan, including physical, economic and social characteristics of an area.

Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) - An assessment of the likelihood of flooding in a particular area so that development needs and mitigation measures can be carefully considered.

Functional Economic Market Area (FEMA)

- The geography of commercial property markets should be thought of in terms of the requirements of the market in terms of the location of premises, and the spatial factors used in analysing demand

and supply, often known as the functional economic market area.

Green Belt - The designation around cities or built up area with the aim of preventing urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open. As stated in the NPPF, the Green Belt serves five purposes, which are: to check unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas; to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another; to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment; to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

Green Infrastructure (GI) - A network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities.

Green roof - Also known as an eco-roof, living roof, or vegetated roof, is one that is either partially or completely covered in vegetation on top of the human-made roofing structure.

Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) - An assessment which identifies any aspects of an emerging DPD/Local Plan that would have the potential to have a significant effect on designated wildlife sites (i.e. SACs, SPAs, Ramsar Sites) and begin to identify appropriate mitigation measures where such effects are identified.

Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) - An assessment of land availability which identifies a future supply of land which is potentially suitable, available and achievable for housing and economic development uses over the Plan period.

HCC - Hertfordshire County Council

HCCSP - Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership

Health Impact Assessment - An assessment of how a proposal may

potentially affect health and wellbeing of a population.

Heritage Asset - A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significant meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).

Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) - Identifies all the types of infrastructure (roads, health centres, schools etc) required to support the growth within an area.

Intensification - Further development within the existing urban area.

Joint Strategic Plan (JSP) - South West Hertfordshire Councils (St Albans District Council, Dacorum Borough Council, Hertsmere Borough Council, Three Rivers District Council and Watford Borough Council) are working together to provide a long-term blueprint for the area to 2050 that addresses cross boundary issues.

Listed Building - A building of special architectural or historic interest. Listed buildings are graded I, II* or II with grade I being the highest. Listing includes the interior as well as the exterior of the building, and any buildings or permanent structures.

Local Centre - An area including shops and facilities for local people.

Local Development Scheme (LDS) - The local planning authority's scheduled plan for the preparation of Local Development Documents.

Local Green Space - A designated to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities.

Local List - A list of locally important buildings valued for their contribution to the local scene or for local historical situations but not meriting listed building status.

Local Nature Partnership (LNP) - A body designated by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to protect and improve the natural environment in an area and the benefits derived from it.

Local Nature Reserve (LNR) - Non-statutory habitats of local significance designated by local authorities where protection and public understanding of nature conservation is encouraged.

Local Plan - The plan for the future development of the local area, drawn up by the local planning authority in consultation with the community.

Local Transport Plan (LTP) - All local transport authorities are required to produce a Local Transport Plan. The Plan sets out the objectives and priority schemes for developing transport within the authorities area.

Local Wildlife Site (LWS) - Areas which are important for the conservation of wildlife within the Borough, but do not benefit from legal protection.

Locally Listed Building - Buildings, structures or monuments of local interest that contribute to the heritage, identity and streetscape of the District. Locally listed buildings do not merit statutory listing under the Planning Act (1990), but are considered to be of local architectural or historic value.

Main Town Centre Uses - Retail development (including warehouse clubs and factory outlet centres); leisure, entertainment and more intensive sport and recreation uses (including cinemas, restaurants, drive-through restaurants, bars and pubs, nightclubs, casinos, health and fitness centres, indoor bowling centres and bingo halls); offices; and arts, culture and tourism development (including theatres, museums, galleries and concert halls, hotels and conference facilities).

Major Developments - For housing, development where 10 or more homes will be provided, or the site has an area of

0.5 hectares or more. For non-residential development it means additional floorspace of 1,000m² or more, or a site of 1 hectare or more, or as otherwise provided in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015.

Masterplan - A type of planning brief outlining the preferred usage of land and the overall approach to the layout.

Mixed-use Development - A development that is comprised of different land uses, such as employment and residential uses.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) - The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) - Published in March 2014, the NPPG adds further context to the NPPF and replaces over 7,000 pages of planning guidance that was previously published in separate document. The NPPG is separated into 48 pieces of guidance and covers topics such as: Local Plans, Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment, Viability and Duty to Cooperate.

Neighbourhood Plan - A plan prepared by a Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum for a particular neighbourhood (made under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended by the Localism Act 2011). A neighbourhood plan would, once brought into effect, comprise part of the statutory Development Plan for the area. It would therefore, alongside any adopted Local Plan documents, need to be considered when assessing any development proposals affecting the area.

Plots and Pitches - For the purposes of this Plan, the term "pitch" means a plot on a "gypsy and traveller" site and "plot" means a pitch on a "travelling showpeople site". This terminology differentiates between residential pitches for "gypsies and travellers" and mixed-

use plots for "travelling showpeople", which may need to incorporate space or to be split to allow for the storage of equipment.

Policies Map - Illustrates on an Ordnance Survey base map the Policies contained within the Local Plan.

Previously Developed Land (PDL) - See entry for 'Brownfield site'.

Protected Species - Plants and animal species afforded protection under certain Acts and Regulations.

Public Space - streets, squares and any other spaces that are open to all.

Ramsar Sites - Wetlands of international importance, designated under the 1971 Ramsar Convention.

Regulation 18 - Part of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Regulation 18 sets out the requirements for invitation of bodies and persons to submit representations, which the Council must then take account of prior to Regulation 19 stage. Also known as the 'preparation' stage of emerging Local Plans.

Regulation 19 - Part of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Regulation 19 sets out the requirements for making the revised draft Local Plan available prior to submission of the Plan to the Planning Inspectorate. Also known as the publication stage of emerging Local Plans.

Renewable Energy - Energy from renewable sources such as sunlight, wind, rain and geothermal heat. The use of these resources to create energy is sustainable for human consumption.

Representation - Formal term for comments/feedback submitted through a Local Plan consultation.

Retail Hierarchy - Classifies and ranks retail areas based upon the role, range of choice, distance people will travel and popularity from outside the town.

SADC – St Albans City and District Council

Scheduled Monument - Nationally important monuments usually archaeological remains, that enjoy greater protection against inappropriate development through the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

Section 106 Agreement (S106) - A legal agreement under section 106 of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act Section 106 agreements are legal agreements between a planning authority and a developer, or undertakings offered unilaterally by a developer, that ensure that certain extra works related to a development are undertaken.

Site Allocation - Sites which are identified for a specific use e.g. housing on the Local Plan Policies Map.

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) - Sites designated by Natural England under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Social Infrastructure - A wide variety of services that are essential to the sustainability and wellbeing of a community such as education facilities, places of worship, health provision, community, cultural, recreation and sports facilities.

Soundness - Tests set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which must be passed before a Planning Inspector can recommend that a Local Plan (or other Development Plan Document) meets national requirements and can be adopted by the Council as policy. The four tests are that Local Plans should be: positively prepared, justified, effective, and consistent with national policy.

Source Protection Zone - The Environment Agency identifies Source Protection Zones to protect groundwater from developments that may damage its quality.

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) - Areas given special protection under the European Union's Habitats Directive, which is transposed in to UK law by the Habitats and Conservation of Species Regulations 2010.

Special Protection Areas (SPA) - Areas which have been identified as being of international importance for the breeding, feeding, wintering or the migration of rare and vulnerable species of birds found within European Union countries. They are European designated sites, classified under the Birds Directive.

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) - Sets out the processes to be used by the local authority in involving the community in the preparation, alteration and continuing review of development plan documents and development management decisions.

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) - An assessment on the likelihood of flooding in a particular area so that development needs and mitigation measures can be carefully considered.

Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) - An assessment of a local planning authorities full housing need in a defined geographical area. The assessment should identify the scale and mix of housing and the range of tenures that the local population is likely to need over the plan period.

Strategic Land Availability Assessment (SLAA) - This is a key component of the evidence base. It is an assessment of land availability which identifies a future supply of land which is suitable, available and achievable for housing and economic development uses over a plan period.

Strategic Sites Design Guidance (SSDG) – Guidance which sets out design principles and a Masterplanning process for the high quality design of new strategic-scale developments, tailored to the local area context. It is formed of four documents: Design Principles, Design

Toolkit, Masterplan Toolkit and Employment Toolkit.

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) – Documents which add further detail to the policies in the Local Plan. They can be used to provide further guidance for development on specific sites, or on particular issues, such as design. SPDs are capable of being a material consideration in planning decisions.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) - An appraisal of the economic, social and environmental effects of a plan from the outset of the preparation process, so that decisions can be made that accord with sustainable development.

Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) - An alternative solution to the direct channelling of water. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) are designed to control the quantity and rate of run-off from a development; to improve the quality of the run-off; and, to enhance the nature conservation, landscape and amenity value of the site and its surroundings.

Town Centre - Area defined on the local authority's policies map, including the primary shopping area and areas predominantly occupied by main town centre uses within or adjacent to the primary shopping area.

Transport Assessment (TA) - A simplified version of a transport assessment where it is agreed the transport issues arising out of development proposals are limited and a full transport assessment is not required.

Travel Plan - A long-term management strategy for an organisation or site that seeks to deliver sustainable transport objectives through action which is articulated in a document that is regularly reviewed.

Tree Preservation Order (TPO) - A mechanism for securing the preservation of single or groups of trees of acknowledged amenity value. A tree

subject to a tree preservation order may not normally be topped, lopped or felled without consent of the local planning authority.

Use Classes Order - The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 and subsequent amendments, group a number of land uses into categories or 'Use Classes'. Changes of use within the same Use Class or

between certain different Use Classes as set out in the General Permitted Development Order (GPDO) are normally deemed to have consent and do not in most cases require specific planning permission.

Windfall Sites - Sites which have not been specifically identified as available in the Local Plan process.

Appendix 1 – Site Allocations

See accompanying document.

Appendix 2 – Cycle and Car Parking Guidance and Standards for New Development

1. General Guidance

- a) The operation of the car parking standards is based on a zonal approach. The zones are shown on SADC’s website and this information will be regularly updated. The amount of car parking to be provided for developments in each zone is shown in Figure 1 below:

Zone	Location	Land Use	Amount of Car Parking to be Provided
1	All St Albans District except Zones 2, 3 and 4	All Uses	Must normally meet parking standards in full
2	Most Sustainable and Accessible Areas	All Uses	50% of parking standard minimum; unless B below applies
3	Areas of likely overnight parking stress	Residential	Any shortfall against standards (including a Zone 2 reduction where applicable) to be fully mitigated in accordance with Policy TRA4 c)
4	Broad Locations	All Uses	A bespoke parking strategy with lower than standard parking requirements should be developed, in accordance with Policy TRA4 e)

Figure 1: Amount of car parking to be provided in each Zone

- b) In locations within 400 metres walking distance of public car parks in the City, Town, District and Local centres set out in Chapter 6 of the Local Plan; for developments within Use Classes E, F.1, F.2, C1 (hotels only), and food and drink and entertainment uses which are proportionate to the size of the centre, on-site parking provision will not normally be required. This is to support commercial development in central locations. However, a travel plan to encourage staff to use sustainable forms of transport will be required for such developments where they are over 500m² gross floorspace.
- c) The standards set out below apply to on-site parking provision.
- d) Where necessary to ensure appropriate parking provision, a planning permission may include a condition to restrict development to a specific use within a Use Class⁵⁷.

⁵⁷ As set out in the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987, as amended

2. Notes on vehicle parking standards:

- a) Additional spaces will not normally be required for householder extensions; however existing provision should not be lost where this would result in a shortfall against the parking standards.
- b) Where a requirement results in a fraction of a space, this should be rounded up to the nearest whole number. The exception to this is for single dwellings, where it should be rounded down to the nearest whole number.
- c) The required dimensions for car-parking spaces and manoeuvring areas should be in accordance with the latest guidance adopted by the Local Highway Authority (Hertfordshire County Council). The extant guidance⁵⁸ sets out that: parking spaces must be a minimum of 2.4 x 4.8 metres; at least 6 metres of circulation space is required between rows of spaces; in lay-bys or on the public highway, bay lengths should be 6 metres; garage spaces must measure a minimum of 3 x 6 metres internally; and a driveway in front of a garage or gate must be at least 6m long, or reduced to 5.5m if the gates or doors open inwards or are in the form of a roller.
- d) Motorcycle parking provision must be addressed in larger developments.
- e) It will not normally be necessary to make good any shortfall that may already exist on the site.

3. Notes on cycle parking standards

- a) For the purposes of applying the cycle parking standards from the table below, a 'space' is defined as a space to park one bicycle.
- b) A long term cycle parking space is one used for home cycle storage or primarily for employees at a place of work or at transport hubs for an onwards journey. A short term cycle parking space is one used primarily by visitors at destinations.
- c) Long term cycle parking spaces should be covered and secure. Long term cycle parking provision at a place of work should include provision of shower and changing facilities.
- d) For guidance on the provision of good quality cycle parking refer to Principles and Requirements of the Department of Transport's Local Transport Note 1/20 'Cycle Infrastructure Design'⁵⁹ and any subsequent guidance / amendments; along with up to date guidance from the Local Highway Authority (Hertfordshire County Council).

4. Notes on Car parking for disabled motorists

- a) The parking needs of disabled motorists shall be met in full, irrespective of location i.e. where the zonal procedure results in on-site parking restraint, there shall be no corresponding reduction in disabled spaces.
- b) The number of disabled spaces specified are additional to any spaces required elsewhere in the parking standards.

⁵⁸ The latest adopted HCC guidance is found in Roads in Hertfordshire: Highway Design Guide 3rd Edition 2011, which references Manual For Streets (2007) for some specifications

⁵⁹ Local Transport Note 1/20 'Cycle Infrastructure Design July 2020, or subsequent amendment

Residential Standards

Use	Description	Car parking standards	Cycle parking standards
Residential Within Use Class C3	a) General housing (including retirement and sheltered elderly persons accommodation, and similar non-C2 uses)	1 bedroom dwellings (including studios): 1.5 spaces (either 1.5 unallocated, or 1 allocated and 0.5 unallocated) 2 bedroom dwellings: either 2 spaces (either 2 unallocated or 1 allocated and 1 unallocated) or 2.5 spaces (2 allocated and 0.5 unallocated) 3+ bedroom dwellings 2.5 spaces (2 allocated and 0.5 unallocated)	1 l/t space per unit if no garage or shed provided 1 s/t space per 3 units plus 1 l/t space per 5 units
	b) Not more than six residents living together as a single household	0.5 spaces per tenancy unit	1 l/t space per unit if no garage or shed provided. 1 s/t space per 3 units plus 1 l/t space per 5 units
Houses in multiple occupation Within Use Class C4	Small shared houses or flats occupied by between 3 and 6 unrelated individuals who share basic amenities	0.5 spaces per tenancy unit	1 l/t space per unit if no garage or shed provided

Non-Residential Standards

Use	Description	Car parking standards	Cycle parking standards
Retail foodstores Within Use Class E	a) Shops up to 500m ² gross floor area (gfa)	1 space per 30m ² gfa	1 short term (s/t) space per 150 m ² gfa plus 1 long term (l/t) space per 10

Use	Description	Car parking standards	Cycle parking standards
(a) or F.2 (a)			staff on site at any one time
	b) Supermarkets exceeding 500m ² gfa, superstores and hypermarkets	1 space per 14m ² gfa (including some spaces for parents and infants, near the store entrance)	1 s/t space per 250m ² gfa plus 1 l/t space per 10 staff on site at any one time
Non-food retail Within Use Class E (a)	Non-food retail, including retail warehouses and garden centres	1 space per 30m ² gfa	1 s/t space per 350m ² gfa plus 1 l/t space per 10 staff on site at any one time
Financial & professional services Within Use Class E (c)	Banks, building societies, estate agencies, betting shops	1 space per 30m ² gfa	1 s/t space per 200m ² gfa plus 1 l/t space per 10 full-time staff equivalents (f/t) staff
Restaurants and cafés Within Use Class E (b)	a) Restaurants/cafés	1 space per 5m ² of floorspace of dining area	1 s/t space per 350 m ² gfa plus 1 l/t space per 10 staff on site at any one time
	b) Roadside restaurants	1 space per 4m ² of floorspace of dining area	
	c) Transport café	1 lorry space per 3.5m ² gfa	
Drinking establishments Sui Generis	Public houses/bars	1 space per 3m ² of floorspace of bar area	1 s/t space per 350 m ² gfa plus 1 l/t space per 10 staff on site at any one time
Hot food takeaways Sui Generis	a) Hot food takeaways (excluding fast food drive through restaurants)	1 space per 3m ² of floorspace of public area	1 s/t space per 350 m ² gfa plus 1 l/t space per 10 staff on site at any one time
	b) Fast food drive through	1 space per 8m ² gfa	

Use	Description	Car parking standards	Cycle parking standards
	restaurants		
Business Uses Within Use Class E (c)	(a) offices (b) research & development and (c) light industry	1 space per 30m ² gfa	1 l/t space per 500m ² gfa plus 1 l/t space per 10 f/t staff
General industry Within Use Class B2	General industry	1 space per 50m ² gfa; lorry provision to be - 1 lorry space + 1 per 500 m ² or in accordance with a site specific Transport Assessment	
Storage & distribution Within Use Class B8	Wholesale distribution, builders merchants, storage	1 space per 75m ² gfa; lorry provision to be - 1 lorry space plus 1 lorry space per 500 m ² gross floor area or in accordance with a site specific Transport Assessment	1 l/t space per 10 f/t staff
Hotels & hostels Within Use Class C1 or Sui Generis	a) Hotels (i) Bedrooms (ii) Staff (iii) Restaurants and bars open to the public (iv) Conference facilities (v) Leisure facilities	 1 space per bedroom (including staff accommodation) 1 space per manager, plus 2 spaces per 3 other staff, minus spaces related to staff bedroom As Restaurants and cafés and Drinking Establishments standards above for any restaurant and bar space over and above that needed to serve hotel residents 1 space per 5 seats Applicants must demonstrate that sufficient parking is provided 1 space per 6m ² of public area	1 l/t space per 10 beds plus 1 l/t space per 10 staff on site at any one time

Use	Description	Car parking standards	Cycle parking standards
	(vi) Exhibition halls (vii) Coach parking	1 space per 100 bedrooms	
	b) Hostels (i) Small (single parent or couple with no children) (ii) Family (2 adults with children)	3 spaces per 4 units 1 space per unit	1 l/t space per 3 units
Residential institutions Within Use Class C2 or C2a	a) Residential home/hostel with care staff working on premises (includes elderly persons homes and nursing homes)	Residents: 1 space per 5 bedspaces Staff living on premises: As C3 (a) below Staff living elsewhere: 1 space per 2 staff	1 s/t space per 20 beds plus 1 l/t space per 10 staff on duty at any one time
	b) Hospitals	1 space per 0.5 beds or to be decided on individual merits (including a full transport assessment and proposals in a travel plan)	
	c) Education - halls of residence	Staff: 1 space per 2 full-time staff Students: 1 space per 3 students (but with linkage to student transport plans where appropriate)	1 l/t space per 10 f/t staff plus 1 l/t space per 3 students
Non-residential institutions Within Use Class E, Use Class F.1 or Use Class C2	a) Public halls/places of assembly	1 space per 9m ² gfa or 1 space per 3 fixed seats plus 3 spaces per 4 staff members	1 s/t space per 200 m ² gfa plus 1 l/t space per 10 staff on duty at any one time
	b) Community/family centres	1 space per 9m ² gfa plus 1 space per full-time staff member or equivalent	

Use	Description	Car parking standards	Cycle parking standards
	c) Day centres	1 space per 2 staff members plus 1 space per 3 persons attending or 1 space per 9m ² gfa	
	d) Places of worship	1 space per 10m ² gfa	
	e) Surgeries & clinics (including doctors', dentists', vet's surgeries, and to health centres and clinics)	3 spaces per consulting room plus 1 space per employee other than consulting doctors/dentists/vets	1 s/t space per consulting room plus 1 l/t space per 10 staff on duty at any one time
	f) Libraries, miscellaneous cultural buildings	1 space per 30m ² gfa of freestanding development (otherwise assessed on merits)	1s/t space per 100m ² gfa plus 1 l/t space per 10 f/t staff
	g) Miscellaneous cultural buildings	2 spaces plus 1 space per 30m ² of public floorspace	
	h) Educational establishments (including residential)		1 l/t space per 10 f/t staff plus:
	(i) schools and higher and further education	1 space per 2 staff plus 1 space per 15 students (i.e. total number of students attending an educational establishment, rather than full-time equivalent figures)	primary school: 1 l/t space per 15 students
	(ii) nursery schools/playgroups	1 space per 4 pupils	secondary school: 1 l/t space per 5 students
	Note: overspill parking for		higher and further education: 1 l/t space per 5 students nursery schools/playgroups:

Use	Description	Car parking standards	Cycle parking standards
	community purposes (outside school day) should be catered for by use of dual purpose surfaces such as school play areas		none additional
Assembly & leisure Within Use Class E, F.2 or Sui Generis	a) Indoor uses (except cinemas and conference centres) - includes entertainment/leisure uses and indoor sports uses	1 space per 22m ² gfa	<p>Entertainment uses: on merit, depending on mix of uses</p> <p>Swimming pools, indoor tennis, badminton, squash courts, ice rinks, fitness centres/sports clubs: 1 s/t space per 25m² gfa plus 1 l/t space per 10 f/t staff</p> <p>Ten pin bowling, indoor bowls: 1 s/t space per 3 lanes or rink plus 1 l/t space per 10 f/t staff</p> <p>Other uses: on merit depending on use</p>
	b) Cinemas (including multiplexes) and conference centres	1 space per 5 seats	<p>Cinemas up to 500 seats: 1 s/t space per 20 seats plus 1 l/t space per 10 staff on duty at any one time</p> <p>Cinemas over 500 seats: 25 s/t spaces plus 1 s/t space per 100 seats in excess of 500 plus 1 l/t space per 10 staff on duty at any one time</p>

Use	Description	Car parking standards	Cycle parking standards
	c) Stadia	Cars: 1 space per 15 seats and standing spaces Coaches: To meet likely demand	1 s/t space per 20 seats and standing spaces 1 l/t space per 10 staff on duty at any one time
	d) Outdoor tennis	4 spaces per court	1 s/t space per 10 players/participants at busiest period
	e) Outdoor sports grounds	20 spaces per pitch 50 spaces per hectare	
	(i) with football pitches (ii) without football pitches		
	f) Golf	100 spaces 60 spaces 1.5 spaces per tee to be decided in each case on individual merits	10 l/t spaces per 18 holes 5 l/t spaces per 9 holes 5 s/t space per 20/30 tee driving range pro rata to above
	(i) 18 hole golf course		
(ii) 9 hole golf course			
(iii) golf driving range			
(iv) golf courses larger than 18 holes and/or for more than local use			
Motor trade related	a) Employees	3 spaces per 4 employees	1 l/t space per 10 f/t staff
	b) Showroom car sales	1 space per 10 cars displayed	
	c) Vehicle storage	2 spaces per showroom space or to be decided in each case on individual merits	

Use	Description	Car parking standards	Cycle parking standards
	d) Hire cars	1 space per 2 hire cars based at site	
	e) Ancillary vehicle storage	3 spaces or 75% of total if more than 3 vehicles	
	f) Workshops	3 spaces per bay (for waiting & finished vehicles) in addition to repair bays	
	g) Tyre & Exhaust	2 spaces per bay	
	h) Parts stores/sales	3 spaces for customers	
	i) Car wash/petrol filling station	3 waiting spaces per bay or run in to row of bays (additional parking is required where a shop is provided)	
Public transport facilities	a) Rail stations	to be decided in each case on individual merits	5 l/t spaces per peak period train
	b) Bus stations	to be decided in each case on individual merits	2 l/t spaces per 100 peak period passengers
Car parking for disabled motorists	<p>a) Employment generating development</p> <p>(i) up to 200 space car park (demand-based as calculated from above standards)</p> <p>(ii) more than 200 space car park (demand-based as calculated from above standards)</p>	<p>individual spaces for each disabled employee plus 2 spaces or 5% of total capacity, whichever is greater</p> <p>6 spaces plus 2% of total capacity</p>	N/A

Use	Description	Car parking standards	Cycle parking standards
	<p>b) Shops/premises to which the public have access/recreation</p> <p>(i) up to 200 space car park (demand-based as calculated from above standards)</p> <p>(ii) more than 200 space car park (demand-based as calculated from above standards)</p>	<p>3 spaces or 6% of total capacity, whichever is greater</p> <p>4 spaces plus 4% of total capacity</p>	
<p>Car parking for disabled motorists (continued)</p>	<p>c) Residential</p> <p>(i) General</p> <p>(ii) Elderly persons dwellings</p> <p>Up to 10 spaces (demand-based as calculated from above standards)</p> <p>More than 10 spaces (demand-based as calculated from above standards)</p>	<p>1 space for every dwelling built to mobility standards</p> <p>3 spaces</p> <p>1 space per 4 spaces</p> <p>Consideration should also be given to the provision of space and charging points for mobility scooters</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Appendix 3 – List of Scheduled Ancient Monuments

- Romano-British site, Rothamsted
- The Aubreys Camp, Redbourn
- Wheathampstead Earthwork incorporating Devils Dyke and The Slad
- Devils Ditch, Gorhambury, St. Michael
- Bacon's House, Old Gorhambury
- Verulamium, Bacon's Mount
- Site of Verulamium, St. Albans/St. Michael
- Verulamium, The Fosse
- Verulamium, part of wall and ditch of Roman City
- Verulamium, Prae Wood settlement
- Beech Bottom Entrenchment, Sandridge
- The Clock Tower, St. Albans
- St. Albans Abbey Gatehouse
- St. Albans Abbey, Site of Conventual Buildings
- Sopwell Nunnery, ruins of Sopwell House, St. Albans
- Batch Wood, moated manorial site, St. Michael
- Colne Chapel moated site, London Colney

Appendix 4 – List of Archaeological Sites for Local Preservation

- Roman Site, Friars Wash, Redbourn
- Roman Villa, Childwickbury, St. Michael
- Belgic Occupation Area, Wheathampstead
- Enclosure and Ring Ditch, Nomansland Common, Wheathampstead
- Land adjacent to Batch Wood moated manorial site, St. Michael
- Three Enclosures, Gorhambury/Butlers Farm, St. Michael
- Roman Occupation Area, North of Verulamium, St. Albans
- Belgic Occupation Area, East of Prae Wood, St. Albans/St Michael
- Roman Kilns, Smug Oak, St. Stephen
- Abbey Precincts, St. Albans

Appendix 5 – List of Archaeological Sites Which May Be Subject to a Recording Condition

- Cropmarks, near Friars Wash, Redbourn
- Area around Roman Mausoleum, Rothamsted
- Medieval Manor, Rothamsted
- Medieval Manor, Harpendenbury
- Saxon and Medieval Village, Redbourn
- Area around the Aubreys, Redbourn
- Cropmarks, Beaumont Hall, Redbourn
- Medieval Manor, Redbournbury
- Earthwork Enclosure, Redbournbury/Childwickbury
- Roman and Medieval site, Thane's Wood, Mud Lane, Harpenden
- Roman and Medieval site, Clappers Wood, Ayres End Lane, Harpenden
- Prehistoric Ring Ditch (Cropmark), Bride Hall Lane
- Cropmark, Bladderwood
- Area around Belgic Oppidum and Cropmarks north of River Lea, Wheathampstead
- Saxon and Medieval Village, Wheathampstead
- Possible Roman building and environs, Amwell
- Prehistoric and Saxon finds, Nomansland Common
- Cropmark, Sandridgebury
- Saxon and Medieval Village, Sandridge
- Area of Roman finds, Porters Wood, Sandridge
- Cropmark, Butlers Farm
- Cropmark, Old Jeromes
- Area around Verulamium
- Area around Beech Bottom, St. Albans
- St. Albans - including Saxon Kingsbury, the Saxon and Medieval town and Sopwell Nunnery
- Medieval Village site, Westwick
- Cropmarks and Medieval village site, Windridge
- Cropmarks, Westfield Farm

- Area of Roman occupation, Potterscrouch
- Earthworks, St. Julians Wood
- Cropmarks of Enclosures, Plaistowes Farm
- Medieval Manor and Deserted Village, Burston Manor
- Medieval and Roman sites, Holt Farm
- Cropmarks, Searches Farm
- Belgic and Roman Site, Waterdale
- Roman tile kiln site, Blackboy Pit, Bricket Wood
- Palaeolithic to Saxon finds, Cube Valley including the site of the Medieval village of Hansteads
- Roman and Medieval occupation site, the Wick, Sandpit Lane, St. Albans
- Roman and Medieval occupation site, west of Knight's Wood, Tyttenhanger
- Cropmarks, Shenleybury Roman Kilns,
- Houndswood Medieval Village Centre, Harpenden
- Cropmarks, London Colney
- Area around Medieval Moated Chapel,
- All Saints Convent, London Colney