

WHBC Local Plan Examination Stage 4

The dates for Stage 4 of the Local Plan examination have now been announced:

Tuesday 26 June – Thursday 28 June 2018

Friday 29 June – Reserve session.

Stage 4 will be looking at the individual allocated sites in Hatfield and Welwyn Garden City only.

At the end of the Stage 2 hearing session in October 2017, the Inspector asked the Council to submit evidence to the examination identifying which parts of the borough's Green Belt are 'critical' to retain.

The Council have engaged consultants, LUC, to prepare a Green Belt Review to:

- Assess how essential it is to retain those parts of the borough's Green Belt which could contribute to sustainable patterns of development. This will focus on Green Belt parcels around settlements which are currently inset (not in the Green Belt) such as Brookmans Park, Little Heath and Welham Green.
- Review the Borough's settlements that are 'washed over' by the Green Belt. The settlements in North Mymms that are 'washed over' (completely in the Green Belt) are Bell Bar, Swanley Bar and Water End. The consultants will assess how they contribute to the openness of the Green Belt and whether they can be removed from the Green Belt and if so, if they will be suitable for sustainable development and growth.
- If land can be found to accommodate 20,000 dwellings, then the study will confine itself to areas adjacent to the urban areas. If not, other areas of the Green Belt will be looked at for their potential to accommodate a new settlement. The Council have asked the consultants to scope for three sites in Welwyn Hatfield that might be capable of accommodating a settlement of at least 1,000 dwellings and supporting infrastructure.

The Inspector has stated that he "does not propose to examine proposals that are clearly likely to be affected by the outcomes of the additional Green Belt work that he has requested to be undertaken."

Therefore, until the Green Belt Review is completed in mid-June 2018 the examination is unlikely to discuss the North Mymms sites until later this year.