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Watford Borough Council

**Appendix A: Review of Relevant Plans, Policies and
Programmes**

Prepared by:

ClearLead Consulting Ltd

Project Ref: C0110

Quality Management

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1 Introduction

This appendix presents the findings of the review of Policies, Plans and Programmes (PPP) including relevant international, national and local documents undertaken as a part of the evidence gathering exercise for the Watford Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping Report. It should be read in conjunction with the Watford Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (April 2018).

Section 3 is organised into topics which reflect the topics set out within the main Scoping Report. The topics are those which are required by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations) with some additional topics added, such as ‘Economy’ and ‘Employment and Skills’ to broaden the scope of the assessment to cover more social and economic topics in addition to environmental. The topics are:

Table 1.1: Watford Local Plan Update SA topics compared with SEA topics	
SA Topics adopted for this assessment	SEA Regulations topics required to be considered
Economy	(not required by SEA Regulations)
Employment and Skills	(not required by SEA Regulations)
Population	Population
Housing	Material assets
Human Health	Human Health Population
Crime and Safety	Human Health
Transport and Accessibility	Material assets
Air, Noise and Light Pollution	Air
Climate	Climatic factors
Biodiversity	Biodiversity, fauna, flora
Cultural Heritage	Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage.

Table 1.1: Watford Local Plan Update SA topics compared with SEA topics	
SA Topics adopted for this assessment	SEA Regulations topics required to be considered
	Material assets
Landscape and Townscape	Landscape
Soil and Geology	Soil
Water	Water
Waste	(not required by SEA Regulations)

In this appendix document, some topics have been combined because the PPP relating to them overlap or are very similar. This applies to Economy and Employment and Skills (which have been combined into ‘Economy and Employment’ in Table 3.1) and Population, Human Health and Crime and Safety (which have been combined into ‘Health and Community’ in Table 3.2).

The Planning Practice Guidance¹ states that:

“The sustainability appraisal should only focus on what is needed to assess the likely significant effects of the Local Plan. It should focus on the environmental, economic and social impacts that are likely to be significant. It does not need to be done in any more detail, or using more resources, than is considered to be appropriate for the content and level of detail in the Local Plan”.

The review of PPP has therefore focused on the documents that could have an influence on the Watford Local Plan and is not an exhaustive list of documents prepared in the UK under each topic.

Following the EU referendum and resolution for the UK to leave the EU, it has been assumed that all EU policy remains in place.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal#sustainability-appraisal-requirements-for-local-plans> accessed on 31/10/17



This appendix has been updated following consultation with key stakeholders², adjoining boroughs and the public which took place over a six-week period from 18 December 2017 to 29 January 2018. Consultation comments received are reproduced in Appendix C.

² Environment Agency, Natural England, Historic England are the SEA statutory consultees

2 Overarching Documents

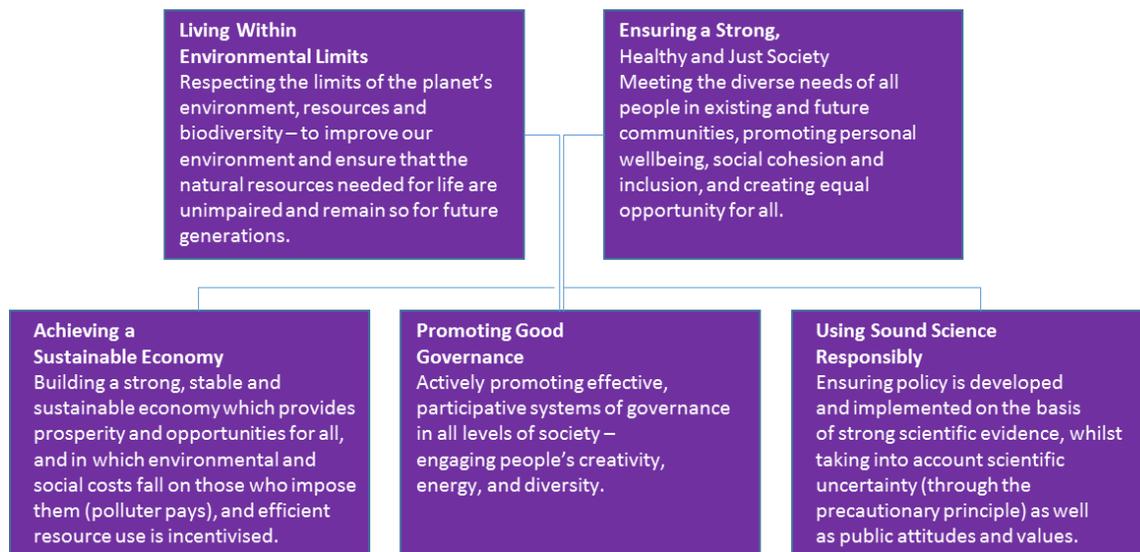
There are a number of key overarching documents, including the SEA Directive, the UK Sustainable Development Strategy (2005) and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2019). Relevant messages from the NPPF have been set out within Section 2 of the main report and are also included within the tables within Section 3 of this document

European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the SEA Directive) came into force in 2001. The Directive’s objective is to:

“provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.”

Member States were required to transpose the Directive into laws, regulations and administrative provisions to apply to all plans and programmes on or after 21 July 2004. The SEA Directive was transposed into English law through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SEA Regulations) and applies to a range of English plans and programmes, including Neighbourhood Plans.

The UK Sustainable Development Strategy ‘Securing the Future’ was published in 2005. The document set out some guiding principles for sustainable development:





Watford's Sustainable Community Strategy 2026 builds on the vision and commitment 'One Watford' set out in the borough's second Community Plan 2006- 2026. The vision remains the same, for Watford to be "a town to be proud of, where people will always choose to live, work and visit". The key objectives are to make Watford:

- A well-planned town with homes to suit all needs.
- A well-informed community where everyone can contribute.
- A healthy town.
- A prosperous and educated town.
- A town that protects its environment and heritage.
- A safer town.

The Watford Borough Council (WBC) Corporate Strategy 2016 – 2020 presents a vision for the Council:

"To create a bold and progressive future for Watford:

Our new vision reflects our approach to the current challenges and opportunities facing the Council as an organisation and the town as a place to live, work, visit and learn. We want to champion our town so that it is a place where all our communities thrive and prosper, benefitting from strong economic growth and good quality local services and facilities. This will require the Council to be innovative and explore new ways of working and champion initiatives that will transform the town and the organisation. More of the same isn't going to secure the future we want for Watford, which is why bold and progressive lie at the heart of our ambitions."

Supporting this vision, the Council has five priority areas of work:

- 1. Identify ways to manage the borough's housing needs*
- 2. Champion smart growth and economic prosperity*
- 3. Provide for our vulnerable and disadvantaged communities*
- 4. Deliver a digital Watford to empower our community*
- 5. Secure our own financial future".*

3 Review of Documents by Topic

Table 3.1: Economy and Employment	
Message / Issue	Source document(s)
National	
Create fair employment and good work for all.	Fair Society, Healthy Lives: The Marmot Review: Strategic review of health inequalities in England post 2012
<p>The Government is committed to securing economic growth in order to create jobs and prosperity, building on the country's inherent strengths, and to meeting the twin challenges of global competition and of a low carbon future.</p> <p>In drawing up Local Plans, local planning authorities should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set out a clear economic vision and strategy for their area which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth; • set criteria, or identify strategic sites, for local and inward investment to match the strategy and to meet anticipated needs over the plan period; • support existing business sectors, taking account of whether they are expanding or contracting and, where possible, identify and plan for new or emerging sectors likely to locate in their area. Policies should be flexible enough to accommodate needs not anticipated in the plan and to allow a rapid response to changes in economic circumstances; • plan positively for the location, promotion and expansion of clusters or networks of knowledge driven, creative or high technology industries; • identify priority areas for economic regeneration, infrastructure provision and environmental enhancement; and • facilitate flexible working practices such as the integration of residential and commercial uses within the same unit. <p>Planning policies should avoid the long-term protection of sites allocated for employment use where there is no reasonable prospect of a site being used for that purpose.</p>	National Planning Policy Framework; DCLG (2019)
<p>The Enterprise Act includes measures to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a Small Business Commissioner to help small firms resolve issues 	The Enterprise Act (2016)

Table 3.1: Economy and Employment

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend the Primary Authority scheme to make it easier for businesses to access tailored and assured advice from local authorities, giving them greater confidence to invest and grow • Protect and strengthen apprenticeships by introducing targets for apprenticeships in public sector bodies in England, and establish an Institute for Apprenticeships – an independent, employer-led body that will make sure apprenticeships meet the needs of business 	
Local	
<p>Economic Development Priorities 2015-2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 1 – the Sustainable Growth of Watford & its Economy. • Priority 2 – Transport & Digital Connectivity. • Priority 3 – Inward Investment & Business Retention. • Priority 4 – Innovation & Enterprise. • Priority 5 – Employability & Skills. 	WBC Economic Development Strategy 2015-2020
<p>Reported that Watford appeared to have insufficient employment floorspace in quantitative terms to meet future needs up to 2031 under the majority of scenarios of future growth. Recommended that additional space is identified in order that business needs are met within Watford up to 2031.</p>	Economic Development and Growth Assessment, Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners (2014)
<p>The following recommendations are made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any loss of A1 units in the Primary Retail Frontage should be resisted and efforts made to increase the number of A1 units in the area, in line with Policy TLC3. • Retain A1, A2, A3 uses in the secondary retail frontage as a minimum • Retain A1 retail use in INTU as a minimum with an aim to increase A1 use to 85% • Consider options for improving public realm and pedestrianisation of the High Street particularly between Market Street and Kings Street • Extend contraflow cycle lane between Clarendon Road and Market Street • Consider options in the Parade area for expanding a creative industry hub • Provide improved pedestrian connections between the High Street Station and the High Street. 	Watford Town Centre Situation Report (September 2017)

Table 3.2: Health and Community

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
National	
Improve public health by strengthening local public health activities which connect people with nature.	The Natural Choice: Securing the value of nature; HM Government June 2011.
<p>The Equality Act 2010 legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and in wider society. It is against the law to discriminate against anyone because of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • age; • being or becoming a transsexual person; • being married or in a civil partnership; • being pregnant or having a child; • disability; • race including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin; • religion, belief or lack of religion/belief; • sex; and • sexual orientation. 	Equality Act 2010
Improve public health by strengthening local public health activities which connect people with nature.	The Natural Choice: Securing the value of nature; HM Government June 2011.
<p>Reducing health inequalities is a matter of fairness and social justice. In England, the many people who are currently dying prematurely each year as a result of health inequalities would otherwise have enjoyed, in total, between 1.3 and 2.5 million extra years of life.</p> <p>Ensure a healthy standard of living for all; Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities; and Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention.</p>	Fair Society, Healthy Lives: The Marmot Review: Strategic review of health inequalities in England post 2012
Increase healthy life expectancy and reduce differences in life expectancy and healthy life expectancy between communities.	Public Health Outcomes Framework, NHS, January 2012
Too many children and young people are living in circumstances that make it difficult for them to thrive.	Director of Public Health annual report 2011; Public Health Agency 2011

Table 3.2: Health and Community

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
<p>One of the 12 core planning principles of the NPPF is: Promoting healthy communities. The NPPF argues that the planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities. Local planning authorities should create a shared vision with communities of the residential environment and facilities they wish to see. Local policies and decisions should therefore promote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe and accessible environments and developments. • Opportunities for members of the community to mix and meet. • Plan for development and use of high quality shared public space. • Guard against loss of facilities. • Ensure established shops can develop in a sustainable way. • Ensure integrated approach to housing and community facilities and services. <p>Local plans should identify community green spaces of particular importance (including recreational and tranquillity) to them, ensuring any development of these areas is ruled out in a majority of circumstances.</p> <p>The framework sets out open space, sport and recreation considerations for neighbourhood planning bodies. These include an assessment of needs and opportunities; setting local standards; maintaining an adequate supply of open space and sports and recreational facilities; planning for new open space and sports and recreational facilities; and planning obligations.</p>	<p>National Planning Policy Framework; DCLG 2019</p>
<p>Deliver better public services through involving and consulting users more fully, providing better information about local standards and managing services at neighbourhood level.</p>	<p>Strong and Prosperous Communities: The Local Government White Paper, 2006</p>
<p>Engage and empower local people and communities. Promote local action planning. Enable more power and say for communities in the decisions that affect them.</p>	<p>Communities in Control: Real People, Real Power, White Paper, July 2008</p>
<p>Provision of opportunities for meetings between members of the community who might not otherwise come into contact with each other, including through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres and active street frontages which bring together those who work, live and play in the vicinity.</p> <p>Providing safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion.</p>	<p>National Planning Policy Framework; DCLG (2019)</p>

Table 3.2: Health and Community

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
<p>Providing safe and accessible developments, containing clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high-quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.</p> <p>Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.</p>	
<p>Strategy aims that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In every residential area there are a variety of supervised and unsupervised places for play, free of charge; • Local neighbourhoods are, and feel like, safe, interesting places to play; • Routes to children’s play space are safe and accessible for all children and young people; • Parks and open spaces are attractive and welcoming to children and young people, and are well maintained and well used; • Children and young people have a clear stake in public space and their play is accepted by their neighbours; • Children and young people play in a way that respects other people and property; • Children and young people and their families take an active role in the development of local play spaces; and • Play spaces are attractive, welcoming, engaging and accessible for all local children and young people, including disabled children, and children from minority groups in the community. 	<p>Play Strategy for England; DCMS, 2008</p>
<p>The Government has set two overarching objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A major increase in participation in sport; and • A sustained increase in success at international competition. <p>In addition to this, the document makes recommendations in 4 areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grassroots participation; • High performance sport; • Mega sporting events; and • Delivery. <p>A number of targets and indicators are identified. The long-term vision being “to increase significantly levels of sport and physical activity, particularly among disadvantaged groups; and to achieve sustained levels of success in international competition”.</p> <p>The key targets being:</p>	<p>DCMS (2002) Game plan: A strategy for delivering government's sport and physical activity objectives</p>

Table 3.2: Health and Community

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage a mass participation culture (with as much emphasis on physical activity as competitive sport). A benchmark for this could be Finland which has very high quality and quantity of participation, particularly among older people. Our target is for 70% (currently ~30%) of the population to be reasonably active (for example 30 minutes of moderate exercise five times a week) by 2020. • To enhance international success. A benchmark for this could be Australia, which has achieved disproportionate levels of international success. Our target is for British and English teams and individuals to sustain rankings within the top 5 countries, particularly in more popular sports. • To adopt a different approach to hosting mega sporting events. • They should be seen as an occasional celebration of success rather than as a means to achieving other government objectives. 	
<p>This mandate sets out 7 key objectives for NHS England that reflect its contribution to these ambitions to 2020:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Through better commissioning, improve local and national health outcomes, and reduce health inequalities. 2) To help create the safest, highest quality health and care service. 3) To balance the NHS budget and improve efficiency and productivity. 4) To lead a step change in the NHS in preventing ill health and supporting people to live healthier lives. 5) To maintain and improve performance against core standards. 6) To improve out-of-hospital care. 7) To support research, innovation and growth. 	<p>The Government's mandate to NHS England for 2017-18</p>
<p>This document sets out a shared commitment to high-quality, person-centred adult social care. It has been produced to make a difference in care services by working across the sector with people who use these services and their careers. It has been developed so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The public – people who use services, families and carers – know what high-quality care looks like and what they have the right to expect. • Staff working within adult social care understand what high-quality care looks like and how they can contribute to delivering it. • Providers of adult social care share a clear vision and commitment to providing high-quality care. 	<p>NHS Adult Social Care: Quality Matters, July 2017</p>

Table 3.2: Health and Community

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioners and funders of adult social care support the commissioning of high-quality care and high-quality integrated care. National bodies (including regulators and improvement agencies) support integrated working across the system to champion high-quality care. 	
Local	
<p>Key outcomes for Hertfordshire and each of the 10 districts are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase healthy eating (5-a-day); Increase physical activity levels; Reduce excess weight and obesity; and Reduce sedentary behaviour. 	Needs Assessment ³ – Increasing physical activity and promoting a healthy weight (February 2016)
<p>Areas for action include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The home environment and winter warmth; adequate size and thermal efficiency; at a location that allows access to community facilities and to family, nearby or through transport links; and in a setting where care can be received; Promotion of physical activity in the elderly; and Providing a dementia friendly environment and community; The physical environment – lighting, signage, clear directions, reduced clutter, improved lighting, safe; Local Facilities – being able to physically access banks, transport, leisure facilities etc. 	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – Ageing Well (January 2014)
<p>The goal of the strategy is to optimise the health and wellbeing of people in Hertfordshire throughout the course of their lives with the strategy focusing on the four major life stages starting well, developing well, living & working well and ageing well.</p> <p>The strategy focuses on seven key areas, where planning can influence peoples' health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air Quality; Food and Healthy Choices; Movement and Access; Neighbourhood Spaces; Housing and Development Design; 	<p>Hertfordshire's Health and Wellbeing Strategy's' (2016-2020)</p> <p>Hertfordshire's Health and Wellbeing Planning Guidance Document - Supporting Context – DRAFT (September 2016)</p>

³ Hertfordshire's Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNA) look at the specific health and wellbeing needs of the local population and point out areas of inequality.

Table 3.2: Health and Community

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Economy and Employment; and Quality Open Space, Play and Recreation. 	
<p>Strategic Goal 1 (SG1): To ensure that Watford has a network of accessible, high quality, high capacity, well maintained, well used and financially and environmentally sustainable sports facilities, capable of accommodating local demand, complemented by good quality changing and social accommodation, on a limited number of strategically located sites – known as “Strategic Sports Sites”.</p> <p>Strategic Goal 2 (SG2): To promote the development of financially sustainable multi-sport clubs offering inclusive opportunities for players of all ages and abilities and both sexes.</p> <p>Strategic Goal 3 (SG3): To develop new forms of provision for traditional sports in partnership with their governing bodies in order to attract new participants and encourage past participants to return to their former sport, promote more mid-week participation and reduce the peaking of demand for pitches and other facilities at the weekend, particularly Sunday mornings.</p>	Sports Facilities Strategy for Watford 2015-2025
<p>Priorities are identified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing community participation in physical activity and sport to contribute towards a healthy town for Watford; and Developing capacity within the local sporting infrastructure, particularly around clubs, coaches and volunteers to improve sporting opportunities. 	Sports Development Framework 2011-2014

Table 3.3: Housing

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
National	
<p>Plan for a mix of housing based on current and future demographic trends, market trends and the needs of different groups in the community. Paragraph 47 of the NPPF requires local authorities to seek to ensure that their Local Plans meet the full Objectively Assessed Housing Need (OAHN) of the area for market and affordable housing and identify a five-year supply of deliverable sites to meet the identified need.</p> <p>Identify the size, type, tenure and range of housing that is required in particular locations, reflecting local demand.</p>	National Planning Policy Framework; DCLG (2019)
<p>The Act allows the modification or discharge of the affordable housing elements of section 106 agreements in order to make developments more viable.</p> <p>Contains measures to extend permitted development rights to allow single-storey extensions of up to eight metres.</p> <p>Reduces the volume of extra paperwork required with a planning application; removing over-lapping development consent regimes that require multiple extra permissions from different government agencies.</p>	Growth and Infrastructure Act (2013)
<p>This consultation seeks views on the Government’s proposed new housing costs funding model from April 2020 for sheltered and extra care housing in England. It is aimed at local authorities, supported housing providers and people living in sheltered and extra care supported housing and their families.</p>	Funding Supported Housing: Policy Statement and Consultation (October 2017)
Local	
<p>Themes and relevant priorities are listed below.</p> <p>Theme 1: Improving the supply of housing</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To influence the type of new housing that is provided by inputting into the Planning process and influencing private sector providers. 2. To work with registered providers to achieve a balance between traditional social rented properties and new business which enables them to develop other types of homes such as affordable rent, market rent, homes for sale. <p>Theme 2: Improving the condition and management of existing housing</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To revise the Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy (which includes grants and loan assistance) to make homes decent and adapt them for disabled persons. 	Watford Housing Strategy 2015-2020 Needs Analysis (February 2015)

Table 3.3: Housing

<p>2. To improve the condition of the housing stock to enable the provision of safe, sustainable, healthy and well-maintained homes.</p> <p>Theme 4: Key locations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To support the delivery of affordable housing in the Special Policy Areas. 2. To implement targeted initiatives such as Street Improvement Projects which tackle a range of issues in specific areas such as property conditions, rubbish outside and community safety concerns through a multi-agency approach. <p>Theme 5: Wellbeing, economy and health</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake housing related activity in line with health and well-being priorities for the borough, such as achieving “safe and healthy homes”. 2. Undertake housing related activity to support economic growth in Watford in consultation with Watford’s business community. 	
<p>The guiding principles for the homelessness review and strategy consist of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To prevent homelessness occurring by assisting households in remaining in their current settled home or by encouraging them to follow planned pathways to a settled home. • Where homelessness cannot be prevented, to provide sufficient support to prevent homelessness occurring in the future and to improve aspects of the lives of homeless households including health, access to education and employment opportunities. • To work in partnership with organisations in and around Watford to prevent and tackle homelessness. • To manage demand for local services and the supply of affordable housing. <p>The Homelessness Strategy Action Plan contains a set of coherent actions that are designed to carry out the guiding principles. The actions will be grouped into the four strategic priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prevention of homelessness. 2. Making best use of temporary accommodation. 3. Improving access to settled accommodation (this will focus primarily on use of existing housing stock while new affordable housing will be included in the new Housing Strategy). 4. Providing support to manage life and health issues. 	<p>WBC Homeless review 2013 to 2018 (October 2013)</p>
<p>Action plan includes relevant aims, as follows:</p>	<p>WBC Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan 2014/2015</p>

Table 3.3: Housing

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investigating options to expand the portfolio of temporary accommodation.<ul style="list-style-type: none">– An increase in units available to meet demand which are good quality and more effective than at present.– Aiming for a maximum of 20 nightly lets and no Bed and Breakfast placements. | |
|--|--|

Table 3.4: Transport and Accessibility

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
International	
The UK needs to invest in its transport infrastructure if it is to continue to meet the needs of the rest of the economy over the coming decade.	Europe 2020 Growth Strategy – Priorities for the UK (2013)
National	
Actively manage patterns of growth to make the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling and focus significant development in locations which are or can be made sustainable;	National Planning Policy Framework; DCLG (2019)
Create safe and secure layouts which minimise conflicts between traffic and cyclists or pedestrians, avoiding street clutter and where appropriate establishing home zones;	National Planning Policy Framework; DCLG (2019)
Incorporate facilities for charging plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles;	National Planning Policy Framework; DCLG (2019)
Consider the needs of people with disabilities by all modes of transport	National Planning Policy Framework; DCLG (2019)
Local planning authorities should support the expansion of electronic communications networks, including telecommunications and high-speed broadband.	National Planning Policy Framework; DCLG (2019)
Local planning authorities should prioritise walking, cycling and public transport and other smarter choices by setting targets for the proportion of trips in their area by these modes.	Planning for Climate Change – guidance for local authorities: Planning and Climate Change Coalition April 2012
<p>This Strategy sets out how the government will build on recent transport progress and how they intend to respond realistically and pragmatically to today's challenges.</p> <p>They aim to create a more reliable, less congested, and better-connected transport network that works for the users who rely on it. Through investment they aim to achieve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A network that is reliable, well-managed, and safe; • Journeys that are smooth, fast, and comfortable; and • The right connections in the right places 	Transport Investment Strategy, 2017
Local	
Promoting alternative travel modes to the car and the efficient management of the network.	Car Parking Standards Review (Draft)

Table 3.4: Transport and Accessibility

The key transport issues in Hertfordshire are: tackling peak-time congestion, maintaining roads, reducing casualties, supporting economic growth and maintaining access to key services.

The 5 HCC goals and 13 HCC challenges are laid out below reflecting the priorities of Hertfordshire:

GOAL: Support economic development and planned dwelling growth

- Challenge 1.1 Keep the county moving through efficient management of the road network to improve journey time, reliability and resilience and manage congestion to minimise its impact on the economy.
- Challenge 1.2 Support economic growth and new housing development through delivery of transport improvements and where necessary enhancement of the network capacity.

GOAL - Improve transport opportunities for all and achieve behavioural change in mode choice

- Challenge 2.1 Improve accessibility for all and particularly for non-car users and the disadvantaged (disabled, elderly, low income etc).
- Challenge 2.2 Achieve behavioural change as regards choice of transport mode increasing awareness of the advantages of walking, cycling and passenger transport, and of information on facilities and services available.
- Challenge 2.3 Achieve further improvements in the provision of passenger transport (bus and rail services) to improve accessibility, punctuality, reliability and transport information in order to provide a viable alternative for car users.

GOAL Enhance the quality of life, health and the natural, built and historic environment of all Hertfordshire residents

- Challenge 3.1 Improve journey experience for transport users in terms of comfort, regularity and reliability of service, safety concerns, ability to park and other aspects to improve access.
- Challenge 3.2 Improve the health of individuals by encouraging and enabling more physically active travel and access to recreational areas and through improving areas of poor air quality which can affect health.
- Challenge 3.3 Maintain and enhance the natural, built and historic environment managing the streetscape and improving integration and connections of streets and neighbourhoods and minimising the adverse impacts of transport on the natural environment, heritage and landscape.
- Challenge 3.4 Reduce the impact of transport noise especially in those areas where monitoring shows there to be specific problems for residents.

Hertfordshire County Council Local Transport Plan 3 Volume 2 Transport Policy Document (2011)

Table 3.4: Transport and Accessibility

<p>GOAL Improve the safety and security of residents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenge 4.1 Improve road safety in the county reducing the risk of death and injury due to collisions. • Challenge 4.2 Reduce crime and the fear of crime on the network to enable users of the network to travel safely and with minimum concern over safety so that accessibility is not compromised. <p>GOAL Reduce transport's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions and improve its resilience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenge 5.1 Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport in the county to meet government targets through the reduction in consumption of fossil fuels. • Challenge 5.2 Design new infrastructure and the maintenance of the existing network in the light of likely future constraints and threats from changing climate, including the increasing likelihood of periods of severe weather conditions. 	
<p>The overall Objectives for the West Herts Area Transport Plan are those from the LTP, which are as follows:</p> <p>Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve safety for all by giving the highest priority to minimising the number of collisions and injuries occurring as a result of the transport system. <p>Congestion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To obtain the best use of the existing network through effective design, maintenance and management. • To manage the growth of transport and travel volumes across the county and thereby secure improvements in the predictability of travel time. • To develop an efficient, safe, affordable and enhanced transport system which is attractive, reliable, integrated and makes best use of resources. <p>Accessibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop a transport system that provides access to employment, shopping, education, leisure and health facilities for all including those without a car and those with impaired mobility. • To ensure that the transport system contributes towards improving the efficiency of commerce and industry and the provision of sustainable economic development in appropriate locations. <p>Air Quality</p>	<p>West Hertfordshire Urban Transport Plan 2007</p>

Table 3.4: Transport and Accessibility

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To mitigate the effect of the transport system on the built and natural environment and on personal health. <p>Quality of Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To raise awareness and encourage use of more sustainable modes of transport through effective promotion, publicity, information and education. • To reduce the need for the movement of people and goods through integrated land use planning, the promotion of sustainable distribution and the use of telecommunications. 	
<p>Three key themes are at the heart of the strategy which could have an indirect relationship with Watford.</p> <p>1. Healthy Streets and healthy people</p> <p>Creating streets and street networks that encourage walking, cycling and public transport use will reduce car dependency and the health problems it creates.</p> <p>2. A good public transport experience</p> <p>Public transport is the most efficient way for people to travel over distances that are too long to walk or cycle, and a shift from private car to public transport could dramatically reduce the number of vehicles on London's streets.</p> <p>3. New homes and jobs</p> <p>More people than ever want to live and work in London. Planning the city around walking, cycling and public transport use will unlock growth in new areas and ensure that London grows in a way that benefits everyone.</p>	<p>Draft Mayor's Transport Study (June 2017)</p>

Table 3.5: Air Quality, Noise and Light Pollution

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
International	
Defines the policy framework for 12 air pollutants known to have a harmful effect on human health and the environment. The limit values for the specific pollutants are set through a series of Daughter Directives. The Directives develop an overall strategy through the setting of long-term quality goals and an aim to control the level of certain pollutants and monitor their concentrations.	European Commission (1996) Air Quality Framework Directive (Directive 96/62/EC)
The revised protocol specifies emission reduction commitments in terms of percentage reductions from base 2005 to 2020. The EU member states aim to jointly cut their emissions of sulphur dioxide by 59%, nitrogen oxides by 42%, ammonia by 6%, volatile organic compounds by 28% and particles by 22%.	NECD and the UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP Gothenburg Protocol) (2012)
WHO Guideline Values: Between 23.00 and 07.00 hours, noise levels should not exceed 30 dB LAeq to allow undisturbed sleep. Outdoor noise levels of 50 dB should not be exceeded between 07.00 and 23.00, in order to prevent people being 'moderately annoyed'.	World Health Organisation Guideline Values (2006)
Each Member State should determine exposure to environmental noise through noise mapping and adopt action plans.	Directive on Environmental Noise (2002)
National	
Planning policies should sustain compliance with and contribute towards EU limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and the cumulative impacts on air quality from individual sites in local areas.	National Planning Policy Framework; DCLG (2019)
By encouraging good design, planning policies and decisions should limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity and nature conservation.	National Planning Policy Framework; DCLG (2019)
Actions that tackle climate change, but damage air quality must be avoided.	Air Pollution: Action in a Changing Climate; DEFRA (2010)
The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland sets pollution targets for ten principal pollutants. It aims to further improve air quality in the UK into the long term. As well as direct benefits to public health, actions within the strategy are intended to provide important benefits to quality of life and help to protect the environment.	The UK National Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (2011)

Table 3.5: Air Quality, Noise and Light Pollution

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
<p>Air pollution and climate change are closely linked. Co-benefits can be realised through actions such as promoting low-carbon vehicles and renewable sources of energy.</p>	<p>Air Pollution: Action in a Changing Climate; DEFRA (2010)</p>
<p>Through the effective management and control of environmental, neighbour and neighbourhood noise within the context of Government policy on sustainable development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • avoid significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life; • mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life; and • where possible, contribute to the improvement of health and quality of life. 	<p>Noise Policy Statement for England; DEFRA (2010)</p>
<p>The 25 Year Environment Plan outlines the Government’s ambition to leave our environment in a better state than we found it and the steps proposed to take to achieve that ambition.</p> <p>The Plan includes ten key targets of which one focuses on the delivery of clean air.</p> <p><u>Clean air:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting legally binding targets to reduce emissions of five damaging air pollutants. This should halve the effects of air pollution on health by 2030; • Ending the sale of new conventional petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2040; and • Maintaining the continuous improvement in industrial emissions by building on existing good practice and the successful regulatory framework. 	<p>A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment, 2018</p>
<p>Local</p>	
<p>Fulfils the requirements of the Local Air Quality Management process as set out in Part IV of the Environment Act (1995), the Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland 2007 and the relevant Policy and Technical Guidance documents.</p> <p>Meeting the housing demand against the air quality requirements presents a major challenge. Another priority for Watford is to improve working relationships with stakeholders and partners to continue to drive improvements.</p> <p>The Local Plan should include policy requirements that will seek to mitigate air quality impacts through design.</p> <p>Ongoing actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • road infrastructure improvements; 	<p>2016 Air Quality Annual Status Report (February 2017)</p>

Table 3.5: Air Quality, Noise and Light Pollution

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing the integration of public and sustainable transport movements; • Watford Junction interchange improvements; • annual Council vehicle fleet review; • encouraging the increase of bus patronage; • promotion of cycling and walking and increasing sustainable transport, and • development of Supplementary Planning Document for Air Quality. 	

Table 3.6: Climate

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
International	
Aims to limit the global warming change to below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. However, countries aim to limit the increase to 1.5°C to reduce the impacts of global warming. The EU has committed to a binding target of a reduction of at least 40% in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990.	The Paris Agreement, 2015
This Directive establishes a common framework of measures for the promotion of energy efficiency to ensure target of 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency is achieved. The directive repeals the Cogeneration Directive (2004) and Energy Services Directive (2006).	European Energy Efficiency Directive (2012)
Aims to improve the energy performance of buildings in the EU, taking into account various climatic and local conditions. It sets out minimum requirements and a common methodology. It covers energy used for heating, hot water, cooling, ventilation and lighting.	Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (2010)
The UK should achieve 15% of its energy consumption from renewable sources by 2020.	European Renewable Energy Directive (2009)
The fifth assessment was developed through a scoping process which involved climate change experts from all relevant disciplines and users of IPCC reports; in particular representatives from governments. The document contains research which can be used to guide policy decisions.	International Panel on Climate Change (2007) Fifth Assessment Report
Developed countries commit themselves to reducing their collective emissions of six key greenhouse gases by at least 5%. Each country's emissions target must be achieved by the period 2008-2012. Doha Amendment saw parties commit to reduce GHG emissions by at least 18 percent below 1990 levels in the eight-year period from 2013 to 2020.	Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992) Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol (2012)
National	
<p>The Local Plan will need to help communities adapt successfully to future weather conditions. Objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide a clear local planning framework to enable all participants in the planning system to deliver sustainable new development including infrastructure that minimises vulnerability and provides resilience to the impacts of climate change; • To increase the resilience of homes and buildings by helping people and communities to understand what a changing climate 	The National Adaptation Programme – Making the Country Resilient to a Changing Climate, Defra, (2013)

Table 3.6: Climate

<p>could mean for them and to take action to become resilient to climate risks; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure infrastructure is located, planned, designed and maintained to be resilient to climate change including increasingly extreme weather events. 	
<p>The NPPF and its technical flood risk methodology replaced PPS25 – Development and Flood Risk. The NPPF states that inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk but where development is necessary, making it safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere. Local Plans should be supported by Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and develop policies to manage flood risk from all sources (para 100).</p> <p>The NPPF states local planning authorities should work with other authorities and providers to assess the quality and capacity of infrastructure for transport, water supply, wastewater and its treatment (para 162)</p>	<p>National Planning Policy Framework; DCLG (2019)</p>
<p>Plan for new development in locations and ways which reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Actively support energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings.</p> <p>When setting any local requirement for a building’s sustainability, do so in a way consistent with the Government’s zero carbon buildings policy and adopt nationally described standards.</p>	<p>National Planning Policy Framework; DCLG (2019)</p>
<p>Risk Management authorities must work together to identify the likelihood and location of flooding and coastal erosion in order to reduce the risk of harm. Authorities should prevent inappropriate development, improve forecasting and encourage greater community knowledge of the risks of flooding and coastal erosion.</p>	<p>National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England; DEFRA, EA (2011)</p>
<p>Authorities and developers must comply with the requirements of the Act.</p>	<p>Flood and Water Management Act (2010)</p>
<p>Aims to improve the energy performance of buildings in the EU, taking into account various climatic and local conditions. It sets out minimum requirements and a common methodology. It covers energy used for heating, hot water, cooling, ventilation and lighting.</p>	<p>Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (2010)</p>
<p>Improve carbon management and help the transition towards a low carbon economy in the UK.</p> <p>Demonstrate strong UK leadership internationally, showing the commitment to taking shared responsibility for reducing global emissions in the context of developing negotiations on a post-2012 global agreement at Copenhagen in 2009.</p>	<p>The Climate Change Act, 2008</p>

Table 3.6: Climate

<p>Greenhouse gas emission reductions through action in the UK and abroad of at least 80% by 2050, and reductions in CO2 emissions of at least 26% by 2020, against a 1990 baseline.</p>	
<p>The UK has committed to an 80% reduction in its greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. In order to help meet this target, the UK Committee on Climate Change (CCC) has devised a series of interim UK “carbon budgets” as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st carbon budget (2008 to 2012): 23% reduction; • 2nd carbon budget (2013 to 2017): 29% reduction; • 3rd carbon budget (2018 to 2022): 35% reduction by 2020; • 4th carbon budget (2023 to 2027): 50% reduction by 2025; and • 5th carbon budget (2028 to 2032): 57% reduction by 2030. 	<p>UK Committee on Climate Change, Interim UK Carbon Budgets</p>
<p>Local planning authorities are advised to design their policies to support and not unreasonably restrict renewable and low carbon energy developments.</p> <p>Development management should not prevent, delay or inhibit proposals for renewable and low carbon energy, and associated infrastructure.</p>	<p>Planning for Climate Change – guidance for local authorities: Planning and Climate Change Coalition April 2012.</p>
<p>Actions that tackle climate change, but damage air quality must be avoided.</p> <p>Air pollution and climate change are closely linked. Co-benefits can be realised through actions such as promoting low-carbon vehicles and renewable sources of energy.</p>	<p>Air Pollution: Action in a Changing Climate; DEFRA 2010.</p>
<p>The Building Regulations 2000 (England & Wales) set out standards and requirements that individual aspects of building design and construction must achieve. In the latest revision to the document in 2013 (implemented in April 2014) was amended as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening of specification to ensure that all residential dwellings achieve a 6% carbon dioxide savings relative to Part L 2010, and an aggregate 9% carbon dioxide savings across new non-domestic building mix in relation to Part L 2010; • Introduction of Fabric Energy Efficiency Targets for new dwellings to emphasise a fabric first approach; and <p>Minimum energy efficiency targets for air conditioning and lighting replacements</p>	<p>Building Regulations Part L (Conservation of Fuel and Power), 2013</p>
<p>The UK needs to radically increase its use of renewable energy.</p>	<p>National Renewable Energy Action Plan for the UK, Department of Energy and Climate Change, Article 4 of the</p>

Table 3.6: Climate	
	Renewable Energy Directive 2009/28/EC
<p>This Strategy sets out a comprehensive set of policies and proposals that aim to accelerate the pace of “clean growth”, i.e. deliver increased economic growth and decreased emissions.</p> <p>Key Policies and Proposals in the Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop world leading Green Finance capabilities • Develop a package of measures to support businesses to improve their energy productivity, by at least 20 per cent by 2030 • Improving the energy efficiency of our homes • Rolling out low carbon heating • Accelerating the shift to low carbon transport • Delivering clean, smart, flexible power emissions • Enhancing the benefits and value of our natural resources 	The Clean Growth Strategy, 2017
<p>The 25 Year Environment Plan outlines the Government’s ambition to leave our environment in a better state than we found it and the steps proposed to take to achieve that ambition.</p> <p>The Plan includes ten key targets of which one focuses on climate change.</p> <p><u>Mitigating and adapting to climate change:</u></p> <p>We will take all possible action to mitigate climate change, while adapting to reduce its impact. We will do this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to cut greenhouse gas emissions including from land use, land use change, the agriculture and waste sectors and the use of fluorinated gases. The UK Climate Change Act 2008 commits us to reducing total greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80 per cent by 2050 when compared to 1990 levels; • Making sure that all policies, programmes and investment decisions take into account the possible extent of climate change this century; and • Implementing a sustainable and effective second National Adaptation Programme. 	A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment, 2018
Local	

Table 3.6: Climate

<p>WBC is a signatory of Climate Local and through this initiative has committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encourage homes and businesses to cut energy use; • invest in green industries; • manage flood risk and water shortages; • protect the vulnerable from extreme weather; and • set green targets and share our knowledge. 	<p>Climate Local⁴</p>
<p>The aims of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere from activities within the Borough, • To prepare planned responses aimed at minimising the threats and maximising the opportunities of a changing climate within the borough. <p>The following objectives have been identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To raise awareness of climate change within the Council and the Borough more widely. • To mitigate carbon emissions within the Borough. • To demonstrate leadership within the Borough. • To work in partnership with neighbouring authorities, regional agencies and partner organisations. • To make the links between adaptation and mitigation action. • To develop community resilience. 	<p>Watford Borough Council Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan; AEA group (2010)</p>
<p>Sets out recommendations for policy including the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood risk objective 1: Achieve flood risk reduction through spatial planning and site design; • Flood risk objective 2: Enhance and restore the river corridor; • Flood risk objective 3: Reduce surface water runoff from new developments; • Flood risk objective 4: Safeguard functional floodplain and areas for future flood alleviation schemes; and • Flood risk objective 5: Improve flood awareness and emergency planning. <p>Specific policy issues identified for Watford are:</p>	<p>Updated SFRA 2012 Watford Borough Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Volume I (2012) (based on the SFRA for Watford Borough Council et al [Dec 2007, Halcrow Group Limited])</p>

⁴ <https://www.local.gov.uk/topics/environment-and-waste/climate-local>

Table 3.6: Climate

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise the importance of SUDS and the need to manage surface water flood risk (particularly around Lower High Street and along Radlett Road); • Protect the functional floodplain and prevent infill development; • Consider land swaps to relocate vulnerable developments to Flood Zone 1; and • Identify opportunities for developer contributions towards Flood Alleviation Schemes through consultation with the Environment Agency. 	
<p>This SFRA has been prepared in order to provide a greater understanding of flood risk at proposed future development sites within the Borough of Watford, in accordance with national guidance, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the NPPF Planning Practice Guidance.</p> <p>The report identifies Lower High Street, Water Lane and Bushey Mill as fluvial and surface water flooding hotspots in the area. In addition, Kingsfield Road and Cedar Road, Oxhey and Molteno Road (off Langley Road) are prone to groundwater flooding.</p> <p>The report recommends that the development should seek to improve any existing drainage infrastructure to reduce flood risk on sites, in addition to meeting agreed surface water run-off rates. The following suggestions have been made, in order to reduce the risk of flooding in the Borough:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable drainage systems (SDS); • Raising ground levels; • Raised defences – floodwalls / embankments; and • Sustainable design, resistance and resilience 	<p>Watford Borough Council Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, 2014</p>
<p>The overall position that Hertfordshire is striving to achieve is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a strategic overview of flood risk from all sources; • The potential impacts of climate change are understood; • No new significant flood risk is created due to development; • Flood risk is managed (and reduced); • Areas where flood risk is significant have been analysed in more detail; • Potential for measures to reduce flood risk have been assessed; • Where possible proportionate opportunities to reduce flood risk are taken; 	<p>Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Hertfordshire 2013 - 2016 Strategy (Issues, Vision and Principles)</p>

Table 3.6: Climate

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple benefits are achieved through the management of flood risk; • Effective partnership arrangements are in place; • Hertfordshire works with other flood risk management partnerships; • Information is made available so flood risk is understood by the community and businesses; • Communities are supported to be resilient and participate in reducing flood risk; • Opportunities to develop funding for risk reduction measures are actively being sought; and • Flood risk management work informs the planning of emergency responses. 	
<p>The study identifies mainly district heating opportunities areas within Watford.</p>	<p>Hertfordshire Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Technical Study, AECOM (2010)</p>

Table 3.7: Biodiversity

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
International	
<p>The convention has three main aims which are stated in Article 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats; • to promote cooperation between states; and • to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species. 	<p>Bern Convention on Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats 1979</p>
<p>This strategy aims to anticipate, prevent and attack the causes of significant reduction or loss of biodiversity at the source.</p>	<p>European Biodiversity Strategy 1998</p>
<p>By 2010 to achieve a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss.</p>	<p>Convention on Climate Change and Biological Diversity-Earth Summit, 1992</p>
<p>The maintenance of the favourable conservation status of all wild bird species and the identification of Special Protection Areas for rare or vulnerable species. An SA would need to report on any potential effects on birds covered by this directive and all development plans should aim to avoid adverse effects on them.</p>	<p>Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds (the 'Birds Directive') (1979)</p>
<p>The identification of a European network of Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) to be designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). An SA would need to report on any potential effects on SACs and all development plans should aim to avoid adverse effects on them.</p>	<p>Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna & Flora (the 'Habitats Directive') (1992)</p>
<p>Aimed at halting the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, the strategy provides a framework for action over the next decade and covers the following key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserving and restoring nature; • Maintaining and enhancing ecosystems and their services; • Ensuring the sustainability of agriculture, forestry and fisheries; • Combating invasive alien species; and • Addressing the global biodiversity crisis. 	<p>EU (2011) EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 – towards implementation</p>
<p>This plan provides an overarching framework on biodiversity, for all biodiversity-related conventions, the entire United Nations system and all other partners engaged in biodiversity management and policy development.</p> <p>The plan consists of five strategic goals of which 20 further Aichi goals sit underneath:</p>	<p>The Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD's) Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020</p>

Table 3.7: Biodiversity

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society. • Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use. • Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity. • Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services. • Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building. 	
National	
<p>The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 consolidates and amends existing national legislation to implement the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) and Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive) in Great Britain (NB Council Directive 79/409/EEC has now been replaced by Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (codified version)).</p> <p>The Act provides for the notification and confirmation of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and the protection of wildlife.</p>	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
<p>The Biodiversity Strategy for England sets a fundamental shift in train by ensuring that biodiversity considerations become embedded in all the main sectors of economic activity, public and private. The Strategy capitalises on the opportunities presented by the report of the Policy Commission on Food and Farming and the current review of the Common Agricultural Policy.</p> <p>The Strategy sets out a programme for five years for the other main policy sectors, to make the changes necessary to conserve, enhance and work with the grain of nature and ecosystems rather than against them. It takes account of climate change as one of the most important factors affecting biodiversity and influencing policies.</p>	Working with the grain of nature: A Biodiversity Strategy for England 2002
<p>The framework demonstrates how the UK (and its 4 nations) are working to achieve the 'Aichi Biodiversity Targets' and the aims of the EU Biodiversity Strategy. The framework identifies the activities required to complement the UK's biodiversity strategies, and where work in the UK strategies contributes to international obligations. In total, 23 areas of work have been identified where all the UK countries have agreed that they want to contribute to, and benefit</p>	The UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework (July 2012)

Table 3.7: Biodiversity

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
<p>from, a continued UK focus, and an Implementation Plan was published in November 2013.</p>	
<p>(1) Natural England's general purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.</p> <p>(2) Natural England's general purpose includes—</p> <p>(a) promoting nature conservation and protecting biodiversity,</p> <p>(b) conserving and enhancing the landscape,</p> <p>(c) securing the provision and improvement of facilities for the study, understanding and enjoyment of the natural environment,</p> <p>(d) promoting access to the countryside and open spaces and encouraging open-air recreation, and</p> <p>(e) contributing in other ways to social and economic well-being through management of the natural environment.</p> <p>(3) The purpose in subsection (2)(e) may, in particular, be carried out by working with local communities.</p>	<p>National Environmental & Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC)</p>
<p>There is a need to act now with greater vigour to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve existing biodiversity; • Conserve protected areas and all other high-quality habitats; • Reduce sources of harm not linked to climate; • Conserve range and ecological variability of habitats and species; • Maintain existing ecological networks; • Create buffer zones around high quality habitats; • Take prompt action to control spread of invasive species; • Establish ecological networks through habitat restoration and creation; and • Respond to changing conservation priorities. 	<p>England Biodiversity Strategy Climate Change Adaptation principles conserving biodiversity in a changing climate; DEFRA (2007)</p>
<p>English Nature (now Natural England) recommends that provision should be made of at least 2ha of accessible natural greenspace per 1000 population according to a system of tiers into which sites of different sizes fit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no person should live more than 300m from their nearest area of natural greenspace; • there should be at least one accessible 20ha site within 2km from home; 	<p>Accessible Natural Green Space Standards in Towns and Cities: A review and Toolkit for their Implementation (2003) and Nature Nearby: Accessible Green Space Guidance (2010)</p>

Table 3.7: Biodiversity

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there should be one accessible 100ha site within 5km; and • there should be one accessible 500ha site within 10km. 	
<p>The aim of the White Paper is to set out a clear framework for protecting and enhancing the things that nature gives us for free.</p> <p>Four core themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protecting and improving our natural environment 2. Growing a green economy 3. Reconnecting people and nature 4. International and EU leadership 	<p>The Natural Environment White Paper (2011)</p>
<p>Minimise impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contribute to the Government’s commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.</p>	<p>National Planning Policy Framework; DCLG (2019)</p>
<p>Recognise the wider benefits of ecosystem services; minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government’s commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.</p>	<p>National Planning Policy Framework; DCLG (2019)</p>
<p>Local planning authorities and neighbourhood planning bodies should seek opportunities to work collaboratively with other partners, including Local Nature Partnerships, to develop and deliver a strategic approach to protecting and improving the natural environment based on local priorities and evidence. They should consider the opportunities that individual development proposals may provide to enhance biodiversity and contribute to wildlife and habitat connectivity in the wider area.</p> <p>Biodiversity maintenance and enhancements through the planning system have the potential to make a significant contribution to the achievement of Biodiversity 2020 targets.</p> <p>Biodiversity enhancement in and around development should be led by a local understanding of ecological networks, and should seek to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • habitat restoration, re-creation and expansion; • improved links between existing sites; • buffering of existing important sites; • new biodiversity features within development; and 	<p>National Planning Practice Guidance 2014 – Natural Environment</p>

Table 3.7: Biodiversity

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> securing management for long term enhancement. 	
<p>Regulation 61 requires Appropriate Assessment of plans and projects likely to have a significant effect on a European site.</p>	<p>The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010)</p>
<p>Species and habitats should be restored and enhanced in comparison with 2000 levels.</p> <p>Improve the long-term sustainability of ecological and physical processes that underpin the functioning of ecosystems, thereby enhancing the capacity of ecosystem services.</p> <p>Provide accessible natural environments rich in wildlife for people to enjoy and experience.</p>	<p>Making Space for Nature: A review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network: Chaired by Professor Sir John Lawton CBE FRS (2010)</p>
<p>Protect and enhance biodiversity through Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs), biodiversity offsetting, Local Nature Partnerships and phasing out peat.</p>	<p>The Natural Choice: Securing the value of nature; HM Government (2011)</p>
<p>Communities should identify green infrastructure requirements in their local area through addition to or creative enhancement of the existing network. Look to enhance local landscape character, heritage and biodiversity and ensure long term management is included in an overall strategy.</p>	<p>Local Green Infrastructure: helping communities make the most of their landscape: Landscape Institute for Green Infrastructure Partnership (2011).</p>
<p>The planning system in England has a central role to play in the protection and restoration of the natural environment.</p>	<p>Planning for a healthy environment – good practice guidance for green infrastructure and biodiversity; TCPA and Wildlife Trusts (2012)</p>
<p>Halt overall loss of England's biodiversity by 2020; support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks.</p>	<p>Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011)</p>
<p>The report identifies that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> some assets are currently not being used sustainably and the benefits that we derive from them are at risk; there are major economic benefits to be gained from natural capital and that their value should be incorporated into decision-making; and a long-term restoration plan is necessary to maintain and improve natural capital for future generations. 	<p>The State of Natural Capital: Restoring our Natural Assets (2014)</p>

Table 3.7: Biodiversity

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
<p>This strategy aims to address Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) issues in Great Britain (GB), maintaining the approach of the 2008 Strategy and the 2003 policy review. The strategy covers the terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments and also species native to one part of a country that become invasive in areas outside their natural range.</p> <p>The scope of the Strategy covers all non-native species of flora and fauna with the exception of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), bacteria and viruses. Its full effect, however, is aimed at those non-native species that are known to be or are potentially invasive. The Strategy does not aim to address issues related to human health or formerly native species, nor does it cover animal or plant diseases although it aims to ensure close working with these areas where appropriate.</p>	<p>The Great Britain Invasive Non-native Species Strategy, 2015</p>
<p>The 25 Year Environment Plan outlines the Government’s ambition to leave our environment in a better state than we found it and the steps proposed to take to achieve that ambition.</p> <p>The Plan includes ten key targets of which two focus on biodiversity.</p> <p><u>Thriving plants and wildlife:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoring 75% of our one million hectares of terrestrial and freshwater protected sites to favourable condition, securing their wildlife value for the long term; • Creating or restoring 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat outside the protected site network, focusing on priority habitats as part of a wider set of land management changes providing extensive benefits; • Taking action to recover threatened, iconic or economically important species of animals, plants and fungi and where possible to prevent human-induced extinction or loss of known threatened species in England and the Overseas Territories; and • Increasing woodland in England in line with our aspiration of 12% cover by 2060: this would involve planting 180,000 hectares by end of 2042. <p><u>Enhancing biosecurity:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing and reducing the impact of existing plant and animal diseases; lowering the risk of new ones and tackling invasive non-native species; • Reaching the detailed goals to be set out in the Tree Health Resilience Plan of 2018; 	<p>A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment, 2018</p>

Table 3.7: Biodiversity

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring strong biosecurity protection at our borders, drawing on the opportunities leaving the EU provides; and Working with industry to reduce the impact of endemic disease. 	
Local	
<p>Contains habitat action plans for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woodland; Wetland; Heathland and acid grassland; Neutral grassland; Chalk grassland; Farmland; and Urban. <p>Species action plans have been prepared for a variety of species, some of which are unlikely to be found in Watford (such as Bittern). Species action plans include water vole, common dormouse, Natterer's Bat, Tree sparrow, song thrush, great crested newt, and white-clawed crawfish.</p>	<p>Hertfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan <i>A 50 Year Vision for the Wildlife and Natural Habitats of Hertfordshire</i>⁵, Hertfordshire Environmental Forum (2006)</p>
<p>The Hertfordshire Strategic Highlights Green Infrastructure Plan has been developed in parallel with the GreenArc Strategic Highlights Green Infrastructure Plan and also the district wide plans for St Albans, Watford, Dacorum, Three Rivers, Hertsmere, Welwyn Hatfield and East Herts. Account has also been taken of existing GI plans to ensure links across both district and county boundaries, with this strategic GI Plan also considering existing GI work in Hertfordshire.</p> <p>This Strategic Highlights Green Infrastructure Plan seeks to address the need for links and connections, alternative greenspace provision and low cost, maximum benefit interventions such as improved landscape management to deliver a wider array of functions. It also looks at ways to influence sustainable living modes and transport choices through non-spatial and educational projects to support spatial proposals.</p>	<p>Hertfordshire Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan (Incorporating the Green Arc area), 2011</p>

⁵ *A 50 Year Vision for the Wildlife and Natural Habitats of Hertfordshire*, Hertfordshire Environmental Forum (2006) http://www.hef.org.uk/nature/biodiversity_vision/ accessed on 06/11/17

Table 3.7: Biodiversity

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
<p>The plan seeks to deliver improvements in a context which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The duty to have regard to biodiversity as directed by the NERC Act 2006; • Legal obligations under national legislation including (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981); • Legal obligations under international legislation (primarily European Habitats Directive); • Biodiversity considerations as outlined within the National Planning Policy Framework 2019; • Biodiversity Action Plans – national and local visions for biodiversity with habitat and species action plans; • The Local Nature Partnership, which has effectively replaced the BAP process but still seeks to contribute to its main aims and deliver other biodiversity initiatives in a more dynamic way; and • Local Green Infrastructure initiatives which also reflect biodiversity; the protection, maintenance and enhancement of Hertfordshire’s biodiversity. 	<p>Hertfordshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2017/18 – 2027/28, 2017</p>
<p>Contains statements of environmental opportunity, including:</p> <p>SEO 1: Manage rivers and river valleys to protect and improve water quality and help to alleviate flooding in the downstream urban areas while also helping to improve aquifer recharge and provide a sufficient store of water to meet future need, especially with predicted climatic changes. Conserve the riparian landscapes and habitats for their recreational and educational amenity for their internationally significant ecological value.</p> <p>SEO 2: Manage the agricultural landscape and diverse range of soils which allow the Northern Thames Basin to be a major food provider, using methods and crops that retain and improve soil quality, water availability and biodiversity.</p> <p>SEO 3: Protect and appropriately manage the historic environment for its contribution to local character and sense of identity and as a framework for habitat restoration and sustainable development. Ensuring high design standards (particularly in the London Green Belt) which respect the open and built character of the Thames Basin. Enhance and increase access between rural and urban areas through good green infrastructure links to allow local communities recreational, health and wellbeing benefits.</p> <p>SEO 4: Manage and expand the significant areas of broadleaf woodland and wood pasture and increase tree cover within urban areas for; the green infrastructure links and important habitats that</p>	<p>Natural England (2013), National Character Area profile: 111: Northern Thames Basin</p>

Table 3.7: Biodiversity

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
they provide, for the sense of tranquillity they bring, their ability to screen urban influences and their role in reducing heat island effect and sequestering and storing carbon.	

Table 3.8: Cultural Heritage

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
International	
The convention looks toward the protection, preservation and scientific research of archaeological heritage in Europe.	Valletta Convention (1992)
<p>The Convention defines the kind of natural or cultural sites which can be considered for inscription on the World Heritage List.</p> <p>The World Heritage Convention aims to promote cooperation among nations to protect heritage around the world that is of such outstanding universal value that its conservation is important for current and future generations.</p> <p>It is intended that, unlike the seven wonders of the ancient world, properties on the World Heritage List will be conserved for all time.</p>	UNESCO World Heritage Convention, 1972
<p>The Granada Convention was adopted on 3 October 1985 in Granada (Spain) and came into force on 1 December 1987.</p> <p>The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented.</p>	The Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1985)
<p>The treaty aims to protect the European archaeological heritage "as a source of European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study". All remains and objects and any other traces of humankind from past times are considered to be elements of the archaeological heritage. The archaeological heritage includes structures, constructions, groups of buildings, developed sites, monuments, moveable objects and other kinds. It also affects both terrestrial and marine assets.</p> <p>The main objectives of the Convention are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To integrate the conservation and archaeological investigation of archaeological heritage in urban and regional planning policies; • To establish co-operation and consultation processes between archaeologists, and project developers; • To set standards for funding and archaeological and conservational methods used in studying the "knowledge of the history of mankind"; • To promote educational actions and public awareness of the necessity of the protection and investigation of archaeological heritage in Europe; and 	The European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Valletta Treaty, 1992)

Table 3.8: Cultural Heritage

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
<p>To foster international co-operation and joint action among all European countries in the field of archaeological resource management by means of developing and exchanging relevant scientific information, technologies and expertise.</p>	
National	
<p>Section 61(12) defines sites that warrant protection due to their being of national importance as 'ancient monuments'. These can be either Scheduled Ancient Monuments or "any other monument which in the opinion of the Secretary of State is of public interest by reason of the historic, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching to it".</p>	<p>Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979</p>
<p>Conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations⁶.</p> <p>Planning policies and decisions should address the connections between people and places and the integration of new development into the natural, built and historic environment.</p> <p>Seek to promote or reinforce local distinctiveness.</p>	<p>National Planning Policy Framework; DCLG (2019)</p>
<p>Advice Note 1, The Historic Environment in Local Plans: This document sets out information to help local planning authorities make well informed and effective local plans.</p> <p>Advice Note 2, Managing Significance in Decision-Taking: This document contains useful information on assessing the significance of heritage assets, using appropriate expertise, historic environment records, recording and furthering understanding, neglect and unauthorised works, marketing and design and distinctiveness.</p> <p>Advice Note 3, The Setting of Heritage Assets: This document sets out guidance on managing change within the settings of heritage assets including archaeological remains and historic buildings, sites, areas, and landscapes.</p>	<p>Historic England Good Practice Advice Notes 1-3 (2015)</p>
<p>Conservation Principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The historic environment is a shared resource; • Everyone should be able to participate in sustaining the historic environment; • Understanding the significance of places is vital; 	<p>Conservation Principles – Policies and Guidance; English Heritage (2015)</p>

⁶ P6 of the National Planning Policy Framework; DCLG 2019

Table 3.8: Cultural Heritage

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant places should be managed to sustain their values; • Decisions about change must be reasonable, transparent and consistent; and • Documenting and learning from decisions is essential. 	
<p>Relevant objectives are: The historic environment is protected and sustained for the benefit of our own and future generations; and the historic environment is an economic asset that is well harnessed.</p>	<p>The Historic Environment: A Force for our Future (2000)</p>
<p>Places a general duty on local authorities for the preservation and enhancement of listed buildings and features of special architectural or historic interest, including the designation of conservation areas.</p>	<p>Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990)</p>
<p>The heritage statement sets out how the Government will support the heritage sector and help it to protect and care for heritage and the historic environment in the coming years, in order to maximise the economic and social impact of heritage and to ensure that everyone can enjoy and benefit from it.</p>	<p>The Heritage Statement, 2017 (Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport)</p>
<p>Local</p>	
<p>The management plan sets out Watford Borough Council's current approach for preserving and enhancing conservation areas. Within the Borough of Watford there are ten areas which have been designated as conservation areas as they are considered to have a special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.</p> <p>Development within conservation areas should be in keeping with local character.</p> <p>Utilising national and regional best practice guidance, the Council will seek to ensure that any future highways works will bring a positive improvement to the character and appearance of the conservation areas.</p> <p>The Council will monitor trees in conservation areas that have notable amenity value. Where appropriate, opportunities for additional tree planting will be explored.</p> <p>The Council will explore the potential for delivering enhancement schemes in conservation areas, where conservation led regeneration has been identified as suitable.</p>	<p>Conservation Areas Management Plan, WBC Supplementary Planning Document, Adopted July 2013</p>
<p>There is a need to identify the Borough's existing character areas and to provide a reference for guiding contextually responsive development that reinforces local character.</p>	<p>Watford Character of Area Study, WBC, Adopted December 2011</p>
<p>Contains statements of environmental opportunity, including:</p>	<p>Natural England, National Character Area profile:</p>

Table 3.8: Cultural Heritage

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
<p>SEO 3: Protect and appropriately manage the historic environment for its contribution to local character and sense of identity and as a framework for habitat restoration and sustainable development, ensuring high design standards (particularly in the London Green Belt) which respect the open and built character of the Thames Basin. Enhance and increase access between rural and urban areas through good green infrastructure links to allow local communities recreational, health and wellbeing benefits.</p> <p>SEO 4: Manage and expand the significant areas of broadleaf woodland and wood pasture and increase tree cover within urban areas, for the green infrastructure links and important habitats that they provide for the sense of tranquillity they bring, their ability to screen urban influences and their role in reducing heat island effect and sequestering and storing carbon.</p>	<p>111: Northern Thames Basin</p>
<p>Key aims are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support policies for the protection of existing open spaces and provision for new open spaces, sports and recreational facilities in accordance with the Site Allocations Supplementary Planning Document; • Support funding applications for the improvement of key sites; and • Identify priorities that will become part of the Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan. <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve accessibility to Cassiobury Park, in particular for residents in deficiency area 2 to the north of the Town Centre. • If future opportunities arise to create new provision these should be directed to shortfalls identified. • It is recommended that focus is placed on accessibility in areas that have little or no access to green space. The use of green corridors, in particular cycle and pedestrian routes can improve the journey to other green areas and mean that people are willing to travel further. • It is recommended that outdoor sports facilities are protected through Local Plan policies. • Continue to improve play areas, particularly in areas that are less well served in provision for children. • Improve access to allotments to allow them to become a viable option for people living in the centre of Watford. It is accepted that residents may have to drive to allotments, particularly if they are carrying equipment. 	<p>Watford Open Space Study 2010</p>

Table 3.8: Cultural Heritage

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended that demand for new cemetery provision should be led by the need for burial space. • Maintain provision of accessible countryside in urban fringe areas to provide for residents in the south-east of the Borough. • Maintain civic spaces – they have a high amenity value in the built-up town centre. 	

Table 3.9: Landscape and Townscape

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
International	
<p>The Convention outlined the need to recognise landscape in law to develop landscape policies dedicated to the protection, management and creation of landscapes, and to establish procedures for the participation of the general public and other stakeholders in the creation and implementation of landscape policies. It also encourages the integration of landscape into all relevant areas of policy including cultural, economic and social policies.</p> <p>Specific measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • raising awareness of the value of landscapes among all sectors of society and of society's role in shaping them; • promoting landscape training and education among landscape specialists, other related professions and in school and university courses; • the identification and assessment of landscapes, • analysis of landscape change, with the active participation of stakeholders; • setting objectives for landscape quality, with the involvement of the public; and • the implementation of landscape policies through the establishment of plans and practical programmes. 	<p>European Landscape Convention 2000 (became binding March 2007)</p>
National	
<p>Protecting and enhancing valued landscapes. Seek to promote or reinforce local distinctiveness.</p>	<p>National Planning Policy Framework; DCLG (2019)</p>
<p>Planning policies and decisions should aim to ensure that developments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will function well and add to the overall quality of the area, not just for the short term but over the lifetime of the development; • establish a strong sense of place using streetscapes and buildings to create attractive and comfortable places to live, work and visit; • respond to local character and history and reflect the identity of local surroundings and materials while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation; • create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion; and • are visually attractive as a result of good architecture and appropriate landscaping. 	<p>National Planning Policy Framework; DCLG (2019)</p>

Table 3.9: Landscape and Townscape

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
<p>Planning policies and decisions should address the connections between people and places and the integration of new development into the natural, built and historic environment.</p>	
<p>The planning system should contribute to, and enhance the natural and local environment by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils; • recognising the wider benefits of ecosystem services; and • preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. 	<p>National Planning Policy Framework; DCLG 2019</p>
<p>The 2017 update replaces the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011. The updated regulations transpose the amendments made to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive 2011/92/EU by Directive 2014/52/EU and make a number of significant changes to the EIA regime in England.</p>	<p>The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017</p>
<p>Local</p>	
<p>Contains statements of environmental opportunity, including:</p> <p>SEO 1: Manage rivers and river valleys to protect and improve water quality and help to alleviate flooding in the downstream urban areas while also helping to improve aquifer recharge and provide a sufficient store of water to meet future need, especially with predicted climatic changes. Conserve the riparian landscapes and habitats for their recreational and educational amenity for their internationally significant ecological value.</p> <p>SEO 2: Manage the agricultural landscape and diverse range of soils which allow the Northern Thames Basin to be a major food provider using methods and crops that retain and improve soil quality, water availability and biodiversity.</p> <p>SEO 3: Protect and appropriately manage the historic environment for its contribution to local character and sense of identity and as a framework for habitat restoration and sustainable development, ensuring high design standards (particularly in the London Green Belt) which respect the open and built character of the Thames Basin. Enhance and increase access between rural and urban areas through good green infrastructure links to allow local communities recreational, health and wellbeing benefits.</p> <p>SEO 4: Manage and expand the significant areas of broadleaf woodland and wood pasture and increase tree cover within urban</p>	<p>Natural England (2013), National Character Area profile: 111: Northern Thames Basin</p>

Table 3.9: Landscape and Townscape

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
<p>areas for; the green infrastructure links and important habitats that they provide, for the sense of tranquillity they bring, their ability to screen urban influences and their role in reducing heat island effect and sequestering and storing carbon.</p>	
<p>The key objectives for Watford’s town centre is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplify the floorscape by e.g. by minimising the number of paving materials. • Improve the cycle network, access and movement in the centre of the town. • De-clutter the streetscape. • Retain the existing kerb alignment wherever possible and unify road widths when possible and practical. • Re-use existing materials where possible. • Maximise opportunities for on-street parking. • Pedestrian crossings are to be located in line with pedestrian desire lines. • Create greener streets by planting trees where possible. <p>The design of spaces also needs to consider and incorporate the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The character and context of the area. • How the space is used and likely to be used in the future. • People and vehicles required and desired movements and accessibility. • Disabled access. • Legibility and wayfinding. • The space’s adaptability to future uses and ranges of activities. • Safety and passive surveillance. • Sustainability and robustness. • Value for money. • A realistic approach to long term management and maintenance. 	<p>Watford Streetscape Guide SPD (2013)</p>
<p>The project has a number of core aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilise the opportunity to deliver a gateway signage feature at Watford Junction as part of the National Stations Improvement Programme (NSIP); • Support Hertfordshire County Council’s project to enhance waymarking along Clarendon Road through the introduction of walking distance street nameplates by providing a major way 	<p>Watford Waymarking Strategy (2012)</p>

Table 3.9: Landscape and Townscape

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
<p>marking feature at the junction of Clarendon Road and High Street;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify opportunities for small scale interventions to improve waymarking within Watford as and when funding becomes available; and • Provide a framework to guide waymarking style, form, content, delivery and maintenance to ensure a coherent and consistent approach moving forward. 	
<p>The green infrastructure vision for Watford Borough is:</p> <p>To conserve and enhance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The network of waterways, river corridors and valley topography – the Grand Union Canal, Colne and Gade, which form key components of the GI network. In particular to enhance the profile and presence of the Colne Valley as a multi-functional GI resource; • Historic parklands for their recreation, education and nature conservation value seeking to enhance the setting of and create positive approaches to Watford; • Links between assets and green connectors e.g. Cassiobury Park to the wider network of the Colne and Gade Rivers and the Grand Union Canal. <p>To improve and create</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green travel (people) links between greenspaces – a user friendly greenspace network including enhanced lateral links across the urban area and enhanced links along the canal and river valley network; • Connectivity for habitats and wildlife and assisting in avoiding habitat fragmentation; • Urban greening and the value of greenspace in Watford’s urban centre linking with proposed projects such as the Health Campus along the Colne Valley; • Urban tree networks where the density of development reduces availability of access to open space; • Joined up networks and linking the gaps in the Path and Rights of Way Network including improved links to the countryside; • Water and flood risk management – ‘soft’ and flexible, adaptive solutions, creating ‘space for water’. <p>To recognise and value:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of allotments for quality of life and in facilitating sustainable modes of living whilst enhancing their quality as part of a multi-functional green infrastructure network; 	<p>Green Infrastructure Plan Report, Land Use Consultants (2011)</p>

Table 3.9: Landscape and Townscape

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The significance of even small-scale urban greening in providing multiple functions and quality of life; • The positive use of green infrastructure as outdoor classroom and for lifelong learning/skills development; • Conservation management as one of the building blocks of a multi-functional Green Infrastructure network; • Green infrastructure for people and wildlife – an integrated approach, where these different interests co-exist, rather than conflict; <p>Green infrastructure heritage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrate the historic parklands and planned landscapes of Cassiobury Park and Whippendell Woods; • The importance of a strategic approach and joined up working – partnerships with adjacent authorities such as Hertsmere Borough to deliver improvements in the Colne Valley. <p>Key GI points for the strategic planning policy to take into consideration are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetland enhancement and sustainable water management in the Gade and Colne Valleys; • Increased green connectivity for people and for wildlife, creating enhanced links to existing GI assets including lateral links across town; • Nature conservation management: A good green infrastructure network and proactive management is needed to conserve, enhance and reinforce/link biodiversity assets; • Context, sense of place and local distinctiveness: Recognition, conservation and enhancement of the key assets of chalk landscape valleys, river valleys, canal and woodlands and formal/designed GI associated with Cassiobury Park; • Urban greening: Enhanced functionality of urban greenspaces and improved links to proposed developments such as Watford’s Health Campus providing better access to the Colne Valley. Also small scale community greening initiatives. 	
<p>To ensure that shop units continue to contribute positively to their local townscape, their detailed design should be considered before development takes place. The Design Guide provides a framework for delivering a sensitive approach to shopfront design in Watford.</p>	<p>Shopfront Design Guide, WBC, Adopted - February 2013</p>
<p>The Plan sets out the county council’s vision for the future and the objectives by which it will be achieved. These include:</p>	<p>Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan Consultation Draft December 2017</p>

Table 3.9: Landscape and Townscape

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High quality restoration and subsequent management of mineral sites will be carried out as early as possible to conserve and enhance the character and quality of Hertfordshire's landscape and environments. • To increase public access to the countryside and enhance biodiversity through enhancing the amenity value of land when restoring extraction sites. • To ensure the sustainable and expedient delivery of mineral extraction while protecting people from harm, positively contributing to the natural, built and historic environments and mitigating against adverse cumulative impacts. 	

Table 3.10: Soils and Geology

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
International	
Integrate soil and land protection objectives in spatial planning strategies including promoting development on brownfield sites and clean-up of contaminated land.	European Commission (2004) EC Communication towards a thematic strategy for soil protection
Overall objective is to provide a framework for action by Member States identifying threats to soil quality and resources and requiring measures to overcome identified issues.	European Commission (2006) Proposed EU Soil Framework Directive
Key areas for environmental action include soil protection and sustainable use of pesticides up to 2020.	European Commission (2013) The Seventh Environment Action Programme of the European Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish common principles for the protection and sustainable use of soils; • Prevent threats to soils and mitigate the effects of those threats; • Preserve soil functions within the context of sustainable use; and • Restore degraded and contaminated soils to approved levels of functionality. 	The European Soil Thematic Strategy (2006)
National	
Overall guiding objective 'to protect soil and make a more sustainable use of it'.	First Soil Action Plan for England (2004-2006)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting soils and the important ecosystem services they provide. • Preventing soil pollution. • Effective soil protection during construction and development. • Dealing with our legacy of contaminated land. 	Safeguarding our Soils - A Strategy for England (2009) DEFRA
To provide an improved system for the identification of land that is posing unacceptable risks to health or the environment and for securing remediation where necessary.	Environmental Protection Act 1990
<p>The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils; • recognising the wider benefits of ecosystem services; 	National Planning Policy Framework; DCLG 2019

Table 3.10: Soils and Geology

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability; and remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate. 	
Local	
<p>Contains statements of environmental opportunity, including: SEO 2: Manage the agricultural landscape and diverse range of soils which allow the Northern Thames Basin to be a major food provider, using methods and crops that retain and improve soil quality, water availability and biodiversity.</p>	<p>Natural England (2013), National Character Area profile: 111: Northern Thames Basin</p>
<p>The Plan sets out the county council's vision for the future and the objectives by which it will be achieved. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue to provide a steady and adequate supply of sand and gravel to enable local economic growth and support wider and national supply obligations. To provide a steady and adequate supply of minerals which includes safeguarding resources for future use, extracting minerals prior to other development taking place and using minerals in construction on the land from which they are extracted. To encourage the sustainable use of minerals by utilising secondary and recycled aggregates To conserve sand, gravel and clay resources for current and future generations. 	<p>Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan Consultation Draft December 2017</p>

Table 3.11: Water

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
International	
<p>The WFD divides the water environment into water bodies. These can include rivers, lakes, reservoirs, canals, groundwater etc. The WFD requires that there is no deterioration in the ecological health of water bodies and that water bodies should achieve the ecological objectives set out in a River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>Each country has to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prevent deterioration in the status of aquatic ecosystems, protect them and improve the ecological condition of waters; • aim to achieve at least good status for all water bodies by 2015. Where this is not possible and subject to the criteria set out in the Directive, aim to achieve good status by 2021 or 2027; • meet the requirements of Water Framework Directive Protected Areas; • promote sustainable use of water as a natural resource; • conserve habitats and species that depend directly on water; • progressively reduce or phase out the release of individual pollutants or groups of pollutants that present a significant threat to the aquatic environment; • progressively reduce the pollution of groundwater and prevent or limit the entry of pollutants; and • contribute to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts. 	<p>Water Framework Directive (WFD) 2000/60/EC</p>
National	
<p>Authorities and developers must comply with the requirements of the Regulations.</p>	<p>The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations, 2010</p>
<p>By 2030 at the latest, there is improved quality of the water environment and the ecology which it supports; sustainably managed risks from flooding; more effective management of surface water and sustainable use of water resources</p>	<p>Future Water - The Government's water strategy for England (2008)</p>
<p>The 2017 update replaces the 2003 regulations. The update outlines the duties of regulators in relation to environmental permitting, impoundment and abstraction of water.</p>	<p>The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017</p>
<p>This document updates Groundwater Protection: Principles and Practice (GP3). It contains position statements which provide information about the Environment Agency's approach to managing and protecting groundwater. They detail how the Environment Agency</p>	<p>The Environment Agency's Approach to Groundwater Protection, 2018</p>

Table 3.11: Water

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
<p>delivers government policy for groundwater and adopts a risk-based approach where legislation allows.</p> <p>The primary aim of all of the position statements is the prevention of pollution of groundwater and protection of it as a resource. Groundwater protection is long term, so these principles and position statements aim to protect and enhance this valuable resource for future generations.</p>	
<p>The 25 Year Environment Plan outlines the Government’s ambition to leave our environment in a better state than we found it and the steps proposed to take to achieve that ambition.</p> <p>The plan includes ten key targets of which one focuses on minimising water</p> <p><u>Clean and Plentiful Water:</u></p> <p>Improving at least three quarters of our waters to be close to their natural state as soon as is practicable by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing the damaging abstraction of water from rivers and groundwater, ensuring that by 2021 the proportion of water bodies with enough water to support environmental standards increases from 82% to 90% for surface water bodies and from 72% to 77% for groundwater bodies; • Reaching or exceeding objectives for rivers, lakes, coastal and ground waters that are specially protected, whether for biodiversity or drinking water as per our River Basin Management Plans; • Supporting OFWAT’s ambitions on leakage, minimising the amount of water lost through leakage year on year, with water companies expected to reduce leakage by at least an average of 15% by 2025; and • Minimising by 2030 the harmful bacteria in our designated bathing waters and continuing to improve the cleanliness of our waters. We will make sure that potential bathers are warned of any short-term pollution risks. 	<p>A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment, 2018</p>
Local	
<p>This plan provides a long-term framework for managing the issues that affect the quality of the water environment in the river basin district. Key environmental objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to prevent deterioration of the status of surface waters and groundwater; • to achieve objectives and standards for protected areas; 	<p>Thames River Basin Management Plan (2015)</p>

Table 3.11: Water

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to aim to achieve good status for all water bodies or, for heavily modified water bodies and artificial water bodies, good ecological potential and good surface water chemical status; to reverse any significant and sustained upward trends in pollutant concentrations in groundwater; the cessation of discharges, emissions and losses of priority hazardous substances into surface waters; and progressively reduce the pollution of groundwater and prevent or limit the entry of pollutants. 	
<p>Contains statements of environmental opportunity, including: SEO 1: Manage rivers and river valleys to protect and improve water quality and help to alleviate flooding in the downstream urban areas while also helping to improve aquifer recharge and provide a sufficient store of water to meet future need, especially with predicted climatic changes. Conserve the riparian landscapes and habitats for their recreational and educational amenity and for their internationally significant ecological value.</p>	<p>Natural England (2013), National Character Area profile: 111: Northern Thames Basin</p>
<p>Vision for water management in Hertfordshire: ‘A water resilient, sustainable and secure Hertfordshire where all administrative organisations, water authorities and local environmental groups collaborate to provide efficient water infrastructure and preserve the quality of the water environment for the benefit of everyone, especially its chalk rivers and the valuable ecosystems they host. An integrated and diverse wastewater infrastructure that will help remove obstacles to planned growth and contributes to local economic prosperity whilst helping to maintain healthy groundwater supplies. Innovative and water sensitive developments, designed to deliver sustainable benefits to their local water and regional water environment. These form part of a wider holistic water management strategy to ensure Hertfordshire is an exemplar of integrated planning, effective catchment management and environmental protection.’ Investments to improve capacity and resilience in Watford will likely be significant (due mainly to the urbanised nature of the Borough). This highlights the importance of promoting sustainable and water efficient development.</p>	<p>Hertfordshire County Council, Infrastructure & Resources, Sub-catchment Solutions 2021 – 2051 (March 2017)</p>

Table 3.12: Waste

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
International	
<p>Waste must be managed without:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • endangering human health; • harming the environment in particular; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – water – air – soil – plants – animals • causing a nuisance through noise or odours; • adversely affecting the countryside or places of special interest. <p>Waste should be managed in line with the waste hierarchy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent or reduce waste; • Reuse; • Recycle; • Other recovery methods; and • Dispose. 	<p>European Directive 2008/98/EC on waste (Waste Framework Directive)</p>
National	
<p>To ensure that by 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at least 70% (by weight) of construction and demolition waste is subjected to material recovery; and • at least 50% (by weight) of waste from households is prepared for re-use or recycled. 	<p>Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Waste Management Plan for England (2013)</p>
<p>To improve the environment and protect human health by supporting a resource efficient economy, reducing the quantity and impact of waste produced whilst promoting sustainable economic growth.</p>	<p>UK Government: Prevention is better than cure: The role of waste prevention in moving to a more resource efficient economy, 2013</p>
<p>The NPPF states local planning authorities should work with other authorities and providers to assess the quality and capacity of infrastructure for transport, water supply, wastewater and its treatment (para 162)</p>	<p>National Planning Policy Framework (2019)</p>

Table 3.12: Waste

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
<p>The 25 Year Environment Plan outlines the Government’s ambition to leave our environment in a better state than we found it and the steps proposed to take to achieve that ambition.</p> <p>The plan includes ten key targets of which one focuses on minimising waste.</p> <p><u>Minimising Waste:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working towards our ambition of zero avoidable waste by 2050; • Working to a target of eliminating avoidable plastic waste by end of 2042; • Meeting all existing waste targets – including those on landfill, reuse and recycling – and developing ambitious new future targets and milestones; • Seeking to eliminate waste crime and illegal waste sites over the lifetime of this Plan, prioritising those of highest risk. Delivering a substantial reduction in litter and littering behaviour; and • Significantly reducing and where possible preventing all kinds of marine plastic pollution – in particular material that came originally from land. 	<p>A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment, 2018</p>
<p>Local</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SO1. To promote the provision of well-designed and efficient facilities that drive waste management practices up the waste hierarchy and are located to ensure no harm to human health and the environment and which reduce waste volumes to be disposed in landfill; • SO2. To locate waste recycling, handling and reduction facilities as close as practicable to the origin of waste; • SO3. To facilitate the increased and efficient use of recycled waste materials in Hertfordshire (for example as aggregate); • SO4. To facilitate a shift away from road transport to water and rail transport as the principal means of transporting waste; • SO5. To prevent and minimise waste but where waste cannot be avoided, maximise the recovery value (including energy and heat) from waste; • SO6. To work with all partners in the county to encourage integrated spatial planning, aligning with other local waste strategies and local authority objectives which take account of waste issues, recognising that waste management generates employment and is part of the infrastructure which supports businesses and communities; and 	<p>Hertfordshire Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies document 2011-2026 (adopted 2012)</p>

Table 3.12: Waste

Message / Issue	Source document(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SO7. To work with all neighbouring waste authorities to manage the equivalent of the county's own waste arisings.	