

FOREWORD

Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 this Council has a duty to prepare a Local Plan covering the whole District.

The Plan sets out a comprehensive framework of policies to enable the Council to control most forms of development for the foreseeable future. This control is needed not to resist any changes but to guide proposals so that the quality of the local environment is protected and enhanced whenever possible.

There are considerable and continuous pressures for residential and commercial development, mainly due to proximity to London. The District lies within the Metropolitan Green Belt, however, and the relevant policies will continue to be rigorously implemented.

The Plan incorporates the principle of “sustainable development” and therefore encourages, or aims to accommodate, new buildings or land uses which are necessary or in the public interest, while protecting the District’s environment for the benefit of present and future generations. In my view and that of the Council the Plan will succeed in this complex role.

This Plan has been the subject of extensive public consultation. This culminated in a Public Inquiry, which ran for several months, and resulted in modifications which were made available again for public comment. Final amendments have consequently been made.

The statutorily adopted Local Plan for Epping Forest District therefore properly belongs to the community and I commend it to you.

Ron Heath

Chairman of Development Committee

Epping Forest District Council.

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CONTENTS

<u>Sections and Chapters</u>	<u>Page</u>
CONTEXT	1
1. Legal Background	3
2. Epping Forest District	9
3. Environmental Context	15
4. Objectives, Strategy and Performance Indicators	21
5. GREEN BELT	27
CONSERVATION	49
6. Heritage Conservation	51
7. Nature Conservation	69
8. Recycling and Pollution	77
LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT	83
9. Housing	85
10. Employment	99
11. Shopping and Town Centres	115
12. Recreation, Sport and Tourism	127
13. Community Facilities	149
14. Utilities	161
DESIGN AND LANDSCAPE	169
15. Design and the Built Environment	171
16. Landscape and Landscaping	191
17. TRANSPORT	205
ACTION	223
18. Implementation	225
19. Monitoring and Review	233
20. POLICIES BY AREA	237
APPENDICES	245
INDEX	263

APPENDICES

	<u>Page No</u>
1(a). Statement of General Conformity of the Deposit Plan.	247
1(b). Statement of General Conformity of the Modifications to the Deposit Plan.	248
2. Environmental Implications of Policies.	249
3. Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest : Principles of selection.	250
4. Housing Land Supply as at 1 April 1995.	251
5. Car Parking Standards.	252
6. Housing Need for 5-year period.	254
7. Glossary.	255

TABLES

	<u>Page No</u>
1. Average Household Size	12
2. Car Ownership	13
3. Dwellings by Tenure Type	87
4. General Programme of Housing Development	88
5. Housing Land Requirement and Supply in Epping Forest District (1986-2001)as at April 1995	89
6. Applicants on the Housing Waiting List, by bedroom requirement	92
7. Affordable Housing - Site Targets	93

FIGURES

	<u>Page No</u>
1. Local Plan process	6
2. Location of Epping Forest District	10
3. Epping Forest District	10
4. Population Structure 1981 & 1991 -District & County	11
5. Social Class by Occupation - District & County	12
6. Land removed from the Green Belt at Brookfield,Thornwood	32
7. Land removed from the Green Belt at Langston Road, Loughton	32
8. Land removed from the Green Belt at North Weald Airfield	32
9. Land removed from the Green Belt at the rear of High Street, Chipping Ongar	33
10. Copped Hall: Key Buildings and Structures	62
11. Hill Hall: Key Buildings and Structures	63
12. Former Gunpowder Factory Site: Key Buildings and Structures	64
13. Households in Need (1988-1996)	92
14. Unemployment Rates - Country,Region, & County	100
15. Unemployment Rates -Essex & Epping Forest District	100
16. Unemployment Rates in Epping Forest District by gender,1987-1997	102
17. Road Hierarchy	213

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SCHEDULE OF POLICIES

	<u>Page</u>			
<u>GREEN BELT</u>		HC7 - Development within Conservation Areas		57
GB1 - Green Belt boundary	31	HC8 - Public Utility companies' works in Conservation Areas		58
		HC9 - Demolition in Conservation Areas		58
<u>General Approach to Development</u>		<u>Listed Buildings</u>		
GB2 - General restraint	33	HC10- Works to Listed Buildings	59	
GB3 - Large recreational buildings	34	HC11- Demolition of Listed Buildings	59	
GB4 - Extension to residential curtilages	34	HC12- Development affecting the setting of Listed Buildings	60	
GB5 - Residential moorings and non-permanent dwellings	35	HC13- Change of use of Listed Buildings	60	
GB6 - Garden centres	35	<u>Heritage Sites</u>		
GB7 - Development conspicuous from the Green Belt	35	HC14- Copped Hall, Epping	61	
<u>Permissible Development</u>		HC15- Hill Hall, Theydon Mount	65	
GB8 - Change of use of a building	36	HC16- Former Royal Gunpowder Factory site, Waltham Abbey	66	
GB9 - Extension of non-residential buildings	37	<u>Details of Demolition</u>		
GB10- Development within Lee Valley Regional Park	38	HC17- Approval of details of demolition	67	
GB11- Agricultural buildings	38	<u>NATURE CONSERVATION</u>		
GB12- Farm shops	39	NC1 - Development affecting SPAs,SACs and SSSIs	72	
GB13- Sub-division of houses	39	NC2 - Development affecting CoWSs	73	
GB14- Residential extensions	40	NC3 - Replacement of lost wildlife habitats	73	
GB15- Replacement dwellings	41	NC4 - Protection of established habitats	74	
GB16- "Affordable"housing	42	NC5 - Promotion of nature conservation schemes	75	
GB17- Agricultural/horticultural/forestry workers' dwellings	43	<u>RECYCLING AND POLLUTION</u>		
GB18- Site of former radio station, North Weald Bassett	46	RP1 - Sites for collection of materials for recycling	79	
<u>Existing Commitments</u>		RP2 - Allocation of site at Langston Road, Loughton for recycling dry household waste	79	
GB19- Site of Grange Farm,Chigwell	47	RP3 - Development affecting quality of water	80	
GB20- Former Royal Ordnance site, Waltham Abbey	47	RP4 - Development of contaminated land	80	
<u>HERITAGE CONSERVATION</u>		RP5 - Development likely to cause a nuisance	81	
<u>General</u>		RP6 - Development of hazardous installations and storage of hazardous substances	81	
HC1 - Development affecting Scheduled Monuments and other archaeological sites	53	<u>HOUSING</u>		
HC2 - Development affecting Ancient Landscapes	54	<u>Sites</u>		
HC3 - Development affecting Registered Parkland	55	H1 - Guideline for number of new dwellings	89	
HC4 - Development affecting Protected Lanes, Commons or Village Greens	55			
HC5 - Development affecting Epping Forest	56			
<u>Conservation Areas</u>				
HC6 - Development affecting Conservation Areas	57			
	<u>Page</u>			<u>Page</u>

H2 - Development sites	89	<u>SHOPPING AND TOWN CENTRES</u>	
H3 - Criteria for assessing other sites outside the Green Belt	91	<u>General</u>	
<u>Affordable Housing</u>		STC1 - Allow retail development in town centres and parades	118
H4 - Seek to achieve provision	93	STC2 - Resist development detrimental to town centres	119
H5 - Seek to negotiate inclusion	93	STC3 - Retail stores acceptable subject to criteria	119
H6 - Requisite criteria	94	STC4 - New village shops	120
<u>Mobility Housing</u>		<u>Town centres</u>	
H7 - Seek to achieve provision	95	STC5 - Site south of Highbridge Street, Waltham Abbey	122
H8 - Seek to negotiate provision	95	<u>Sites for development</u>	
H9 - New housing to be 'visitable'	95	STC6 - Lambs garage, Loughton Library/school site, Chipping Ongar	123
<u>General</u>		<u>Non Retail Uses</u>	
H10 - Conversion of upper storeys in town centres	96	STC7 - Controls in primary & secondary shopping frontages	124
H11 - Gypsies	96	STC8 - Window displays	125
H12 - Travelling showpeople	97	STC9 - Resist elsewhere in town centres	125
H13 - Changes of use	97	STC10 - Resist in corner shops, village shops and parades	125
<u>EMPLOYMENT</u>		<u>RECREATION, SPORT AND TOURISM</u>	
<u>Existing employment areas</u>		RST1 - Overall approach to development	130
E1 - Development in employment areas	104	<u>Informal Leisure Activities</u>	
E2 - Redevelopment/extension of existing premises for business and general industrial uses	106	<u>Rights of Way</u>	
E3 - Warehousing in respect of E2	106	RST2 - Enhance network	132
E4 - Development elsewhere in the urban areas	106	RST3 - Loss or diversion	132
E5 - Effect of nearby developments	107	<u>Horses</u>	
<u>New Employment Sites</u>		RST4 - Horse-keeping	132
E6 - Sites for business/industry/ warehousing	107	RST5 - Stables	132
E7 - Sites for business/industry	107	<u>Water related activities</u>	
E8 - Sites for small business/ industry workshops	108	RST6 - Fishing lakes	134
E9 - Relocation of Upshire vehicle service centre, Waltham Abbey	109	RST7 - Developments associated with Lee and Stort Navigations	134
E10 - Town centre offices	109	<u>Play Areas</u>	
E11 - Employment uses elsewhere	109	RST8 - Provision and protection of play areas	135
E12 - Small scale business/working from home	110	<u>Leisure Plots and Chalets</u>	
<u>Lea Valley Glasshouse Industry</u>		RST9 - Carthagenia and Riverside chalet estates	136
E13 - Areas in which glasshouses acceptable	111	RST10 - Roydon Lodge chalet estate	136
<u>Non-conforming uses</u>		RST11 - Theydon Park Road and Curtis Mill Lane chalet estates	136
E14 - Seek relocation/discontinuance	112	RST12 - Leisure plots	136
E15 - Resist consolidation	112		
	<u>Page</u>		<u>Page</u>

DBE13- Advertisements	189	<u>Traffic Management</u>	
		T13 - Promote appropriate measures	218
<u>LANDSCAPE AND LANDSCAPING</u>		<u>Car Parking</u>	
<u>Rural Landscape</u>		T14 - Adequate/ appropriate facilities	219
LL1 - Character, appearance and use	195	T15 - Town centre facilities	220
LL2 - Resist inappropriate development	196	T16 - Residential/station car parking	221
LL3 - Development on the edge of settlements	196	<u>New Development</u>	
LL4 - Details of agricultural/ forestry-related developments	196	T17 - Criteria for assessing proposals	221
<u>Urban Landscape</u>		<u>IMPLEMENTATION</u>	
LL5 - Protection of open spaces	197	I1 - Legal agreements	228
LL6 - Partial development of urban open spaces	197	I2 - Phasing large housing sites	229
<u>Trees of public amenity value</u>		I3 - Replacement facilities	230
LL7 - Promotes the planting, protection and care of trees	199	I4 - Enforcement procedures	231
LL8 - Works to preserved trees	199		
LL9 - Felling of preserved trees	199		
<u>Landscaping</u>			
LL10 - Adequacy of provision for retention	200		
LL11 - Landscaping schemes	201		
LL12 - Street trees	202		
LL13 - Highway/motorway schemes	203		
<u>TRANSPORT</u>			
<u>Public Transport</u>			
T1 - Promote enhancement	209		
T2 - Epping - Chipping Ongar branch line	210		
<u>Pedestrians and cyclists</u>			
T3 - Footways and crossing facilities	211		
T4 - Networks, safe routes and secure parking	211		
<u>Highways</u>			
T5 - Criteria for assessing proposals	212		
T6 - North facing slips at junction 5 of the M11	214		
T7 - Improvements to A414	214		
T8 - Town centre service roads	216		
<u>Motorway Service Areas and Lorry Parks</u>			
T9 - Criteria for assessing motorway service areas	217		
T10 - Criteria for assessing lorry parks	217		
T11 - Replacement site for Langston Road, Loughton lorry park	218		
		<u>Page</u>	
T12 - Replacement for lorry park at The Borough, Chipping Ongar	218		