



HARPENDEN TOWN COUNCIL

CLOSER TO THE COMMUNITY

Spatial Planning Team
St Albans City and District Council
Civic Centre
St Peters Street
St Albans
Herts AL1 3JE

26 February 2021

Dear Sirs

Re: Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report consultation draft

Harpenden Town Council Planning Committee reviewed the above consultation document at the meeting on the 23 February 2021, and would like to submit the following observations:

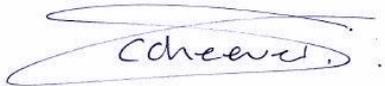
- The Report appears to be inconsistent throughout in not referring to St Albans City & District as a whole, instead referring to St Albans only. It is essential that the wider district including Harpenden and the Villages are considered.
- It is noted that in the introduction of the report, quite rightly, the work surrounding this document is taking place against the background of a period in a state of flux and notes the potential longer-term impacts of Covid-19 could be profound, especially with regards to work patterns including travel. However, weight needs to be added to the word "potential". It is difficult to see how a final appraisal report can be produced until greater clarity has been provided on the post Covid-19 situation.
- Point 1.13 of the Introduction refers to good regional transport connections. It is thought this to be true of North South but East West links are somewhat lacking.
- Reference is made in the Supplementary Questions Table 5.2 under SO4b, to active travel metrics around car travel levels to work. It is felt that this should include to school as well, as this contributes vastly to vehicle movements at certain times of day.
- Water usage is a major issue given the level of development being planned for. Tweaking round the edges/reduced consumption is felt not to be sufficient. There is a fundamental need for major infrastructure investment in water supply, whilst ensuring protection is afforded to the important and rare chalk streams present within the

district. It is appreciated, this matter may not lie directly in the St Albans Local Plan but still needs to be acted upon.

- The Report explains little on how people who, for whatever reason, are not IT enabled are included in the consultation process. This needs to be considered to ensure all stakeholders are included.

Harpenden Town Council very much look forward to being consulted on the full St Albans City and District Council Local Plan 2020-2038 update document when it becomes available for review.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "C. Cheevers". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a hand-drawn oval shape.

Carl Cheevers
Town Clerk.