



## The Hertfordshire Learning Partnership

Hertfordshire Learning Partnership 2007 was revised to reflect the new formal duty for schools to co-operate with agencies and organisations in the Hertfordshire Children's Trust Partnership (HCTP). Revised in April 2009 to coincide with new legislation, the document sets out the principles for schools working with the local authority, HCTP and other partners. It makes clear the key role schools play in children's trust arrangements as they work with other agencies to promote children's wellbeing and contribute to strategic decision making. It also sets out the support they can expect from other agencies to remove barriers to learning for vulnerable children and their families.

The local authority monitors and supports schools via a programme of school improvement partners and national challenge advisers. Categories of school visits effectiveness are then agreed and packages of support brokered. In 2007/08, 19% of schools were judged as outstanding, 55% good, 23.5% satisfactory and 2.5% inadequate.

Hertfordshire's Children and Young People's Plan<sup>1</sup> is the key document covering all services for children, young people and families and aims to improve outcomes for vulnerable children;

- Achievement of children in care is better than nationally but is still unacceptably low. Stronger measures have to be taken to keep them in school and accelerate their progress.
- Achievement between schools and some groups has narrowed but the gap is still too wide, particularly for some BME<sup>2</sup> groups, Travellers and children eligible for free school meals.
- Ofsted reports showed 81% of LDD<sup>3</sup> pupils made good or outstanding progress. 82% of schools were judged as having good or outstanding inclusive practice and provision. This is well above the national average.

*Under the effective leadership of the headteacher and with considerable support from the local authority, the school has been transformed into a bright and welcoming establishment where teaching and learning are good and the pupils display positive attitudes to learning*

**Ofsted, March 2008**

1 You can read the document at [www.hertsdirect.org/childrenstrust](http://www.hertsdirect.org/childrenstrust)

2 Black & Minority Ethnic Groups

3 Learning Difficulties and/or disabilities

## Building Schools for the Future (BSF)

Building Schools for the Future is the UK's biggest school buildings investment programme aimed at rebuilding or renewing every secondary school in the country. BSF offers every local authority the opportunity to not only renovate its secondary schools, but reform and redesign secondary education to best serve communities for decades to come. Local authorities, with their resources, organisational abilities and infrastructure, will lead the debate within their local communities and be responsible for ensuring their schools deliver the collective vision.

### Building Schools for the Future in Stevenage

During 2007-8 the county council set out proposals for Stevenage. Prepared in consultation with its schools, parents and young people and due to be implemented between 2012 and 2015, the proposals will help schools improve outcomes, by facilitating changes in teaching, learning and by collaborating between schools.

Choice and quality of provision for children with SEN<sup>4</sup> and LDD<sup>3</sup> will be particularly enhanced. Two major proposals are to co-locate and integrate Lonsdale Special School with Marriotts and Greenside with Barnwell which also includes Valley Special School.

The greatest investment is directed schools with the lowest attainment e.g. Marriotts and Thomas Alleyne, which will be rebuilt. Wider community use and access will be integral to the new schools, providing extensive out-of-hours use. Schools sports and PE facilities will be improved, requiring the acquisition of playing fields beyond Stevenage schools' statutory entitlement. Joint use leisure provision is also being explored.

Provision for 14-19 year olds will be strengthened, supporting programmes for 16+ year olds to improve rates of pupils staying in education, their employability and economic wellbeing. A Stevenage-wide Trust arrangement is in development to create strong partnerships, collaboration and accountability across the schools.

BSF investment will improve the learning environment, flexibility of learning options, creative use of computer technology, choice of learning pathways and vocational options. This should improve behaviour, attendance, GCSE and A level results, reduce exclusions and teenage pregnancies and NEET<sup>5</sup> figures whilst keeping young people far more engaged in education after 14 years old. These factors, combined with services built around learners and their families, children's centres and extended schools, should also help narrow the achievement gap between our most vulnerable groups and all children.

4 Statement of Educational Needs

5 Not in Education Employment or Training



## Prices continue to grow until summer 2008

Latest Land Registry data reveals that property prices continued to rise, up until the end of the second quarter of 2008. As the county already has relatively high property prices, this will continue to impact on the affordability of homes; 4 of the county's districts are in the top 5 least affordable areas to live in the East of England. The data also identified that just over 2% of Hertfordshire's housing stock was vacant.

*Note: the data did not include prices up to the end of 2008, now known to have been when UK economic growth reversed. This may have subsequently and substantially changed the housing market picture.*

## Dwellings in Hertfordshire

As at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 there was a stock of 457,276 dwellings in Hertfordshire. The greatest proportion of these were in the private sector; over 81% were either owner occupied or privately rented. The proportion held by Registered Social Landlords (RSL's) rose from 9% in 2007 to 11%. The table below shows the tenure split in the county's districts.

The Census 2001 defines a dwelling as a self-contained unit of accommodation, where all the rooms, particularly kitchen, bathroom and toilet, are behind a door that only the household can use. Communal establishments are not therefore included in the dwelling stock totals.

Council	Local Authority	Registered Social Landlord	Other Public Sector	Private Sector non RSL
BBC	1.28	12.86	0.03	85.83
DBC	17.81	3.98	0.18	78.02
EHDC	0.00	13.70	0.10	86.20
HBC	0.52	18.08	0.05	81.35
NHDC	0.01	19.29	0.19	80.51
SACD	9.34	3.12	0.29	87.25
SBC	24.06	5.49	0.14	70.31
TRDC	0.06	13.65	0.00	86.29
WBC	0.16	15.52	0.15	84.18
WHBC	20.74	7.11	0.09	72.06
County	7.52	10.96	0.13	81.39

Source: CLG<sup>2</sup> Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix 2008

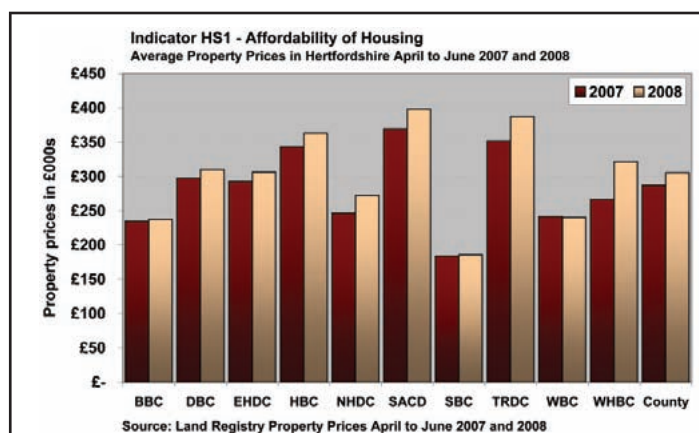
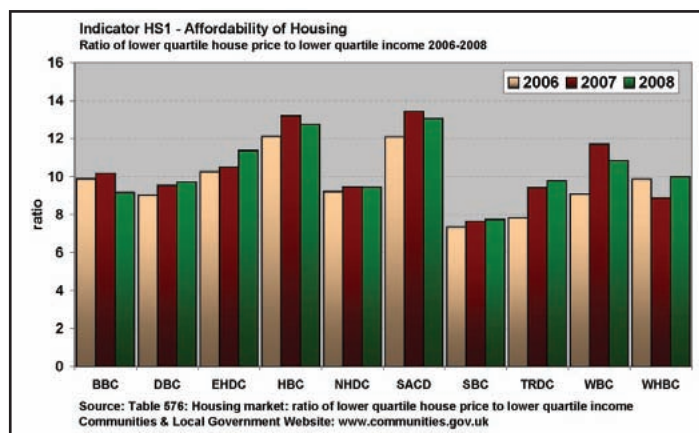
## Indicator HS1 – Affordability of Housing<sup>1</sup>

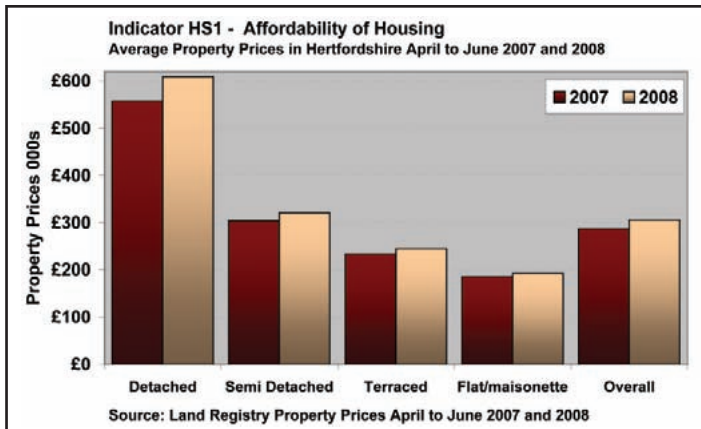
The UK government believes that everyone should have the opportunity of a decent home, which they can afford. Low affordability of housing in the market is judged as a key indicator and affordability continues to be a concern in the county.

The graph below shows the ratios of the lower quartile (25%) of house prices to the lower quartile of earnings for the last 3 years for each district in Hertfordshire. This is derived from the lower quartile figures from the Land Registry's house prices data and the lower quartile income data from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings.

Whilst some districts saw a fall in the ratio, or for it to stay similar to 2007, overall the ratio remained at around 10 times annual income in the county. This exceeds both the national ratio at 7 times and the East of England's ratio of 8 times annual income.

Under the umbrella of the government led initiative Homebuy, several schemes exist to increase the availability of affordable homes. Homebuy offers shared ownership and equity loans to help lower income households to enter the housing market.





**Definitions of Affordable Housing Types: PPS3 Annexe B**

**Affordable housing:**  
includes social rented and intermediate housing, provided to specified eligible households whose needs are not met by the market.

**Social rented housing:**  
generally owned and managed by local authorities and Registered Social Landlords.

**Intermediate affordable housing:**  
is housing available at prices or rents above social rented prices but below market prices or rents.

Source: CLG Delivering Affordable Housing November 2006

## Property Prices in Hertfordshire

Land Registry data continued to show that within the county the overall average house price rise between April and June 2008 was 6.3%, compared with the same period in 2007. However, in some districts an early sign of a slowdown in the rate of price rises was seen, compared to previous years with average rises of less than 5%. The smallest percentage change occurred in Stevenage where the rise was under 1%. The biggest change was in North Herts where a rise of nearly 21% was recorded over the same period. Average price by type of dwelling continued to rise compared with the same quarter in 2007. Detached houses rose by 13% whilst flats/maisonettes and terraced houses both rose by 5%. In England and Wales the average property price for all types of property was £219,000, compared with £305,400 for Hertfordshire in the same quarter. Overall, average house prices in Hertfordshire were 39% higher than in the rest of England and Wales.

*Official rental price data not available for inclusion so instead we now investigate vacant dwellings.*

## Hertfordshire Average Property Prices April - June 2008

Council	Detached	Semi Detached	Terraced	Flat/maisonette	Overall
BBC	£465,397	£256,636	£235,060	£153,955	£237,295
DBC	£592,015	£301,162	£259,510	£170,905	£310,588
EHDC	£531,899	£346,123	£253,988	£174,855	£306,456
HBC	£737,656	£359,587	£289,651	£262,113	£363,053
NHDC	£486,222	£286,942	£209,966	£145,765	£272,284
SACD	£745,148	£413,711	£314,873	£229,502	£397,749
SBC	£342,064	£218,294	£172,921	£136,787	£185,607
TRDC	£760,793	£324,448	£269,384	£237,402	£387,385
WBC	£512,823	£291,628	£237,479	£198,629	£240,354
WHBC	£648,163	£340,220	£224,314	£160,785	£321,792
County	£609,224	£320,894	£245,026	£192,437	£305,403

Source: UK Land Registry 2009

## Vacant Dwellings in Hertfordshire

The 2007/08 Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return shows a total of 9,280 vacant dwellings in the county, equal to 2.14% of its total dwelling stock. The private sector had 8,132 vacancies against 1,148 vacancies in other tenures. This indicates that the majority of vacancies were owner-occupied.

Although there was a fall in the number of vacant dwellings in some districts, including Three Rivers which saw a reduction from 2.63% to 1.61%, when compared to the previous year, in general there appears to be a slight rise in the number of vacant dwellings. In 2006/07 Hertfordshire had 9,145 vacant dwellings (2.02% of its total dwelling stock). A proportion of these vacant dwellings could be used to help meet the county's housing targets.

**% of Hertfordshire's Dwellings Vacant by Tenure 2007/08**

Council	LA/RSL/Other	Private	Total
BBC	1.54%	2.08%	2.00%
DBC	1.85%	2.72%	2.53%
EHDC	0.55%	3.46%	3.04%
HBC	1.19%	2.86%	2.55%
NHDC	1.02%	1.91%	1.74%
SACD	1.67%	2.68%	2.55%
SBC	1.38%	0.80%	0.97%
TRDC	1.30%	1.66%	1.61%
WBC	2.64%	2.67%	2.67%
WHBC	0.98%	1.82%	1.58%

Source: CLG Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return 2007-08