



Hart Local Plan: Strategy and Sites 2016 – 2032

**Council Response to
Inspector's Matters and Issues for
Examination**

Matter 2

**The Vision and Strategic
Objectives**

25 October 2018

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2.1 Is the vision justified and consistent with national policy?

- 2.1.1 The Vision set out in the Local Plan: Strategy and Sites sets out a positive vision for the District in line with core planning principles in the NPPF (2012). It is considered that the vision is aspirational but realistic, setting out how the Council considers that the District should be by 2032. The Vision is considered to be consistent with the NPPF and with the National Planning Practice Guidance which states [Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 61-026-20180913] *'Plans set out a vision and a framework for the future development of the area, addressing needs and opportunities in relation to housing, the economy, community facilities and infrastructure – as well as a basis for conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment, mitigating and adapting to climate change, and achieving well designed places.'* These issues are included in the long term Vision for the District as well as elsewhere in the Plan. In addition it is consistent with the reference in para ID: 12-002-20140306 of the PPG that states that *'The Local Plan should make clear what is intended to happen in the area over the life of the plan, where and when this will occur and how it will be delivered.'*
- 2.1.2 The Vision has been subject to **consultation** and has evolved as the Local Plan has been refined to reflect consultation responses, technical evidence, the outcome of the Sustainability Appraisal and Government policy. Views were sought in February/March 2016 on a draft Vision [ref OTH6] derived following the identification of a range of key issues for the Local plan to address, as set out in paragraph 92 of the Hart Local Plan. Further views were sought on a revised draft Vision as part of the Draft Local Plan consultation in 2017, and on a final version of the Vision in the Proposed Submission Plan in 2018. These consultations included mechanisms to engage all specific and general consultees including targeted mailing, availability of consultation material on the website and locations across the District, social media and press releases. Further details of the consultation methods can be found in the Councils Consultation Statement [Doc Ref CD6a].
- 2.1.3 The Vision is **deliverable** through the subsequent objectives and planning policies and through the development of an on-going planning policy framework including the preparation of a new settlement DPD.
- 2.1.4 The Vision is locally distinctive, setting out a positive approach to meeting the objectively assessed needs for homes and employment (NPPF, Core planning principles, 3rd bullet), with sufficient land allocated to meet these needs as referenced in the Vision. The Vision includes a positive approach to longer term development through the identification of a proposal for a new settlement.
- 2.1.5 Through the references as to how the District will look in relation to town and local centres, design standards, the character of the built and historic environment and protection of important ecological assets, these are all consistent with the principles set out in the NPPF, including sections 2, 3, 6, 11 and 12 of the NPPF.
- 2.1.6 The Vision provides a presumption in favour of sustainable development considering the three elements of sustainable development by setting out the approach to economic, social and environmental factors across the District. Based on the evidence, consultation and national policy it is considered to be the most appropriate strategy for the District up to 2032.
- 2.1.7 The Vision is therefore considered to be justified and consistent with national policy.

2.2 Are the strategic objectives justified and consistent with national policy?

- 2.2.1 The Local Plan objectives combine to deliver sustainable development in Hart in line with the NPPF. They are locally specific and they focus on key economic (Objectives 5, 6, 10), social (Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 13, 15) and environmental (Objectives 9, 11, 12, 14,) issues that contribute to achieving sustainable development in the District.
- 2.2.2 They have been derived from the Key Issues, and the Vision. They can be clearly linked to delivering the Local Plan Vision as set out below. The Objectives have been subject to consultation and engagement and refined as a result of consultation feedback and development of the Local Plan policies. Views were sought in February/March 2016 on draft priorities/objectives [doc ref OTH6] following the identification of a range of key issues for the Local Plan to address, as set out in paragraph 92 of the Hart Local Plan. Further views were sought on revised Objectives as part of the Draft Local Plan consultation in 2017, and on a final version of the Vision in the Proposed Submission Plan in 2018. These consultations included mechanisms to engage all specific and general consultees including targeted mailing, availability of consultation material on the website and locations across the District, social media and press releases. Further details of the consultation methods can be found in the Councils Consultation Statement [Doc Ref CD6a].
- 2.2.3 The Objectives provide the link between the overarching Vision and the Local Plan policies and provide the basis for the Local Plan Monitoring Framework as set out in paragraph 429 of the Local Plan. They reflect the key outcomes needed to deliver the Vision.
- 2.2.4 The Objectives reflect the principles and policies of the NPPF in that they set out a positive approach to development to meet objectively assessed development needs whilst also respecting the need to incorporate consideration of environmental matters including issues of climate change and biodiversity. They are underpinned by an evidence base supporting the Plan.
- 2.2.5 The Objectives are consistent with sections of the NPPF as set out below:
- | | | |
|-------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Objectives 1 to 4 | - | Section 6 of the NPPF |
| Objective 5 | - | Section 2 |
| Objective 6 | - | Section 1 |
| Objectives 7, 8 | - | Section 8 |
| Objective 9 | - | Section 7 and 12 |
| Objective 10 | - | Section 4 |
| Objective 11 | - | Section 11 |
| Objective 12 | - | Section 10 |
| Objective 13 | - | Section 8 |
| Objective 14 | - | Paragraph 17 |
| Objective 15 | - | Section 7. |
- 2.2.6 The Objectives are therefore considered to be justified and consistent with national policy.

2.2.7 Links between the Vision and Objectives:

In 2032 the District will still be an attractive, largely rural area with thriving towns and villages and a variety of landscapes. Our countryside will be recognised for its importance to the quality of life, as the setting where people live and work, and for its contribution to biodiversity, leisure and recreation.

*We will have played our role in meeting future housing, social and economic needs, with priority given to the redevelopment of previously developed (brownfield) land (**Objective 1**). This includes the creation of a new community at Hartland Village, east of Fleet (**Objectives 2, 4**).*

*To meet longer term needs the creation of a new settlement will have begun, providing new homes, jobs and infrastructure, including a new secondary school (**Objectives 3, 7, 8**).*

*In addition to market housing, the number of affordable homes will have increased, along with more accommodation for the elderly and other forms of specialist housing (**Objectives 1, 2, 4**).*

*The number of jobs in the District will also have increased as Hart plays its role in delivering the employment needs of the wider functional economic area. The best employment sites will have remained in employment use and there will be enhanced opportunities for businesses in rural areas (**Objective 6**).*

*Fleet will have maintained and developed its role as the main service centre, providing employment, services and facilities, including improved entertainment facilities. Hart's other settlements including Yateley, Blackwater, Hook, Hartley Wintney and Odiham will have retained and enhanced their vibrant centres providing shops and services for their respective local communities (**Objective 5**).*

*Our infrastructure will have been enhanced to support the changing population. There will be a new primary school at Hartland Village and educational facilities at the new settlement (**Objective 8**). New development will also have provided improvements to health care facilities (**Objective 7**). There will have been investment in our roads to tackle congestion and make them safer, and in measures to encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport (**Objectives 7, 10**). Green infrastructure will have been protected and enhanced encouraging healthy communities and opportunities for wildlife to thrive (**Objective 7, 13**).*

*New development will have been built to high environmental and design standards including measures to meet the challenges of climate change (**Objectives 9, 12, 15**). These developments will have respected the individual characteristics of the towns and villages across Hart and will have avoided the coalescence of settlements (**Objectives 9, 14**).*

*The character, quality and diversity of our natural, built and heritage assets will have been preserved, and where possible enhanced. These assets include the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (TBHSPA), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), such as the Basingstoke Canal and other protected habitats, the chalk downland in the south west of the District, riverine environments, the Forest of Eversley, Historic Parks and Gardens, Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments (**Objectives 9, 11**).*