



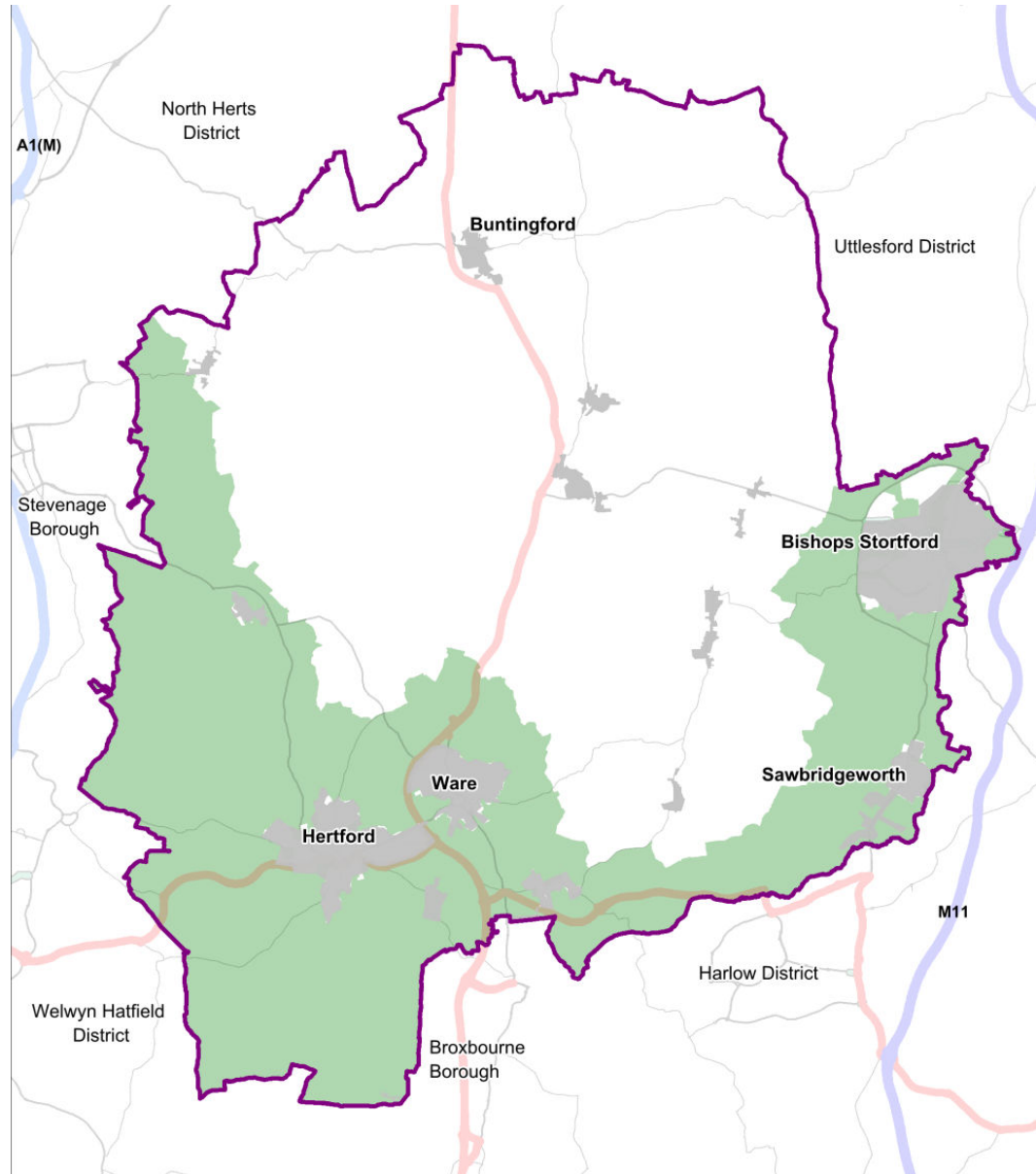
Devolution to Local Councils

East Herts Leader: Linda Haysey



East Herts: A Rural District

- 5 Towns & 100 Settlements
- M11 Corridor
- Housing developments





Population

Last Census July 2012

- 138,000 people
- 184 Square miles
- Almost 27% in Bishop's Stortford
- Increasing older population
- Highly educated – 25% are graduates

Case Study: Bishop's Stortford market





Bishop's Stortford Market

- Markets a key area for driving localism and third tier devolution
- National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA) report their biggest growth in membership is from Town and Parish councils
- Awarded control on a contract basis



Bishop's Stortford Market: Why

- Local service for the benefit of local people – makes sense to be run by the local council
- East Herts believes in the localism agenda
- Budgetary sense- Local Council can run it cheaper
- Local Councils already run events, now they can synchronise this with the running the market



Bishop's Stortford Market: Lessons learned

- Two key issues in the early stages
 - Transition process and contract was overly complicated
 - Town council wanted to manage without assistance
- Learned to make everything as simple as possible
- District took up an advisory role rather than a reporting one
 - Removed most reporting obligations
 - Went down to quarterly reporting and informal catch-ups



Risks

- Insufficient knowledge transfer about the function
 - This caused issues in the early stages, now resolved
- Loss of district consistency in approach to licensing
- Increased inefficiency of retained market service- same manager covering fewer areas
- Clash and competition between towns
 - Under market law the 6 and 2/3rds rule means towns in the same area cannot hold a market on the same day e.g. Hertford and Ware



Going forward

- Exploring more areas where we can devolve to Local Councils e.g. FPN (Fixed Penalty Notices) enforcement within Local Council sites
- Enforcement for Fly Posting- Local Council's know the hot spots better than the district
- Ad hoc approach- based on what Local Council's want to do
- Would use agreements rather than contracts
- District as advisor- best of use of knowledge base built up



Thank You

- Questions/Discussion