



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Councillor Linda Haysey,
Leader of East Hertfordshire District Council
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The Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP
*Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local
Government*

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12 October 2018

Dear Councillor Haysey

East Hertfordshire District Council's Local Plan

I received a number of requests to intervene in the East Hertfordshire District Plan (the "Plan"). The requests raised a number of issues including Green Belt release, housing requirements, and infrastructure provision.

My letter of 11 September 2018 directed East Hertfordshire District Council (the "Council") not to take any action in connection with adoption of the Plan (the "Direction").

I have now had time to give careful consideration to the requests for me to intervene in the Plan, the report of the Inspector appointed to examine the Plan and other correspondence that I have received, including from your Council.

The Inspector set out in her report that there had been a rigorous process of balancing the importance of the Green Belt and the impact of development against the benefits. Further, she considered that there was an acute need for housing in the area and that each of the proposed sites was the most sustainable in contributing to meeting the needs of the area.

Taking into account the factors above, I do not differ from the conclusions the Inspector appointed to examine the Plan reached. I am satisfied that the approach taken is consistent with the relevant national policy. Given this, I have decided to withdraw the holding direction.

I encourage you and your Council to continue your close working relationship with your neighbours and to explore all options for addressing Hertfordshire's future housing need, including new settlements.

Finally, I would like to thank you and your officers for working collaboratively with my officials and for providing additional information to assist me in my consideration of the issues.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Brokenshire', written in a cursive style.

RT HON JAMES BROKENSHERE MP