Hertfordshire Local Plan Overview – 25th September 2026

TO NOTE:

Local Government Reorganisation
All 10 districts and Hertfordshire County Council were due to be restructured into four new unitary authorities. However, on 7th September 2026 the Government announced that it is reviewing local government reorganisation decisions and it is now unclear when and if restructuring will take place.

Legacy Local Plans and New Local Plans
In March 2026, the Government introduced new procedures for making Local Plans. Some councils have already started work on their 'new' local plan which must be completed within 30 months.
Some of these councils have not yet adopted their current emerging Local Plan and are therefore running both 'legacy' and 'new' emerging plans.
Local Plans are likely to be subject to further change when the Local Government Reorganisation is complete.

LEGACY LOCAL PLANS			NEW LOCAL PLANS		
District	**Comments & Key Milestones**	**Adoption date**	**District**	**Comments & Key Milestones**	**Expected Adoption date**
Broxbourne Local Plan 2018-2033		Adopted June 2020	Broxbourne New Local Plan	Call for Sites took place in Nov 2025. First stage consultation was due May 2026 – still awaited.	TBC
Dacorum Local Plan to 2041	Stage 3 Local Plan Examination hearings are now complete. CPRE Hertfordshire participated in Stages 1 and 2. Main Modifications stage awaited.	Due 2026	Dacorum Future Local Plan	**Scoping Stage consultation is live until 5pm on 2nd Oct 2026**	Due April 2029
East Herts District Plan 2011-2033		Adopted Oct 2018.	East Herts New Local Plan	Scoping Stage consultation closed July 2026. See CPRE Hertfordshire response on our website. Plan Content and Evidence consultation due Feb 2027	Due April 2029
Hertsmere Local Plan 2024 to 2040	Reg 18 consultation 'Draft Local Plan 2026: Enabling Hertsmere's Sustainable Growth' consultation took place in May 2026. See CPRE Hertfordshire response on our website. Reg 19 consultation due late 2026.	Due Sep 2027			
North Herts Local Plan 2011-2031		Adopted Nov 2022	North Herts New Local Plan	**Call for Sites consultation is live until 5pm on 24th Nov 2026. Plan Content and Evidence consultation due to launch 13th Oct and close 24th Nov 2026.** Scoping Stage consultation closed June 2026. See CPRE Hertfordshire response on our website. Reg 18 consultation on content and evidence due Oct 2026	Due Jan 2029
St Albans Local Plan to 2041	Recently adopted following Examination	Adopted Sep 2026	St Albans Next Local Plan	Recent Scoping Stage consultation closed on 14th Sept 2026. See CPRE Hertfordshire response on our website.	Due 2029
Stevenage Local Plan 2011-2031 (and partial update 2026)	The plan was reviewed and Partial Update adopted in July 2026.	Adopted 2019 plus Partial Update in July 2026	Stevenage New Local Plan	First stage consultation due Nov 26 - Jan 27	Due Nov 2028
Three Rivers Local Plan to 2041	**Regulation 19 consultation is live until 11.59m on 25th Sept 2026** See CPRE Hertfordshire response on our website (In Feb 2026, the Government placed a holding direction on the Reg 19 Local Plan due to a significant housing shortfall. The Council was directed to include additional sites.)	Due Sep 2027			
Watford Local Plan 2021-2038	Due for review 2027	Adopted Oct 2022			
Welwyn Hatfield New Local Plan	**Regulation 19 consultation is live until 6pm on 5th Nov 2026** Reg 18 consultation took place in March 2026. CPRE raised concerns on lack of policies and detail. See CPRE Hertfordshire response on our website.	Due Autumn 2027			
Southwest Hertfordshire* Joint Strategic Plan to 2050	Reg 18 consultation completed Nov 2022. See CPRE Hertfordshire response on our website. Vision and Objectives endorsed by the councils Nov 2023	On hold pending Local Government Reorganisation and new Spatial Development Strategies			
Northeast Central Hertfordshire** Joint Strategic Plan to 2050	Joint Vision 2050 published for consultation Dec 2024. See CPRE Hertfordshire response on our website.	On hold pending Local Government Reorganisation and new Spatial Development Strategies			
Hertfordshire Minerals & Waste Local Plan to 2040	Reg 18 consultation completed Oct 2022. See CPRE Hertfordshire response on our website. Reg 19 consultation timetable to be confirmed.	Awaiting information on impact of Local Government Reorganisation and new Spatial Development Strategies			

* Five district councils (Dacorum, Hertsmere, St Albans, Three Rivers & Watford) and Hertfordshire County Council were working on the Southwest Herts Joint Strategic Plan
** Five district councils (Broxbourne, East Herts, North Herts, Stevenage & Welwyn Hatfield) and Hertfordshire County Council were working on the Northeast Central Herts Joint Strategic Plan
BOTH ARE ON HOLD pending Local Government Reorganisation and new Spatial Development Strategies.

Legacy Plan Reg 18 Public Consultation: Early-stage consultation – may include Issues and Options, Preferred Options and first draft plan.
Legacy Plan Reg 19 Public Consultation: Pre-submission draft plan – representations invited as to whether the plan is legally compliant and meets the test of soundness in the National Planning Policy Framework NPPF.
Examination: Public hearing held by independent Planning Inspector to assess merits of Submitted Local Plan policies and their soundness.
New procedures apply to Local Plans due to be submitted for Examination on or after 31st Dec 2026 – see Town & Country Planning (Local Plan)(England) Regulations 2026.