

SITE ALLOCATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (SADM) POLICIES PLAN: CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO POLICIES FOR GREEN SPACES.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Site Allocations and Development Management (SADM) Policies Plan?

SADM sets out criteria which the Council will use to judge development proposals and planning applications in Hertsmere; it also defines sites and areas where specific planning criteria or constraints will apply. It provides the detail of how the Core Strategy, which was adopted by the Council in 2013, will be achieved.

The Council consulted on the draft SADM in March/April 2014 and changes to the Plan were made in the light of comments made. The revised version of SADM was published in July 2015 when there was another opportunity for people to comment. The Plan and comments received were submitted to the Secretary of State in November 2015. An Independent Inspector is now examining the Plan to check that it is sound and that we have followed the correct procedures. The Inspector will hold public hearings in April 2016 into various aspects of the submitted Plan. The organisation of the hearings is undertaken by an independent Programme Officer, working on behalf of the Inspector. These hearings form part of the examination process; they will be attended by the Council, and the Inspector also invites people who have requested changes to the Plan to participate. This is so that the Inspector can ask any questions that will help him decide whether the Plan should be changed or not. The hearings are open to the public to observe.

Where can I find a copy of the SADM Plan that was submitted to the Secretary of State?

The SADM and all the documents that were submitted to the Secretary of State with it can be found in the [SADM Documents Library](#) on the Council's website. Hard copies of all the documents are available to view at the Council's Civic Offices in Borehamwood. The Plan and a smaller selection of documents are also available to view at district offices in Radlett and Bushey, Aldenham Parish and Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council offices, and the borough's local libraries.

What is the Council consulting on?

Policies SADM35 Major Green Space and SADM36 Local Green Space, together with the sites to which they apply and the supporting text in the submitted SADM (i.e. the Green Spaces section of the Submitted Plan) are proposed to be changed. The Council is now consulting on these proposed revisions.

Why is the Council proposing these changes?

As a result of his consideration of the submitted SADM Plan to date the Inspector asked the Council to re-consider Policies SADM35 Major Green Space and SADM36 Local Green Space and the sites to which they apply. His reasons are set out in his note ([Ex1f](#) on the [Examination website](#)).

Why is there a consultation exercise now?

Because the Inspector has asked the Council to suggest changes to these policies prior to the examination hearings, he has also asked the Council to provide an opportunity for public comment

on the proposed changes on this particular matter, and for the comments to be submitted prior to the hearings, which are programmed for mid-April. This will enable the Inspector to take these comments into account when considering whether the proposed, or any other, changes should be made to the Green Spaces section in the submitted Plan.

Where can I find out about the revised policies and whether they affect me?

The Council's revised proposals are on the <https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/openspaceconsultation> page of the Council's website. Hard copies are also available to view at the Council's main Civic Offices in Borehamwood and district offices in Radlett and Bushey, Aldenham Parish Council, Shenley Parish Council and Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council offices, and local libraries.

The Council's response to the Inspector's request to reconsider the policies is also included in its Examination Statement [HBC/1](#) on the [Examination website](#) (Matter 7, starting at page 51). The revised assessment matrix setting out which sites are still proposed as Local Green Space and which will fall under a proposed new policy for Open Spaces starts at page 57. (NB Sites BH001 Hillmead Nature Park, BH003 Windmill Recreation Ground and Allotments, BH004 Land r/o 2-44 Richfield Road and SM003 Playing Field at St Giles School (which are all now proposed to be designated as Open Spaces) were omitted from this list in error. They are however included in the consultation material set out on the Council's <https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/openspaceconsultation> website page.)

If I want to make comments what do I need to do?

Your comments must be submitted in writing, preferably on the representation form available to download from the <https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/openspaceconsultation> page of the website. If possible please submit your completed representation by email to local.plan@hertsmere.gov.uk. Alternatively you can post it to:

Policy and Transport Team, Hertsmere Borough Council, Civic Offices, Elstree Way,
Borehamwood, WD6 1WA.

Your representation must reach us by **5pm on Monday 21 March 2016**. Late representations will not be accepted. Please note your representation cannot be treated as confidential. Individual residents' personal contact information will however be removed before representations are uploaded to the website.

What should my comments include?

Should you wish to respond to this consultation you should say whether you support or object to the revised policies, sites and/or supporting text. Your representation should relate to whether you consider them to be legally compliant and/or sound. The Guidance notes attached to the representation form explains these terms.

If you object to / do not agree with any aspect of the proposed changes you must say

- what you object to;
- why you object to it;
- what change should be made; and
- why your suggested change would remove your objection.

If you request a change to the Plan you have a right, if you wish, to appear at the examination hearings. If you wish to do so please indicate this in your representation or contact the Programme

Officer direct by the deadline below. Please note that written representations carry the same weight as those made orally at a hearing. The hearings are currently scheduled to take place over several days commencing Tuesday 12 April 2016.

What's the deadline for me to submit comments?

Your representation must reach us by **5pm on Monday 21 March 2016**. Please note late representations will not be accepted.

What happens next?

Following the hearings, and once the Inspector has reached his conclusions, he will write to the Council setting out any changes he thinks should be made to the submitted version of the Plan in the light of his examination of it. The Council will then consult again on any significant changes ('Main Modifications') before adopting the final version of the Plan.