A new plan for Stevenage

Planning for the future of the town to 2031

January 2016
Introduction

We are preparing a new plan for the future of the town and we want to know your views. This plan will guide development within the town until 2031.

The Local Plan sets out how Stevenage will develop in the future: both regeneration and growth.

We are planning for a bigger, better town centre, with new homes, shops, coffee bars and restaurants. There will be new leisure facilities, alongside new train and bus stations. Our town centre was once a place where people came to marvel: we aim to regenerate it so that, once again, people will see the town centre as the best that is on offer.

The plan will decide how many new homes will be provided and where these will go. It will identify sites for employment use across the Borough. Existing green spaces will be protected and new ones will be created. New schools and GP surgeries, improved roads and better bus services, parks and play spaces – all these will be provided.

The Local Plan is important to the success of the town. It affects all of us.

Before we finalise the plan, we would like to hear your views. Please go to our website, read the new plan and let us have your thoughts.
New jobs

We want to provide a range of job opportunities for local people. The existing, successful, employment areas of Gunnels Wood and Pin Green will be protected and further employment provided.

The plan allocates four new employment sites.

For industry
- North Road
- Halfpenny Field
- Within Stevenage West

For offices
- Within the town centre

We will continue to support the expansion of the Bioscience Catalyst and the new Cell Therapy Catapult close to Junction 7 of the A1(M).
Town centre regeneration

The regeneration of the town centre is the highest priority of the council. We aim to reinvigorate the town centre with a programme of new development. This will provide over 3,000 new homes. The plan identifies six specific areas where new development will be concentrated.

**The Central Core**
- New homes and shops
- New offices
- Relocation of the Gordon Craig Theatre
- Extension of the Westgate Shopping Centre
- New civic square to provide additional greenspace
- Relocation of the bus station.

**Station Gateway**
A redeveloped railway station:
- Addition of a fifth platform
- New station entrances on both sides of the tracks will open up these areas for development.
**Centre West**
Redevelopment of the Leisure Park to include:
- Up to 1,500 new homes
- Relocated leisure uses
- Multi storey car park.

**Marshgate**
- New homes
- Relocated sports centre.

**Southgate**
- New homes – including redevelopment of Southgate House
- Primary school
- Public sector hub to incorporate a new library and health centre.

**Northgate**
- New homes around a new Tesco Store
- Brickdale House redevelopment.
New homes

We want to provide enough new homes to meet your needs. We plan to provide at least 7,600 new homes. The regeneration of the town centre offers the most significant opportunity to meet these needs. A number of other sites are allocated for residential use across the town, as identified on the map on Page 6.

Neighbourhood centres

Many of our neighbourhood centres are also in need of regeneration and renewal.

This provides an opportunity to deliver new homes, while providing shops and community facilities that meet modern needs.

A rolling programme of work will see at least seven centres redeveloped:

- Bedwell Crescent
- Burwell Road
- Kenilworth Close
- Marymead
- The Glebe
- The Hyde
- The Oval

These have the potential to provide around 550 new homes, whilst still providing shops.

Housing for all

Hertfordshire is an expensive place to buy or rent somewhere to live. We aim to provide a variety of different house types and sizes to meet the needs of all of the community; from top-of-the-range executive homes, through family homes to flats. This will include homes available for social rent.

We recognise that Stevenage has a severe shortage of affordable homes. We aim to build at least 2,000 affordable homes by 2031.
New neighbourhoods

Three new neighbourhoods have been allocated to meet the remainder of our housing needs. Development at Stevenage West, North of Stevenage and the South East of Stevenage, will together provide around 2,700 homes.

These will create new communities, with local centres to meet the needs of the new residents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>North of Stevenage</strong></td>
<td>800 new homes, Removed from Green Belt, Mix of house types and sizes, Community facilities – including local shops, GP surgery and a primary school, Access from North Road, Affordable homes, Valley stays in Green Belt</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>South East of Stevenage</strong></td>
<td>550 new homes, Removed from Green Belt, Mix of house types and sizes, Community facilities – including local shops and a GP surgery, New roundabout on A602</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Stevenage West</strong></td>
<td>1,350 new homes, Mix of house types and sizes, New employment land, Community facilities – including local shops, sports facilities, a new primary school and a GP surgery, An open space/playing field buffer, Improved access via Bessemer Drive and Meadway, Affordable homes</td>
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</tbody>
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![North of Stevenage (indicative masterplan)](image)

![South East of Stevenage](image)

![Stevenage West (indicative masterplan)](image)
Green spaces
We will ensure that existing open spaces are protected and new open spaces are created within the town. Fairlands Valley Park is the largest area of open space in Stevenage. We will improve access to this park.

Wildlife sites and green links
We will protect important wildlife sites, including woodlands, meadows and natural springs. We will retain a series of green links and corridors across the town which connect our green spaces. Two new green links are identified at Grace Way and Great Ashby. The Stevenage Outer Orbital Path is a circular walk around Stevenage. This is connected to the town by a number of link paths identified as public rights of way.

Biodiversity offsetting
We will ensure developers fully compensate for habitat and wildlife impacts associated with their development through biodiversity offsetting. This will ensure there is no loss of biodiversity. In some cases, this process can lead to overall biodiversity gain.
Transport and infrastructure

We will require investment and improvement to the town’s overall infrastructure assets to support the growth of Stevenage. Improvements will be funded through developer contributions, where possible. The following infrastructure improvements have been identified:

**Roads and rail**
- Extra lanes between junctions 6 and 8 of the A1(M)
- New fifth platform to increase capacity at Stevenage Station

**Healthcare**
We want to ensure residents have access to modern healthcare facilities.
- Lister Hospital Campus will be extended
- New healthcare facilities to be provided at Ridlins Playing Fields
- GP surgeries will be provided at each of the three new neighbourhoods

**Education**
We want to ensure young people have access to the education they need.
- New primary schools to be provided at Stevenage West and North of Stevenage
- The Barnwell East Campus will be reopened to meet secondary school needs
How to have your say

Respond online by going to stevenage.gov.uk and clicking on ‘Have your Say’

You can e-mail us at planningpolicy@stevenage.gov.uk

Alternatively, you can write to us at:
Planning Policy
Stevenage Borough Council
Daneshill House
Danestrete
Stevenage
SG1 1HN

We would like to hear from you by 5pm on Wednesday 17 February 2016.

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