

# A Sustainable Town

## Watford Local Plan 2018-2036



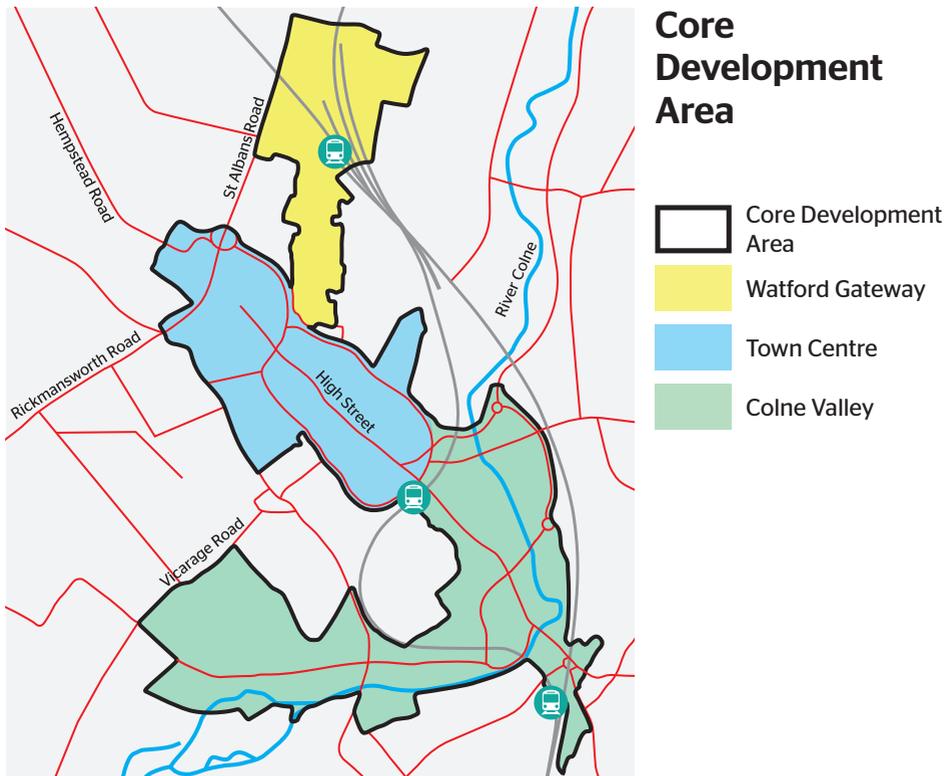
**WATFORD**  
BOROUGH  
COUNCIL

# A new plan for Watford

A number of challenges face the community; including climate change, the shortage of homes, revitalising the town centre, delivery of new infrastructure, providing more jobs and protecting the environment and heritage of the town. A new Local Plan is an opportunity to tackle these and make sure Watford thrives and grows in the best possible way.

This leaflet is a summary of the main topics in the Draft Watford Local Plan and our plans for tackling these issues for the town up to 2036.

It is the final Draft Local Plan, and the Council wants to thank all the local people and other organisations whose comments and suggestions are reflected in the final version. Your views on this will be looked at by the Planning Inspector when the plan goes to 'Examination' with the Government in 2021.



## A Climate Emergency

The Council is committed to helping combat climate change and declared a climate emergency in July 2019. The key elements in the Local Plan are;



**Becoming a carbon neutral town**



**Providing environmentally friendly buildings**



**Encouraging renewable energy**



## Homes for a Growing Community

There is a housing as well as a land shortage in Watford, and we need new homes and supporting infrastructure. The key elements in the Local Plan are;



**Building on previously developed land**



**Preserving the Green Belt**



**Providing a mix of homes for everyone**



## Quality Workplaces and Jobs

Watford is an important employer in the wider area, providing a diverse range of industries. The key elements in the Local Plan are;



**To create new jobs**



**To protect employment land**



**Providing apprenticeships and other training opportunities**

Watford is a great place to live, and the Town Centre is its heart. In the next decade and a half (up to 2036) it will change, becoming a mix of uses such as leisure, culture, eating and drinking as well as supplying more homes for a growing population. It will be a Town Centre focused on people, healthy lifestyles, and a place for people to meet and spend time as well as shop. Our aim is to ensure it remains a popular destination for people living and working in Watford and the surrounding area.





## A Vibrant Town

Town Centres are changing, and people come to Watford for leisure, socialising and shopping. The key elements in the Local Plan are;



**Ensuring the right mix of leisure, shopping and entertainment**



**Encouraging new homes in the Town Centre**



**Creating improved public spaces**



## High Quality Design and Place Making

Good design is needed to create better places for people to live, work and spend leisure time in. The key elements in the Local Plan are;



**People friendly places that are safe to use**



**Sufficient space in new homes**



**Creative new buildings**



## Heritage and the Historic Environment

Heritage assets can provide a record of the importance of the past, and Watford has many unique historic buildings, Conservation Areas and a Listed Park. The key elements in the Local Plan are;



**Promoting and enhancing Watford's heritage**



**Protecting the historic environment**



**Incorporating Watford's heritage into new design**



## Improving the Natural Environment

Although Watford is a largely urban borough, there is still a rich natural environment, award winning open spaces, woodland, green routes and waterways. The key elements in Local Plan are;



**Protecting the natural environment**



**Improving wildlife habitats**



**Enhancing rivers and canal environments**



## A Sustainable Travel Town

The council is committed to supporting greener travel options. The key elements the Local Plan supports are;



**Providing green and healthy travel options**



**Prioritising public transport**



**A town that encourages walking and cycling**



## Promoting Good Health

The creation of a new Local Plan is an important opportunity to support the wellbeing of the population. The key elements in the Local Plan are;



**Opportunities for an active population**



**Access to work and open space**



**Reducing air and noise pollution**

# Regulation 19 and the Four Tests of Soundness for the Final Draft Local Plan

This is the final stage of the process before submission of the Draft Local Plan to Government. The purpose of this consultation is to address whether the plan is in accordance with legal requirements and to ensure it meets the four tests of soundness;

- ✓ **Positively prepared**
- ✓ **Justified**
- ✓ **Effective; and**
- ✓ **Consistent with national policy**

The formal publication of the Draft Local Plan is so that people can make comments about it. These will be passed to the Planning Inspector, as part of the Local Plan Examination.

The consultation will run online from 18th January to 1st March 2021.

For more information on this consultation and how you can make any comments, visit: [www.watfordlocalplan.co.uk](http://www.watfordlocalplan.co.uk)

Due to COVID-19 there will be no public exhibitions.

If you have any questions please contact us at:

Email: [strategy@watford.gov.uk](mailto:strategy@watford.gov.uk)

Telephone: **01923 278093**



The Council wants to thank all the local people and other organisations whose comments to date have helped to shape Watford's future.

