



Autumn 2021

# Local Plan Update



## Local Plan update and next steps

Our consultation on the Emerging Strategy for Growth stage of our new Local Plan closed in February 2021. The Emerging Strategy for Growth was the second consultation on the new Local Plan for Dacorum, and set out the emerging approach to shaping growth across the borough.

More than 4,000 individuals and organisations responded, producing over 15,000 separate responses.

Now the consultation has closed, we have prepared a summary report which provides an overview of the consultation process and the main issues raised in the responses, which can be viewed on our Local Plan webpage: [www.dacorum.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/localplan) (Appendix 1 - Emerging Strategy Consultation Summary Report).

In July 2021, the Council's Cabinet decided that the next stage of consultation for the Local Plan will take place once further information has been gathered. This work will further examine potential development in the context of constraints in the borough, particularly the Green Belt, the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Chilterns Beechwoods Special Area of Conservation.

We will also revisit our analysis of development opportunities in urban areas, to see if the impact on the Green Belt can be reduced, and re-examine matters that may have changed following the Covid-19 pandemic. This work will feed into the development of Opportunity Areas across Hemel Hempstead, initially in South Hemel and the Town Centre.

More evidence will be produced regarding infrastructure provision and delivery, and work will also continue to progress with detailed surveys of protected habitats within the Chilterns Beechwoods Special Area of Conservation. We will prepare a new Local Development Scheme, containing the revised Local Plan timetable, as soon as possible.

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## Call for sites

As part of our preparation for our new Local Plan, we need to plan for different types of future development, and to understand what land might be suitable and available to meet such needs.

We would like to hear from you if you have a potential site (or sites) you would like to register with us for any kind of use, including housing, business and community uses. You can also contact us if you want to provide us with an update on an existing site you have previously promoted to us.

Any site can be submitted to us, however following our recent public consultation on the Local Plan we are, in particular, looking for more sites on urban and brownfield land.

Please visit our webpage: [www.dacorum.gov.uk/callforsites](http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/callforsites) for further information on this process, including how to register new sites, or update existing ones using our interactive form, and where to find details of sources of land that we are already aware of.

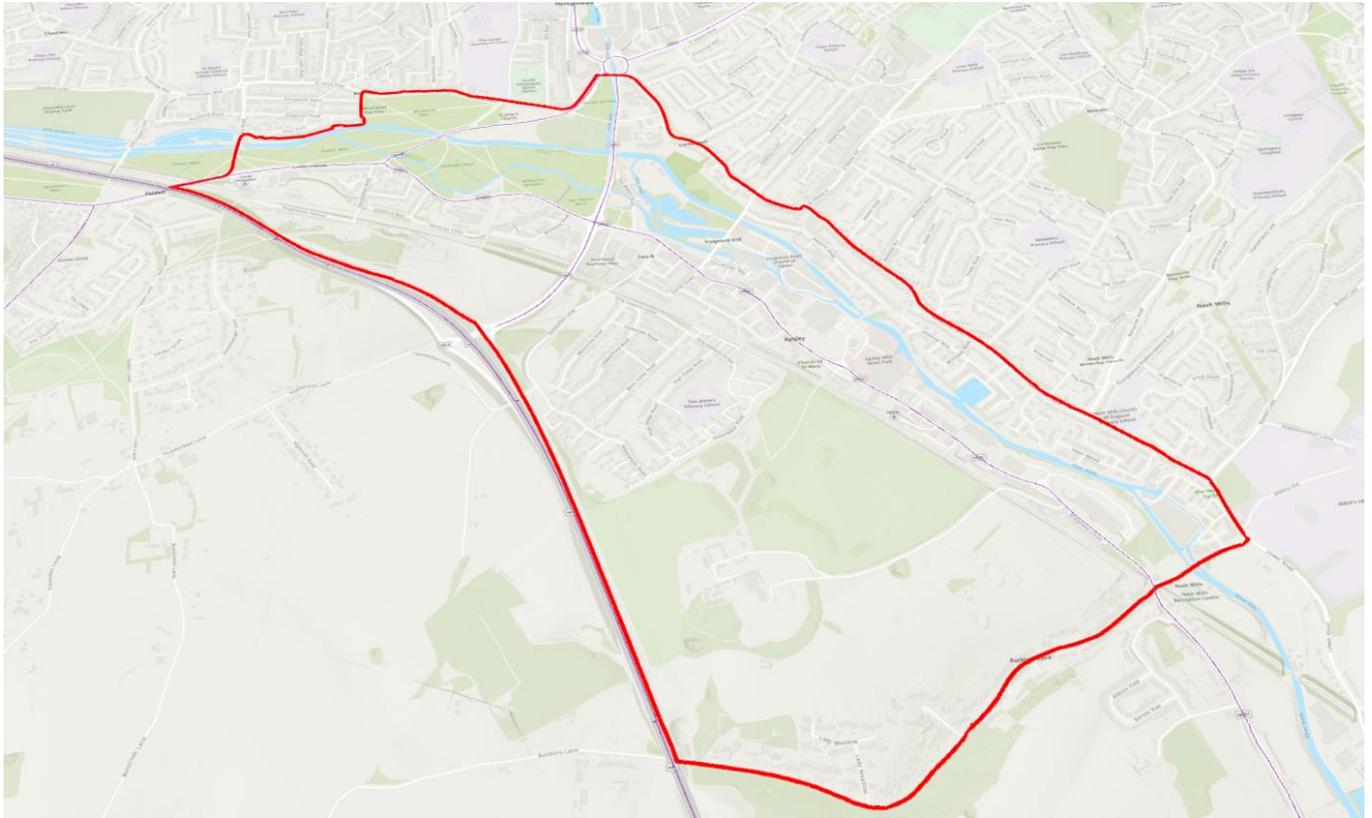
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## South Hemel Opportunity Area

We know from the recent consultation that the continued regeneration of Hemel Hempstead remains a key priority for our community, and we're keen to take this forward by exploring new opportunities for further regeneration and renewal.

As mentioned above, we are starting work on developing a long-term vision and strategy for the South Hemel area (see map below), which seeks to address some of the area's long standing issues, including congestion, air quality and wider infrastructure provision.

It is also an opportunity to look at the role of the area post Covid-19. This work will be fed into the Local Plan as it continues to progress. For more information about the programme of work, please visit our South Hemel webpage: [www.dacorum.gov.uk/southhemelopportunityarea](http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/southhemelopportunityarea)



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## Contact us

You can contact the Strategic Planning team in a number of ways:

Email: [strategic.planning@dacorum.gov.uk](mailto:strategic.planning@dacorum.gov.uk)

Phone: [01442 228660](tel:01442228660)

Address: Strategic Planning, The Forum, Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP1 1DN

