

Carmell Thomas

From: Cllr Dason Canning <Cllr.D.Canning@councillor.stalbans.gov.uk>
Sent: 22 July 2025 09:33
To: Planning Policy (SADC)
Subject: Comments on Additional Documents SADC Local Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Good morning,

During the plan formulation the relation between the methodology presented by consultants and the final list of sites identified and selected did not include any explanation to councillors involved in the process as to how the sites were selected and how this selection correlated with the methodology.

The methodology used in the ARUP Green Belt review was largely disregarded on the Strategic sites which in the case of Harpenden had been already identified before the review was even conducted.

The only political input in the site selection process during the entire plan making process was the removal of 1 site in Harpenden South due to access problems.

Sites around Harpenden to the west, south and east of the Town, with far better access to the station and amenities in the town centre, were rejected for previously identified sites on the outskirts of the town HNE, NNW that had already been identified in previous failed Local Plans.

The only reason which I now see from this document for the exclusion of these sites is that they defined as being outside the Green Belt Buffer stated in the methodology. I believe this is not the case in some of these sites and the "methodology" has been used selectively and unequally on sites around Harpenden.

The lack of Councillor involvement in the decision-making process and the stark contrast between the methodology and site selection was notable with the selected sites just being presented to councillors near the end of the plan making process without any real political involvement or ability to contribute to the decision-making process.

The selection of the sites in Harpenden: HNE and HNW conflict significantly with the methodology used to select them and in large parts go against the recommendations of the Arup Review and methodology for selecting sites.

The selected sites also lack vision in terms of provision of a local centres and facilities and will result in nothing less than statistical housing provision in the form of characterless urban sprawl on the outskirts of Harpenden. This goes against the key principles stated in the methodology.

The site selection process involved very little to no Councillor input in decision making (only rubber stamping) and therefore as democratically elected representatives of the community we have been let down by this aspect of the planning process.

Kind Regards

Cllr Dason Canning
East Harpenden Ward
SADC

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)