

Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan (2016) – Adoption Statement

Regulations 17, 26 and 35 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended)

In accordance with the Regulations outlined above, notice is hereby given that Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council formally adopted the Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan (2016) on 12th October 2023.

The Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan (2016) now replaces the Welwyn Hatfield District Plan 2005 as the statutory development plan for the Borough.

The Local Plan forms part of the Council's Statutory Planning Policy Framework. It provides the spatial planning policies which will help shape the future of development in our towns and villages by guiding how and where future development will come forward. The Plan allocates land for new homes (including affordable housing) business premises, open spaces and community facilities as well as infrastructure such as roads, schools and healthcare. Policies in the plan outline how such infrastructure should be delivered and provide protection to the Borough's historic and natural environmental assets. Policies within the adopted Local Plan will be used to assess planning applications and other related development proposals, to ensure that new development is sustainable, well designed, and supported by the required infrastructure in order to ensure the future needs of residents and businesses are addressed.

The Local Plan was subject to an independent examination conducted by Melvyn Middleton BA(Econ) DipTP DipMgmt MRTPI, the Local Plan Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State. The Inspector's Final Report on the Examination of the Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan (2016), received on 25th September 2023, concludes that the duty to cooperate has been met and that with the recommended main modifications, further main modifications and consequential modifications, set out in the Appendix to the report, the Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan (2016) satisfies the requirements of Section 20(5)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), meets the criteria for soundness as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and is capable of adoption.

The Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan (2016) incorporates all of the main modifications, further main modifications and consequential modifications to the version of the Local Plan that was submitted by the Council to the Secretary of State on 15th May 2017 (known as the Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council Draft Local Plan Proposed Submission (August 2016)), as recommended by the Inspector in his Final Report.

A number of Additional Modifications have also been included as necessary technical, factual, grammatical and typographical corrections that do not materially affect the policies in the Plan. Schedules setting out the main modifications, further main modifications, consequential modifications and additional modifications are available to view at: www.welhat.gov.uk/local-plan

In addition, the Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan (2016), Policies Maps, Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) Post Adoption Statement, Habitats Regulations Post Adoption Statement (as included in the SA adoptions statement) and this Adoption Statement are all available to view online on the Council's website.

These documents are also available to view in hard copy at the Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council Offices, The Campus, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL8 6AE, during normal opening hours.

Any person aggrieved by the Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan (2016) may make an application to the High Court under Section 113 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) on the grounds that:

- a) the document is not within the appropriate power; and/or
- b) a procedural requirement has not been complied with.

Any such application to the High Court must be made promptly, and in any event, no later than six weeks from the day following the local planning authority's adoption of the Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan (2016).

A copy of this Adoption Statement will be sent to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

For further information please contact the Planning Policy Team:
localplan@welhat.gov.uk

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13th October 2023