



## STEVENAGE DISTRICT PLAN SECOND REVIEW PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS

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MARCH 2004

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GUIDANCE NOTES

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### 1. **What are the “Proposed Modifications”?**

The Proposed Modifications is the final statutory stage of consultation on the Stevenage District Plan Second Review. Once adopted the Plan will guide development in Stevenage until 2011. The publication of the Proposed Modifications follows the public inquiry into the draft plan, which was chaired by an independent Inspector. During the Inquiry, the Inspector considered all outstanding objections to the draft plan and made his recommendations in a report to the Council which was published in August 2003.

The Borough Council is required to consider all of the Inspector’s recommendations and has to respond to each one of them. The Borough Council is not obliged to accept all of the Inspector’s recommendations, but in this case, the Borough Council has decided that in this case it is appropriate to accept all recommendations as a matter of principle. This forms the basis for the Statement of Decisions and the Schedule of Proposed Modifications, which the Council is now publishing for public consultation.

### 2. **Understanding the combined “Statement of Decisions and Reasons and Schedule of Proposed Modifications”**

Following advice from Counsel, the Borough Council has decided to publish a combined statement of decisions and reasons together with the schedule of Proposed Modifications.

The combined schedule sets out the Inspector’s recommendations in the 2<sup>nd</sup> column, the Borough Council’s response to each of those recommendations in column 3 and, where needed, in column 4, details of the Council’s proposed modification to the Plan and the reasons for those changes and finally in column 5, a unique modification number.

For the purposes of complying with The Town and Country Planning (Development Plan) (England) Regulations 1999, column 3 constitutes the statement of reasons for the purposes of Regulation 27(1) and column 4 sets out the list of proposed modifications to the plan in accordance with Regulation 29 (1).

The Schedule of Proposed Modifications includes all changes which have been proposed to the Plan since the publication of the Revised Deposit Version, May 2001. This schedule therefore includes the Pre Inquiry Changes, published in March 2002 and the Further Proposed Changes published in December 2003. The Borough Council undertook limited public consultation on both these stages prior to the local plan inquiry.

### 3. **What Can I Comment On At This Time?**

As the Borough Council is proposing to accept all of the Inspector’s recommendations you can only comment on the changes which the Borough Council is proposing to make to the Plan. These can be identified in the schedule where there is a proposed

modification set out in column 4 together with a unique modification number in the right hand column.

Please note that the Borough Council is NOT required to consider any representations on those parts of the Plan where no change is proposed.

#### 4. **How Do I Make A Representation?**

The Borough Council has produced a standard form for supporting or objecting to the Proposed Modifications to the District Plan Review. A **separate** form should be completed for **each** individual issue and submitted to the Borough Council **before 5pm on \_\_\_\_\_**.

It is important that all representations are submitted on the proper forms and that they are received by the Borough Council within the formal consultation time. **The Borough Council is not required to consider any representations which are received after the close of the consultation period.**

Your representation should include the following information:

- Your name, address and contact details;
- Clear reference to the Proposed Modification you are commenting on;
- A clear indication of whether you are supporting or objecting to the Proposed Modification;
- Your reasons for supporting or objecting to the Proposed Modification; and
- An indication of how you would like the Plan changed to resolve any objection.

Completed representation forms should be sent to the address below:

Planning Policy Team, Stevenage Borough Council, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage, SG1 1HN  
Alternatively, you can e-mail a completed form to [local.plans@Stevenage.gov.uk](mailto:local.plans@Stevenage.gov.uk)

#### 5. **What Happens Next**

Following this period of public consultation, the Borough Council will consider all the representations submitted in respect of the Proposed Modifications. It will then decide whether to make any further amendments to the Plan.

If no further changes are needed which would materially affect the Plan, the Borough Council will move to formally adopt the District Plan Second Review. If you would like to be informed when the Plan is adopted, please tick the relevant box on the representations form or contact the Borough Council directly.