

NHC Consultation on Herts Town Centres Strategy

We are inviting your participation in the consultation on the draft North Hertfordshire Town Centres Strategy, which sets out our vision for the future of the district's four town centres: **Hitchin, Letchworth Garden City, Royston, and Baldock.**

The consultation period will run from 3 December 2025 to 30 January 2026.

This strategy aims to support sustainable development in and around our centres, ensuring they remain vibrant, distinctive, and competitive places to invest, live, and visit. The key areas of focus include:

1. Land Use and Retail Development

We seek to ensure that any significant development within the town centres contributes to economic, environmental, and social benefits while respecting their local character.

2. Built Environment

High-quality design is essential. Landowners and developers are expected to maintain and enhance buildings, public spaces, and open areas in ways that reflect local distinctiveness, mitigate climate change, support ecological networks, and comply with adopted and emerging design guides and codes.

3. Transport, Access, and Movement

The Council will work with key partners such to improve sustainable transport and active travel options to enable convenient movement for all users, to and within our town centres supporting economic vitality and encouraging healthy lifestyles.

4. Community

Through the planning system, we aim to foster social interaction and create healthy, inclusive communities. Town centres should provide secure environments, access to facilities, and opportunities for well-being and growth.

The Strategy is delivery and development focused. It is a planning-led document and provides the overall direction of travel with clear policy guidance and priorities for each town centre.

We recognise the importance of our town centres in supporting surrounding villages, and request your support in promoting the North Herts draft Town Centres Strategy to your residents and community to participate in the in this consultation. Your support and communication channels can help shape the future of our town centres by encouraging widespread participation.

How to take part:

[The consultation document can be viewed using this link.](#)

You can also use this link to make your comments by clicking on the questions in the document and responding directly. The document is divided into four sections including separate sections for each town centre, providing you with the option to either respond to all sections or those sections that are of interest to you.

More details about the Town Centres Strategy are available on the [website](#) and if you want to see a full version of the draft Town Centres Strategy is also available to view there.

You can also send your comments to towncentres@north-herts.gov.uk

Your input is vital to shaping the future of our town centres.

We are also currently consulting on revisions to the **Developer Contributions SPD**. We have extended the consultation period until Friday 16 January 2026. The consultation can be viewed on our [website](#).