



Uttlesford District Council

Chief Executive: John Mitchell

Council

Date: Tuesday, 13 October 2015
Time: 19:30
Venue: Council Chamber
Address: Council Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden, CB11 4ER

Members: All Members of the Council

Public Speaking

At the start of the meeting there will be an opportunity of up to 15 minutes for members of the public to ask questions and make statements subject to having given two working days' prior notice.

AGENDA PART 1

Open to Public and Press

- 1 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest**
- 2 Presentation on the Local Plan**
To receive a presentation on the Local Plan
- 3 Minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2015** 5 - 12
To receive minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2015
- 4 Minutes of meeting held on 16 September 2015** 13 - 16
To receive minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2015
- 5 Matters Arising**
To consider matters arising from the minutes

- 6 Chairman's announcements**
To receive any announcements from the Chairman
- 7 Reports from the Leader and members of the Executive**
To receive matters of report from the Leader and members of the Executive
- 8 Members' questions to the Leader, members of the Executive and chairmen of committees (up to 15 minutes)**
To receive members' questions
- 9 Matters received from the Executive (standing item)**
To consider items referred from the Executive
- 10 Matters received about joint arrangements and external organisations (standing item)**
Matters concerning joint arrangements and external organisations
- 11 Matters received from committees and working groups - provisions relating to Honorary Aldermen** 17 - 18
To receive a report on the adoption of an article in the constitution providing for the nomination of honorary aldermen
- 12 Update on Local Strategic Partnership (standing item)**
To receive a verbal report on the Community Safety Partnership
- 13 Local Plan Consultation Autumn 2015** 19 - 50
To consider the Local Plan consultation
- 14 Greater Essex Devolution** 51 - 56
To consider a report on Greater Essex devolution
- 15 Independent Remuneration Panel** 57 - 58
To consider a report on appointments to the Independent Remuneration Panel
- 16 Any other items which the Chairman considers to be urgent**

MEETINGS AND THE PUBLIC

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The agenda is split into two parts. Most of the business is dealt with in Part I which is open to the public. Part II includes items which may be discussed in the absence of the press or public, as they deal with information which is personal or sensitive for some other reason. You will be asked to leave the meeting before Part II items are discussed.

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COUNCIL MEETING held at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN on 28 JULY 2015 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillor S Harris – Chairman.
Councillors A Anjum, K Artus, G Barker, S Barker, R Chambers, J Davey, P Davies, A Dean, P Fairhurst, T Farthing, M Felton, J Freeman, R Gleeson, T Goddard, J Gordon, N Hargreaves, E Hicks, S Howell, D Jones, T Knight, M Lemon, B Light, J Lodge, A Mills, S Morris, E Oliver, E Parr, J Parry, V Ranger, J Redfern, H Rolfe and L Wells.

Officers in attendance: J Mitchell (Chief Executive), J Brucher (ICT Infrastructure Support Analyst), J Game (Support Analyst), M Perry (Assistant Chief Executive – Legal), P Snow (Democratic and Electoral Services Manager) and A Webb (Director of Finance Corporate Services).

ESSEX FIRE SERVICE PRESENTATION

Prior to the meeting Mike Clayton and Paul Bowers of Essex County Fire and Rescue Service gave a presentation to members about the future of the fire and rescue service in Essex following the issue of a recent consultation document covering the period 2015-2020.

C21 PUBLIC SPEAKING AND PRESENTATION OF PETITION

John Black and Rachel Roberts attended the meeting as residents living near to the Reeve Road play areas in Stansted to present a petition asking for the Council not to agree to the replacement of play equipment at these locations.

Mr Black made a statement which is appended to these minutes.

Councillor S Barker read a brief response to Mr Black's statement acknowledging receipt of the petition and stating the Council would be involved in the working party set up in Stansted and would work to achieve a sensible conclusion so the land could be handed over to the parish council.

C22 HONORARY ALDERMAN APPOINTMENTS

The Chairman said that former councillors Jim Ketteridge and Jan Menell had been nominated for the award of the position of honorary alderman. She invited both former members to join her before paying tribute to their long and distinguished service in various guises during their tenure as councillors.

She then presented both former councillors with certificates acknowledging their status as honorary aldermen of Uttlesford, after which photographs were taken.

C23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Asker, Foley, R Freeman, Loughlin, Ryles and Sell.

C24 MINUTES

The minutes of the annual meeting held on 26 May 2015 were received and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

C25 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported on the various functions and other events she had attended. These included:

- Garden party at Capel Manor College, Enfield and in Rochford
- Civic church services in Chelmsford and Southend
- Rotary book awards, Saffron Walden
- Jack Petchey awards to girl guides
- The Essex Scouting Association AGM
- Reception at Stow Maries airfield
- Thaxted primary school and carnival
- Race for Life in Chelmsford

Councillor Harris notified members about a forthcoming tour of Easton Lodge gardens followed by afternoon tea. A quiz night had been planned for 15 October. The Christmas church service would be held at Holy Cross Church in Felsted on 15 December. Finally, the civic dinner would be held on 22 April at Bishop's Stortford golf club and would have a St George's day theme.

She had very much enjoyed her year of office to date and thanked her PA Janine Corbey for the help and support she had offered in organising her diary. To date she had raised nearly £2,000 for her nominated charities.

C26 REPORTS FROM THE LEADER AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

The Leader updated the Council on a number of relevant issues.

He first paid tribute to the Chief Executive John Mitchell who had indicated his intention to retire in January 2016 on reaching the age of 60. Mr Mitchell had steered the Council from a perilous condition in 2008 to a point where it was widely acknowledged as a well-run organisation. The spirit and feel of the Council was a tribute to his stewardship over the past seven and a half years.

Among the matters reported by the Leader were:

- The local plan process – he mentioned the revised method of operation of the Planning Policy Working Group emphasising the importance to the Council of the work being undertaken. The PPWG was already operating successfully as a cross party group and he proposed a briefing for

members to be held in early September. The briefing would also cover the question of devolution (see below for further details).

- Devolution was an important issue for the future of local government. The agenda for this had recently been accelerated. The Council must help to shape and influence the framework for the delivery of services throughout Essex. A letter of intent had already been sent to the Minister about the prospect of establishing an Essex assembly. This would replicate developments in other areas such as Manchester and Cornwall. A response would be made to the straw man and this would be reported to members.
- Local Enterprise Partnership – a proposal was being pursued for the creation of a LEP for Essex for which appropriate representations would be made by way of submission to the Secretary of State.

Councillor S Barker summarised her written report as already circulated. She urged councillors to alert her if they became aware of any listed buildings or heritage sites placed at risk by neglect. She reported plans to initiate a best kept village street competition to highlight pride in local communities. Finally, she referred to the recent murder in Stansted and confirmed that the Chief Executive would undertake a domestic homicide review.

Councillor Howell reminded the meeting that the Chancellor had indicated that government savings of £37m had to be made by 2020. Departments that were not ring-fenced faced cuts of either 25% or 40% as agreed.

This Council was well placed to face these challenges because of the regime of careful financial management followed over a number of years. However, the intended cut in social housing rents was a change to the rents formula and would have an impact on income.

C27 CHAIRMAN'S URGENT ITEMS – ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK GROUP TO ADVISE ON THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chairman agreed to the inclusion of this item on the grounds of urgency.

The Leader proposed appointing a task group to advise the Council on the process for appointing a new Chief Executive and then to recommend an appointment. The task group would be formed to consist of three Conservative members and one each from the Residents for Uttlesford and Liberal Democrat groups. Two advisors would also be invited to attend meetings and the first job of the group would be to determine whether to advertise or recruit to the post and how that should be done.

RESOLVED to appoint a Chief Executive's Appointment Task Group comprising five members to be nominated by the three group leaders on the basis of a 3/1/1 split, to advise the Council on the procedure to be adopted in recruiting a new Chief Executive, and then to act as the panel to conduct interviews before recommended an appointment to Council

C28 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Councillor Dean thanked Councillor S Barker for her positive intent to work with Stansted residents to find a solution to the issue of the play equipment at the Reeve Road play areas.

Councillor Lemon asked: following the statement by the Leader of Essex County Council that a second runway at Stansted was inevitable, will the Council continue to oppose expansion at Stansted Airport?

Answer from the Leader: yes, the Council will oppose expansion at Stansted totally, absolutely and unequivocally. The Manchester Air Group intended to apply for an increase to more than 40m passengers a year; this would focus minds and require a firm response. The Council was working with Harlow College to establish a unit specialising in engineering and service skills. The development of a business park north of Stansted was something that should be explored.

Councillor Knight: the encouragement of visitors and tourists was being jeopardised by the payment of fees for anyone setting down visitors at the airport. Some relaxation of this policy was essential.

Answer from Councillor S Barker: in the event of a planning application these issues would be addressed. There was a need to discuss a number of associated issues with MAG.

C29 JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

The Leader gave a brief update from meetings of the Essex Health and Wellbeing Board. There was a special focus on the National Health Service with a view to bringing health and social care provision closer together. There had been a recent rise in hospital admissions and the transition from hospital to home had to be addressed.

C30 MATTERS RECEIVED FROM COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

(i) Constitution Working Group recommendation on the procedure for honorary aldermen

Councillor Ranger proposed the adoption of a recommendation from the Constitution Working Group to incorporate into the Constitution as Article 18 an agreed procedure for the appointment of honorary aldermen, as set out in the report to this meeting, subject only to the substitution of the following words for article 18.1.3:

18.1.3 Nominations for the title may be made in writing by any existing Member of the Council and shall be made before the annual meeting of the Council following an ordinary election of councillors.

The proposal was seconded and would now be deferred to the following meeting of the Council for adoption.

C31 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBER OF THE ESSEX POLICE AND CRIME PANEL 2015/16

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor S Barker as the Council's substitute member of this panel

C32 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES – CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

A request was received from the Liberal Democrat Group to substitute Councillor Parr for Councillor Dean as a member of the Standards Committee.

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Parr to the Standards Committee in place of Councillor Dean

The meeting ended at 8.20pm

PUBLIC SPEAKING STATEMENT

John Black for Uttlesford District Council Meeting 28/07/2015

Good Evening, Madam Chairman and Members

My name is John Black, I live on Reeve Road, Foresthall Park, Stansted. I am here to present our petition concerning play areas. I have a 4 year old son and we live less than 50 metres from the play areas and use them regularly. I am here with Rachel Roberts, another resident of Forest Hall Park, who has two young children and also uses the play areas on a regular basis.

Reeve Road has two small play areas with play equipment aimed at preschool children. These parks are used frequently by children living on the development and by those visiting relatives or on their way to collect siblings from St. Mary's School.

The planning department at UDC has demanded that Croudace Homes remove the play equipment before handing the space over to Stansted Parish Council, after concerted lobbying by a small number of residents of Reeve Road. Correspondence we have seen and our experiences of trying to organise a community children's treasure hunt at Easter have confirmed that the residents involved would prefer that there were no equipment at all in these open spaces and that games and gatherings of people should be strongly discouraged by signage.

Our online petition containing some 300+ signatures shows that there is considerable opposition to the removal of this play equipment. A resident who lives right next to the play areas, is also very supportive of our cause. Foresthall Park is a thriving and friendly place to live. We all benefit from the advantages of living on a well-planned and attractive development. Part of living on a housing development means getting along with our neighbours. We are sympathetic to the concerns of the residents, but suggest that they are, perhaps understandably, grossly exaggerating every 'single' incident, or occurrence in an attempt to emphasise their points.

We dispute that the equipment was not on the plans when the houses were purchased. The plans we have seen, dated 11.01.2011 show the current equipment clearly, including locations, photographs of each item and the height of the slide. We believe the equipment is entirely appropriate for the age group and is neither attracting older children nor being misused; it is in excellent condition. We are indeed delighted that Croudace Homes have provided beyond the 'bare minimum'. There are no reported problems with congregating teenagers, noise or antisocial behaviour and people do not routinely arrive in cars to use the parks. Indeed, a search of the online 'crime hotspots' reveal no reports of anti-social behaviour, or vandalism in these play areas.

We also dispute the residents' contention that the parks will be unkempt and badly maintained once they are handed over to the parish council. Current open spaces in Stansted indicate that this fear is entirely unfounded.

Whatever the residents were told by the developer at the time of purchase the open spaces were always clearly indicated. It appears that some residents would like to benefit from the pleasant aspect of living opposite these lovely parks but prevent

anyone from outside 'The Square' using them. Some residents have told children and parents that they are not permitted to use the footpaths to access the parks, as these are private property. Someone was also 'cable tying' the gates closed to prevent people using the parks.

Stansted Parish Council has offered a sensible solution to set up a working group involving residents on both sides of the debate to find a compromise that works for everyone, and what we should acknowledge is that the needs of the children are paramount in all of this. We would like to ask UDC to support this option and not have the 'will of a few imposed unfairly upon the majority'.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING held at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN on 16 SEPTEMBER 2015 at 7.30pm**

Present: Councillor S Harris – Chairman
Councillors H Asker, G Barker, S Barker, R Chambers, P Davies,
A Dean, P Fairhurst, T Farthing, M Felton, J Freeman, R Freeman,
T Goddard, J Gordon, E Hicks, S Howell, M Lemon, B Light, J
Lodge, J Loughlin, S Morris, E Oliver, E Parr, J Parry, J Redfern,
H Rolfe, H Ryles, G Sell and L Wells.

Officers in attendance: J Mitchell (Chief Executive), D Barden (Communications
Manager), R Harborough (Director of Public Services), M Perry
(Assistant Chief Executive – Legal), and P Snow (Democratic and
Electoral Services Manager)

C33 PUBLIC SPEAKING AND PRESENTATION OF PETITION

Isabelle Antunes-Bridge, together with her young son David, presented a petition calling on the Council to offer to home 50 refugee families in Uttlesford. She explained the petition had been completed online via the 38 degrees Refugees Welcome Campaign and included 237 signatures.

The Chairman welcomed the petitioners and accepted the petition on behalf of the Council.

Rebecca del Tufo made a statement about the refugee crisis and set out what she saw as the Council's responsibilities in dealing with the humanitarian crisis developing in Europe. She said the Council had a duty of care by standing up to the need to take refugees into the district. She asked the Council to accept 50 refugees to the district and to work with residents to support refugees welcomed to come here.

The Chairman confirmed that officers would respond to the questions she had asked.

C34 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anjum, Artus, Davey, Foley, Hargreaves, Jones, Mills and Ranger.

C35 SYRIAN REFUGEES

The Leader of the Council spoke of the tragic context to this meeting brought about by the exodus of large numbers of people from Syria to escape the war in that country. He acknowledged receipt of the petition and thanked the organisers for presenting it. It was quite clear there was a collective feeling of great sympathy within the Uttlesford community and it was important for the Council to respond in an open hearted and compassionate way.

The response set out in the motion to be put before this meeting was consistent with the Government initiative and proposed multi-agency approach to dealing with the problem of refugees. The proposed action was for the Cabinet to set up a Refugee Working Group to consider the Council's response to accommodating refugees. He had already asked Councillor Redfern to chair the working group and to co-ordinate the work with the key external groups.

For the duration of the refugee emergency he had decided to ask the portfolio leads for economic development and communications to report directly to him rather than to Councillor Redfern.

The first refugees were expected to arrive in the UK in the next few days. The distribution of the refugees would be determined by a central command post in the Home Office.

The working group would have to determine the key priorities in relation to accommodating refugees into the district and in doing that would liaise with the churches refugee network, the national database and all other resources available. Special skills would be required to help local people offering the use of their homes.

Links had already been established with the task force set up in Essex and with the Home Office. The next task was to explore ways to make the accommodation of refugees a reality. He would make sure that regular update reports were submitted about the progress made.

The Leader then proposed the motion supported jointly by the three group leaders and their deputies.

Councillor Dean then co-proposed the motion. He said it was in response to the worst humanitarian crisis in his lifetime in Europe. There was no quick fix available and many people would want to play their part. Many volunteers and agencies were already taking supplies to those marooned in Calais and in Turkey as well as to other places.

The priority now was to understand the Government's position and to work with them to achieve the best result possible. The Council had responded on a previous occasion to welcome refugees from Lebanon. A positive start had been made but a lot remained to be done.

Councillor Lodge then co-proposed the motion. He thanked Councillor Rolfe and the Chief Executive for the prompt actions taken in the nine days since the formal request for an extraordinary meeting. He was grateful to Councillor Redfern for taking on the role of co-ordinating the response.

The plight of the refugees was a matter of great concern locally. Uttlesford was a very rich area and the perception was that more could be done here than elsewhere. No quota system had yet been established and the Council must respond to whatever needs were identified.

The Leader then read out in full the terms of the motion as follows:

“ The Council has great sympathy for refugees from the conflicts in Syria and elsewhere and will co-operate with Government initiatives to accommodate and support refugees who come to this country.

The Council considers that an Essex-wide multi-agency approach to accommodating refugees is the best way forward and will contribute positively and constructively to meet assessed needs.

The Council further supports the Churches’ Refugee Network and will work with other initiatives, local communities and individuals to find accommodation and other human needs for refugees within the Uttlesford area such as secure access to education, health, welfare and other vital services as may be required.

Working with Community representatives and other organisations, and being mindful of the refugee status granted by Government, the Council will start and maintain a database of organisations and individuals who are able to offer accommodation or make other contributions to the welfare of refugees in the Uttlesford area

The Cabinet is recommended to establish a Refugee Working Group to oversee and manage the implementation of these policies. A report from the chairman of the working group will be a standing item on each Cabinet agenda for the duration of the emergency.

The working group will include representatives of all political groups on the Council to be established at the Cabinet meeting on the following evening.”

The motion was seconded by a number of members including Councillors Morris, Fairhurst and Loughlin.

Councillor Morris reiterated thanks to everyone present for coming to the meeting. She confirmed that she had signed the online petition presented that evening and supported its aims. She welcomed all measures to support refugees coming to Uttlesford and asked the Council to work with the National Refugee Welcome Board to help them to resettle.

Councillor Sell said that there were still contacts with Lebanese refugees settled in Uttlesford. They may be able to help with advice about resettlement support. The refugee crisis affected the whole of Europe and he suggested contacting Members of the European Parliament.

Councillor Redfern confirmed that she was happy to chair the working group. The Council had the necessary experience to respond in an appropriate way. She suggested setting up a dedicated email address to which people could respond with offers of help, or to seek further information.

The Leader confirmed he was content with the suggestions made by members.

The motion was put to the vote and approved unanimously.

RESOLVED to adopt the motion set out in the text of this Minute and to invite the Cabinet to establish a Refugee Working Group at the meeting scheduled for the following evening.

The meeting ended at 7.55pm

Committee: Full Council

Agenda Item

Date: 13 October 2015

11

Title: **Procedure for nominating Honorary Aldermen**

Author: John Mitchell

Item for decision

Summary

At the Council meeting on 28 July a recommendation for the appointment of honorary aldermen was proposed and seconded, and deferred to the following meeting of the Council for adoption.

This report recommends the adoption of an additional Article in the Constitution for the appointment of honorary aldermen.

Recommendations

1. That the Constitution is amended to include the process for nominating Honorary Aldermen

Financial Implications

2. None

Background Papers

3. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

None

Impact

- 4.

Communication/Consultation	None
Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None
Sustainability	None

Ward-specific impacts	All
Workforce/Workplace	None

Situation

5 The wording of the proposed Article of the Constitution is as follows:

Article 18 Honorary Aldermen

18.1.1 *The Council may confer the title of Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwoman upon persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Council as past members of that Council, but who are not then members of the Council.*

18.1.2 *Any person nominated for such title shall normally have served for 20 years as a member of the Council.*

18.1.3 *Nominations for the title may be made in writing by any existing Member of the Council and shall be made before the annual meeting of the Council following an ordinary election of councillors.*

18.1.4 *Any nominations received shall be referred to the Chairman of the Council who shall consult with the group leaders and the Chief Executive before deciding whether to put the nomination to Full Council.*

18.1.5 *In the event that the nominations do go forward to Full Council a majority of 2/3rds of the members voting thereon is required before the title of Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwoman can be conferred.*

18.1.6 *A certificate shall be presented to each Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwoman acknowledging their appointment with an appropriate citation.*

18.1.7 *Honorary Aldermen or Honorary Alderwomen may attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the council may from time to time decide.*

18.1.8 *Honorary Aldermen or Honorary Alderwomen shall not be entitled to be addressed as Alderman or Alderwoman and may not take part in any civic ceremonies in that capacity at any time while they are serving as a member of the Council*

Risk Analysis

5. There are no material risks associated with this proposal

Committee: Full Council

Agenda Item

Date: 13 October 2015

13

Title: Local Plan Consultation Autumn 2015

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Barker, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environmental Services

Item for decision: Yes

Summary

1. The report seeks the agreement of Council to undertake the first of three public consultations on the emerging Local Plan. The consultation consists of 19 questions set out in the attached document, and the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal.

Recommendations

2. That the Local Plan Consultation Document and Sustainability Appraisal be agreed for public consultation for a six week period commencing Thursday 22 October and closing on Friday 4 December 2015.

Financial Implications

3. The costs of the consultations can be met from existing budgets.

Background Papers

4. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report: None

Impact

5.

Communication/Consultation	Formal consultation as the Local Plan progresses will be carried out in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement and the Engagement Strategy.
Community Safety	N/A
Equalities	N/A
Health and Safety	N/A
Human Rights/Legal Implications	N/A
Sustainability	The Sustainability Appraisal of the Areas of Search and Strategic Scenarios will be published for consultation alongside the

	main consultation document.
Ward-specific impacts	All
Workforce/Workplace	Existing staff resources

Situation

6. The document attached at Appendix A contains the consultation document for the first of three public consultations which must be undertaken in order to enable the Council to prepare a robust Local Plan, which will guide development in the District to 2033.
7. The Consultation will be carried out in accordance with Regulation 18 of the Local Planning Regulations 2012.
8. The approach to the Areas of Search and Scenarios set out in parts 3 and 4 of the document was supported by the Planning Policy Working Group at their meeting on 27 July 2015. This followed an earlier methodology paper supported by the Working Group at the meeting on 13 July. The proposed approach ensures that all the reasonable alternatives can be tested and that a fully justified Local Plan can be prepared.
9. Sustainability Appraisal is a requirement of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive to ensure that equal consideration is given to all the reasonable alternatives when producing plans and programmes. The first stage of Sustainability Appraisal provides a series of observations relating to each Area of Search and Scenario. The next stage of Sustainability Appraisal will inform the development of the Preferred Options (draft Plan) stage later in 2016.
10. Details of the proposed consultation activities including public meetings and promotional activities were considered at the Working Group meeting on 29 September 2015.
11. The approach to the Areas of Search and Scenarios was explained to District Councillors at a Briefing Session on 8 September 2015, and to Parish Councillors at Parish Forum meetings on 28 September and 7 October.

Risk Analysis

12.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Failure to comply with the Local Planning Regulations and	1. The Engagement Strategy minimises the	3. Delay to progress on the Local Plan and	An Engagement Strategy has been prepared to ensure that the Council meets

the SEA Directive could lead to legal challenges.	risk.	diminished ability to manage planning applications in accordance with local policies.	and exceeds all the regulatory requirements.
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- 1 = Little or no risk or impact
- 2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.
- 3 = Significant risk or impact – action required
- 4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.

Local Plan Consultation Autumn 2015

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Introduction 1

Uttlesford District Council has started work on a new Local Plan for the District, to guide development to 2033.

The Local Plan is being prepared through the Planning Policy Working Group, a cross-party advisory panel of District Councillors. The meetings of the Working Group are held in public. Reports, minutes, and audio recordings of the Working Group meetings may be accessed at www.uttlesford.gov.uk/ppwg. An introduction to the process so far is contained in the Local Plan Update, available at www.uttlesford.gov.uk/lpupdate.

This document sets out the consultation questions comprising the first of three public consultations on the emerging Local Plan, before it is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for Examination in Public. It is being carried out in accordance with Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

A summary of the issues raised through the consultation will be considered by the Planning Policy Working Group in due course following the consultation. The Council will then prepare a response to all the issues raised, and undertake further work as necessary. Any standard responses will be considered in relation to the issues raised in the response, and if similar to other responses then will be grouped by issue.

The questions set out below are grouped into three sections as follows:

Section 2: General Consultation Questions includes questions on the vision and development strategy, settlement hierarchy, cross-boundary strategy planning, infrastructure planning, employment, housing tenure mix and affordability, leisure, recreation, and open space, and the natural and historic environment.

Section 3: Areas of Search includes questions on a range of locations which the Council is proposing to assess before reaching a view about the suitability of potential areas for development, as well as on the vision and development strategy. It also includes a question about the sustainability appraisal of the areas of search.

Section 4: Scenarios includes questions on the overall level of development, and conceptual scenarios which illustrate different strategies for delivering development. It also includes a question about the sustainability appraisal of the scenarios.

Sustainability Appraisal of the Areas of Search and Scenarios (Sections 3 and 4) has been carried out and consultees may wish to refer to the Non-Technical Summary when preparing their consultation response. Section and page references are provided within the text below. The Sustainability Appraisal and Non-Technical Summary are on the Council's website at www.uttlesford.gov.uk/lpconsult.

Details of how to respond are contained in Section 6.

2 General Consultation Questions

2.1 Vision and Development strategy

Local Plans set out a vision and a framework for the future development of the area, addressing needs and opportunities in relation to housing, the economy, community facilities and infrastructure – as well as a basis for safeguarding the environment, adapting to climate change and securing good design.

The box below contains the vision proposed in the previous draft of the Local Plan, withdrawn in January 2015.

Proposed Vision from the previous Draft Local Plan (withdrawn January 2015)

The District Vision

By 2031....

1. The district's high quality natural and historic environment will have been maintained and enhanced and the settlements will continue to be separate entities with green space between them.

2. The houses and facilities people need will be available and affordable locally, new sustainable housing developments will be distributed across the District.

3. The vitality and viability of our towns will have been maintained and enhanced and they will be safe, clean and attractive places. Facilities will exist for companies to grow and establish in Uttlesford.

4. There will be convenient, comfortable, safe and affordable alternatives to private transport, whether by bus or rail serving the settlements of Saffron Walden, Great Dunmow, Elsenham, Great Chesterford, Hatfield Heath, Newport, Stansted Mountfitchet, Takeley and Thaxted and the regional interchange centre of Stansted Airport.

5. The impact of Stansted Airport will have been minimised so that its presence is recognised as an asset to the District which attracts people to live, work and visit.

The vision and development strategy will need to be complementary aspects of the Local Plan. The vision will need to link closely to the overarching development strategy and will need to be specific. The vision and development strategy should set a positive context for how growth and development will be managed over the plan period. Appropriate items might include:

- What the role and function of settlements within the District will be and how they will relate to each other
- How growth and development will be managed to integrate successfully with existing communities

General Consultation Questions 2

- Specific pieces of infrastructure and important facilities which will need to be provided to support growth and development, including both not limited to transport, education, and health, and leisure.
- The location and type of employment
- The role and function of Stansted Airport

The vision and development strategy will emerge gradually as more evidence is assembled and as the views expressed by a wide range of stakeholders are considered along with the requirements of national policy. Both will be presented as part of the draft Local Plan during 2016. The vision should be aspirational but realistic.

Question 1: Vision and Development Strategy

What do you think the Council should include in its Local Plan vision and development strategy for the District in 2033?

2.2 Cross-boundary Strategic Planning

The Council is required to ensure that it has fully considered the implications of any cross-boundary strategic planning issues, including those relating to housing, infrastructure, employment, and the environment. Examples of cross boundary issues might include:

- How the growth and development needs of the wider area can be accommodated
- The impact of Stansted airport on the wider region
- The impact of more people using the A120 and the M11

The Council will need to engage with a wide range of bodies on a constructive, active, and ongoing basis with all neighbouring Local Planning Authorities as well as Hertfordshire and Essex County Councils and other relevant bodies.

Question 2: Cross-boundary strategic planning

Are there any specific cross-boundary planning issues that the District Council should consider in putting together its Local Plan? Please provide details.

2 General Consultation Questions

2.3 Settlement Hierarchy

In areas where there are a mix of different sizes and types of settlements, Local Planning Authorities often use a 'settlement hierarchy' as a guideline to inform the development strategy for their area. A potential settlement hierarchy was published as part of the previous draft Local Plan in June 2012.

Table 1 Settlement Hierarchy (Submission Local Plan 2014)

Function	Settlement
Market Towns	
Major focus for development in the district – suitable for larger scale development	Saffron Walden, Great Dunmow
Key Villages	
Major focus for development in the rural area – suitable for a scale of development that would reinforce role as provider of services to a wide rural area.	Elsenham, Great Chesterford, Hatfield Heath, Newport, Stansted Mountfitchet, Takeley, Thaxted
Type A Villages	
Villages with primary school with some local services, e.g. village hall/pub/shop – suitable for a scale of development that reinforce role as a local centre.	Ashdon, Birchanger, Chrishall, Clavering, Debden, Hatfield Broad Oak, Henham, Leaden Roding, Little Hallingbury, Manuden, Farnham, Felsted, Flich Green, Great Easton, Great Sampford, Quendon and Rickling, Radwinter, Stebbing, Wimbish.
Type B Villages	
Villages without primary schools but which may have some local services e.g. village hall/pub/shop – suitable for a scale of development that would reinforce role as a providers of services mainly to its own community?	Arkesden, Aythorpe Roding, Barnston, Berden, Broxted, Elmdon, Great Canfield, Great Hallingbury, Hadstock, Hempstead, High Easter, High Roding, Langley, Lindsell, Littlebury, Little Canfield, Little Easton, Little Dunmow, Ugley, Wendens Ambo, Wicken Bonhunt, Widdington, White Roding, other small villages and hamlets

General Consultation Questions 2

The Planning Inspector of the 2014 Submission Local Plan made the following comments on this table and approach in his report of 19th December 2014:

“The settlement classifications in table 2 of ULP [Uttlesford Local Plan] are based broadly on the level of services available at each settlement. This is a more appropriate evidential base than the system underlying the classification of settlements in the present local plan. There will always be scope for debate about how much weight to apply to one factor or another and the appropriate categorisation for individual towns or villages where their services are at the margin between different classifications. However, the content of table 2 (and the resulting roles of the particular settlements) is generally soundly set out.”

“Having said this, where it can be justified by relevant economic, social and environmental factors a case can sometimes be made to direct a greater or lesser amount of development to a settlement than would reflect its strict place in the settlement hierarchy. Some of the factors discussed during the hearing (eg locally identified demographic and other needs, local constraints and opportunities, patterns of bus services, and inter-relationships between particular settlements) can be relevant to such decisions and can be considered in taking the plan forward.”

Question 3: Settlement Hierarchy

Do you agree with the Planning Inspector that the settlement hierarchy is “generally sound set out” and represents a pragmatic way forward for the Local Plan?

The Council is particularly interested to know

- If there been any significant changes in the services and facilities in any settlement which should lead to its reclassification?
- Is the proposed function for each type of settlement appropriate?
- Are there other relevant factors which should be considered which suggest that a greater or lesser amount of development should be directed to a settlement than would reflect its strict place in the settlement hierarchy?

2 General Consultation Questions

2.4 Infrastructure Planning

In preparing its plan the Council will need to investigate a wide range of infrastructure issues. Infrastructure which will be considered by the Council will include schools, healthcare, transport, utilities, and community facilities. Large scale housing developments will need to include appropriate infrastructure such as schools, community facilities and improvements to the roads. Small scale development may only be able to fund improvements to existing services and facilities. Infrastructure provision is likely to have a major impact on the phasing and deliverability of development.

Question 4: Infrastructure planning

Please provide details of any particular infrastructure issues which you feel that the Council needs to consider, if possible providing evidence.

2.5 Employment

Provision of a coherent employment strategy, with a clear links between housing and jobs, will be an important part of the Local Plan. The planning system aims to actively manage patterns to development to provide opportunities for local employment and reduce the need to travel. However, given the complex and specialised nature of the modern economy, it is often the case that people travel considerable distances to work, and therefore Local Plans need to take account of employment opportunities and travel to work patterns not only within their areas but also in the wider area.

In the modern economy the service sector provides a large number of jobs and these are not usually located at employment sites which are capable of designation in the Local Plan. Further trends in the economy such as homeworking and use of the internet for retail and other businesses mean that there is often less reliance on designated employment sites to provide jobs, in the way that there is a physical site for housing.

The Local Plan needs to take account of these features of economic geography in the wider area, including the role of nearby settlements outside the District. Within Uttlesford, Stansted Airport is the centre of a major employment cluster which attracts a significant number of in-commuters from outside the district, and Chesterford Research Park provides a number of high-tech jobs. There are other more limited employment opportunities within the two market towns and the villages.

Question 5: Employment

What should be the main influences on the employment strategy? Are there any locations which you feel would be particularly suitable for employment?

General Consultation Questions 2

2.6 Housing Tenure Mix and Affordability

The Local Plan will aim to promote an appropriate mix of high quality housing. Affordability is a problem across the District and there is no straightforward relationship between increasing supply of market housing and affordability.

The Council maintains a waiting list of those in housing need, and a stock of social housing is maintained by ourselves and a number of Registered Providers (such as Housing Associations). There are various different models of affordable housing provision such as affordable rent (where the level of rent is 80% below market rent); shared ownership (where you buy a proportion of the market value of the property with a mortgage and pay rent on the remaining share). Shared equity (where you buy a given equity share in a property with the aid of a mortgage, however, while the developer and/or Government own the remaining share you do not pay rent on it) is not considered to provide affordable housing in an area of high house prices such as Uttlesford.

Housing should meet the needs of people at all stages of the life cycle and those requiring specialist supported housing, from individuals and couples to young families with children through to older people seeking independent living and sheltered accommodation. The Council will develop policies to meet the needs of these various groups.

Provision of suitable locations for Gypsies and Traveller sites is a requirement of national policy and the Council will carefully consider suitable sites as part of the Local Plan process.

Question 6: Housing Tenure Mix and Affordability

What are the main issues relating to housing tenure mix, and affordability which the Council should consider?

2.7 Leisure, Recreation, and Open Space

The provision of public open space can contribute to healthy and active lifestyles. Making sure there is enough space and community facilities for recreation and sport to meet current needs and the additional requirements arising from any new development is one of the key aims of the plan.

Within Uttlesford there are currently 3 sports centres and many of the villages have sports pitches, and children's recreation areas. The number of people taking part in sport in the District is above the regional and national average, however many sports clubs believe that existing facilities are inadequate for their needs.

2 General Consultation Questions

The District is characterised by large areas of open countryside, and is criss-crossed by an extensive network of public footpaths and bridleways. Development should respect rights of way and large scale development will need to provide formal and informal recreation opportunities.

Question 7: Leisure, Recreation, and Open Space

What do you think are the main issues the Council should consider in relation to Leisure, Recreation, and Open Space?

2.8 Natural and Historic Environment

Uttlesford District is blessed with a particularly rich natural and historic environment, and technical studies have been carried out on landscape character, historic lanes, the character of historic settlements, and sites of importance to wildlife.

In terms of the natural environment there are many designated Local Wildlife Sites, as well as nationally designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Green Infrastructure networks may be provided as part of the design of development in order to protect and manage the most valuable natural areas for people and for wildlife.

The District also contains a very large number of listed buildings, archaeological sites, conservation areas, and undesignated historic assets which will need to be taken into account as development proposals are formulated.

Question 8: Natural and Historic Environment

What do you think are the main issues the Council should consider in relation to the natural and historic environment?

Areas of Search 3

As a first step towards identifying locations for development, a number of oval-shaped and coloured 'areas of search' have been identified. Within the Areas of Search the Council will assess the potential for different types of development, including for housing and employment.

The Areas of Search will gradually be narrowed down through a number of assessments. All local planning authorities, including Uttlesford District Council, are required to demonstrate that they have made every effort to meet their housing and other development needs in full, and the Areas of Search are an important part of showing this has been done properly. The majority of the areas shown on the maps will not be needed for development.

Over the coming months technical studies on issues such as highways and flooding will be drawn up in relation to all these areas and this evidence will be reported to the public meetings of the Working Group. Consideration of which areas to take forward will be take place next year, and will need to be informed by the evidence base and national policy requirements.

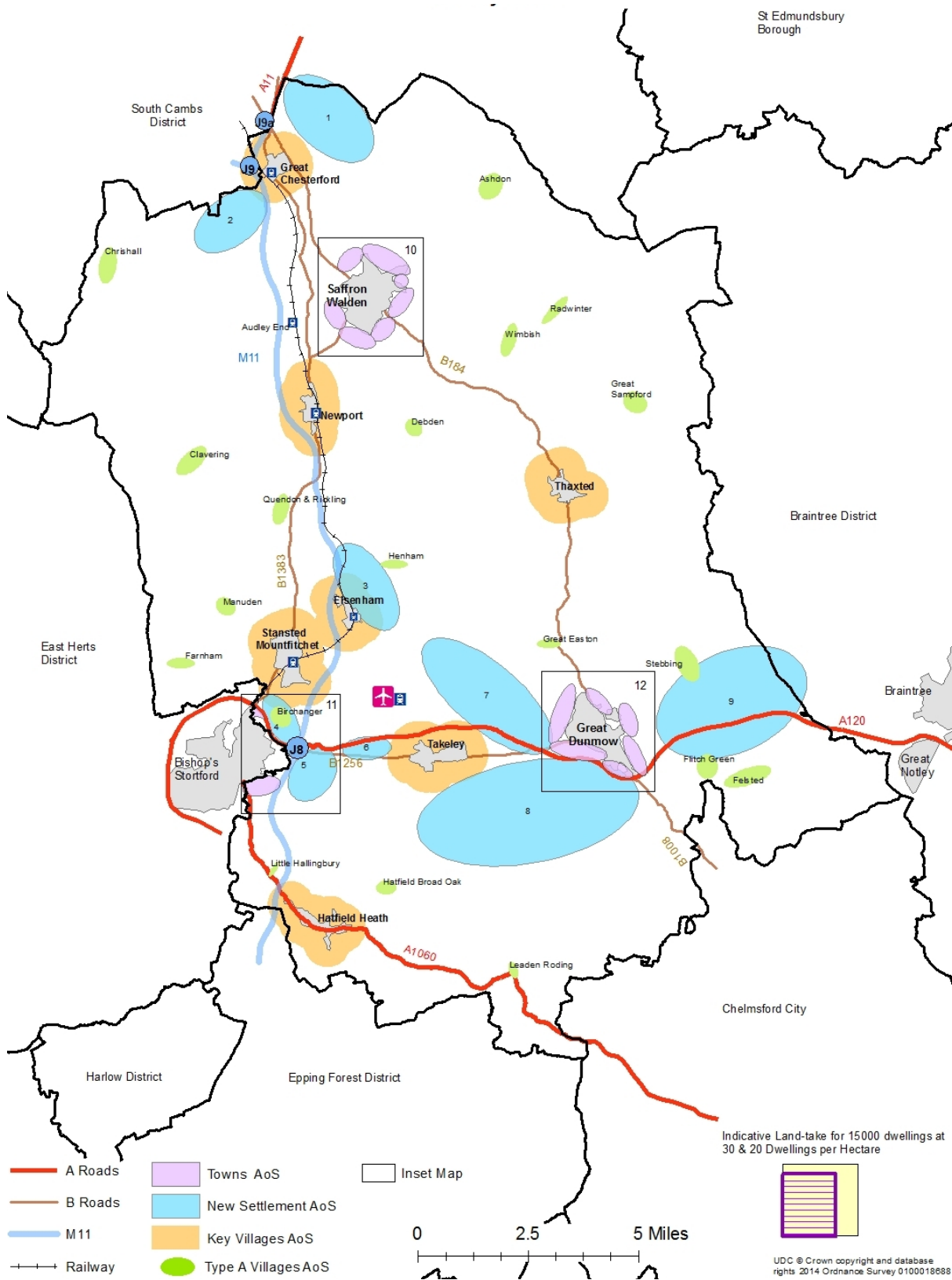
Question 9: Other Areas of Search

Are there any other potential Areas of Search not shown in Figure 1 which should be assessed by the Council?

Sustainability Appraisal of the Areas of Search has been carried out and consultees may wish to refer to the Non-Technical Summary when preparing their consultation response. Section and page references are provided within the text below. The Sustainability Appraisal and Non-Technical Summary are on the Council's website at www.uttlesford.gov.uk/lpconsult

3 Areas of Search

Figure 1 Areas of Search



Areas of Search 3

3.1 New Settlements

New Towns, Eco-Towns, Garden Cities, Garden Villages are all examples free standing new settlements. In recent years the concept of Garden Cities has become popular, although in practice very few have been taken forward. The Council will assess the potential for new settlements in Uttlesford.

Proponents of new settlements argue that they are more sustainable because they enable infrastructure to be planned in, and enable comprehensive masterplanning and design, including provision for landscaping and green infrastructure as well as provision of a range of facilities. They may also have the advantage of taking development pressure off otherwise constrained existing settlements.

If the Council were to promote a new settlement as part of its Local Plan, it would need to have robust evidence that it could be delivered, and could deliver housing throughout the plan period.

Question 10: New Settlements

What do you think about the principle of a new settlement in providing for the future development needs of the District?

A number of areas of search have been identified where the District Council is proposing to test for the potential to accommodate a new settlement. These are shown on Figure 1 above.

Area of Search 1: M11 Junction 9a – east (new settlement options)

This area is located to the east of the junction of the M11, A11, and A1301, near junction 9. On a number of maps this junction is labelled 9a and is located a couple of miles north-east of the junction on the main section of the M11 referenced in relation to Area of Search 2 below. Immediately after the junction the M11 becomes the A11 towards Newmarket.

Close working with South Cambridgeshire District Council will be necessary in assessment of this area to ensure that the requirements of the Duty to Co-Operate are met.

Please refer to the findings of the sustainability appraisal in relation to this area (Section 3.1, page 26-7).

Area of Search 2: M11 Junction 9 – west (new settlement options)

This area is located west of the M11, near junction 9.

Close working with South Cambridgeshire District Council will be necessary in assessment of this area to ensure that the requirements of the Duty to Co-Operate are met.

3 Areas of Search

Please refer to the findings of the sustainability appraisal in relation to this area (Section 3.2, pages 28-9).

Area of Search 3: Elsenham area (new settlement options)

This area of search mainly includes land the north and east of Elsenham, as far as Henham with its Conservation Area. The majority of the land lies to the east of the West Anglia Main Line. A planning application in this area has been called in by the Secretary of State for determination and a decision is awaited. Also within this area lies a separate Area of Search for Elsenham Key Village.

Please refer to the findings of the sustainability appraisal in relation to this area (Section 3.3, pages 30-1).

Area of Search 4: M11 Junction 8 – north-west (new settlement options)

This area of search lies to the north-west of Junction 8, and surrounds the area of Birchanger, a Type A village. The area is bounded by the A120 at Bishop's Stortford to the south-west and the M11 to the east. The area lies to the south of Foresthall Road, and includes Parsonage Spring, Digby Wood, and part of Birchanger Wood Local Wildlife Sites.

Please refer to the findings of the sustainability appraisal in relation to this area (Section 3.4, pages 32-3).

Area of Search 5: M11 Junction 8 – south-east (new settlement options)

This area of search lies to the south-east of Junction 8, and is bounded by the M11 to the west, the A120 to the north, Hatfield Forest SSSI to the east, and Great Hallingbury (Type B village and designated Conservation Area) to the south.

Please refer to the findings of the sustainability appraisal in relation to this area (Section 3.5, pages 34-5).

Area of Search 6: South of A120, North of Hatfield Forest (new settlement options)

This area is located between Stansted Airport and the A120 to the north and Hatfield Forest Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) to the south. To the east lie some balancing ponds which separated the area from Takeley. To the west lies Priory Wood Local wildlife Sites.

Please refer to the findings of the sustainability appraisal in relation to this area (Section 3.6, pages 38-9).

Area of Search 7: North of A120, west of Great Dunmow (new settlement options)

Located north of the A120 west of Great Dunmow. This area has direct access to an existing junction on the A120 dual carriageway. A Registered Historic Park (Easton Lodge) and a SSSI (High Wood) are located within the broad area.

Areas of Search 3

Please refer to the findings of the sustainability appraisal in relation to this area (Section 3.7, pages 36-7).

Area of Search 8: South of the A120 (new settlement options)

This area was identified in a 2008 study commissioned by the East of England Regional Assessment (EERA – now defunct) as part of the then East of England Plan Review. This study undertook a high-level constraints screening exercise to identify potential areas for further assessment to host new settlements of 20,000+ dwellings. The study concluded that five areas merited further consideration. One of these was the area south of the A120, east of Hatfield Forest. Hatfield Forest SSSI and Garnetts Wood SSSI lie outside the area of search. There are two existing junctions onto the A120, one north of Barnston and south of Great Dunmow, and one west of Great Dunmow.

Please refer to the findings of the sustainability appraisal in relation to this area (Section 3.8, pages 40-1).

Area of Search 9: West of Braintree (new settlement options)

This area immediately adjoins the boundary of Uttlesford and Braintree districts. The area contains a number of Local Wildlife Sites, including Boxted Wood and Moulin Wood. The Andrewsfield airstrip also lies within this area.

Close working with Braintree Council will be necessary in assessment of this area to ensure that the requirements of the Duty to Co-Operate are met.

Please refer to the findings of the sustainability appraisal in relation to this area (Section 3.9, pages 42-3).

Question 11: New Settlement Areas of Search

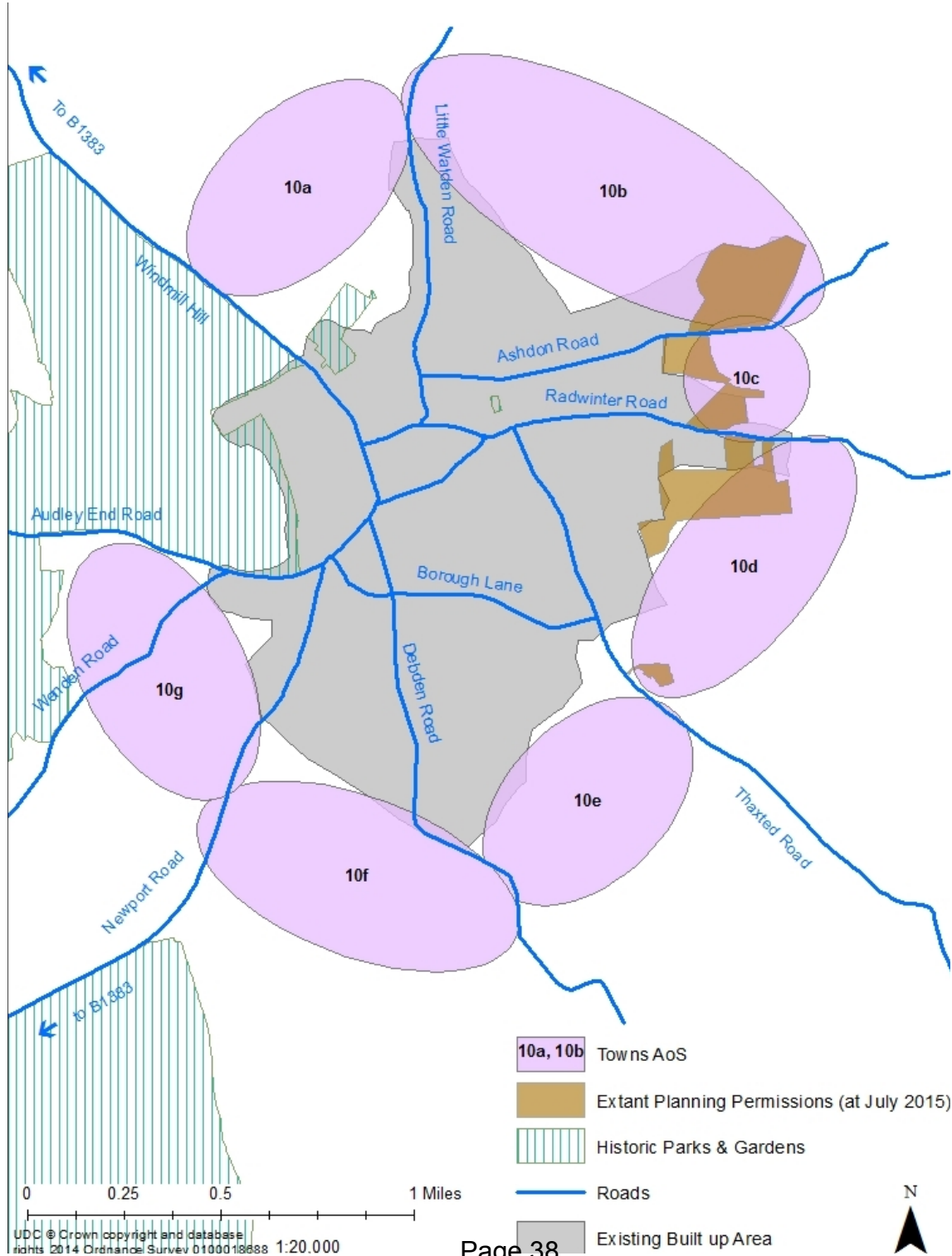
What issues and evidence should the Council consider when assessing the potential for a new settlement at Areas of Search 1-9? Please reference any specific Areas of Search in your response.

3 Areas of Search

3.2 Saffron Walden

An inset map of Saffron Walden has been prepared which shows the potential for seven Areas of Search around the town as shown in Figure 2. Land west of Saffron Walden at Audley Park Registered Historic Park will be excluded from further consideration.

Picture 2 Saffron Walden Areas of Search



Areas of Search 3

Area of Search 10a lies between Windmill Hill and Little Walden Road. Outside the area of search to the south lies Bridge End Gardens Registered Historic Garden.

Area of Search 10b lies between Little Walden Road and Ashdon Road. This extensive area of land includes the Harcamlow Way long-distance footpath and two Local Wildlife Sites at Little Walden Road Quarry and Byrd's Farm Lane. Ashdon Road Commercial Centre lies to the eastern end of this area, and this has been granted planning permission for 167 homes plus employment land. Whitehill Wood Local Wildlife Site lies outside the area of search to the east.

Area of Search 10c lies between Ashdon Road and Radwinter Road and includes the area surrounding the Community Hospital and the fuel storage depot. Pounce Wood Local Wildlife Site lies outside the area of search to the east. South of Ashdon Road has been granted planning permission for 130 homes, 121 Radwinter Road has been granted planning permission for 52 homes, and 119 Radwinter Road has been granted planning permission for a 60-bed care home.

Area of Search 10d lies between Radwinter Road and Thaxted Road, and includes the area of Shire Hill Farm. Planning permission has been granted in this area for 200 houses or 220 houses and commercial development.

Area of Search 10e lies between Thaxted Road and Debden Road.

Area of Search 10f lies between Debden Road and Newport Road. Shortgrove Park Registered Historic Park lies outside the area of search to the south.

Area of Search 10g lies between Newport Road and Audley End Road. This area lies to the south of Saffron Walden County High School. Beechy Ride public bridleway passes through the area at the bottom of this valley landscape.

Please refer to Chapter 4 of the sustainability appraisal (pages 44-53) in relation to these areas of search.

Question 12: Saffron Walden

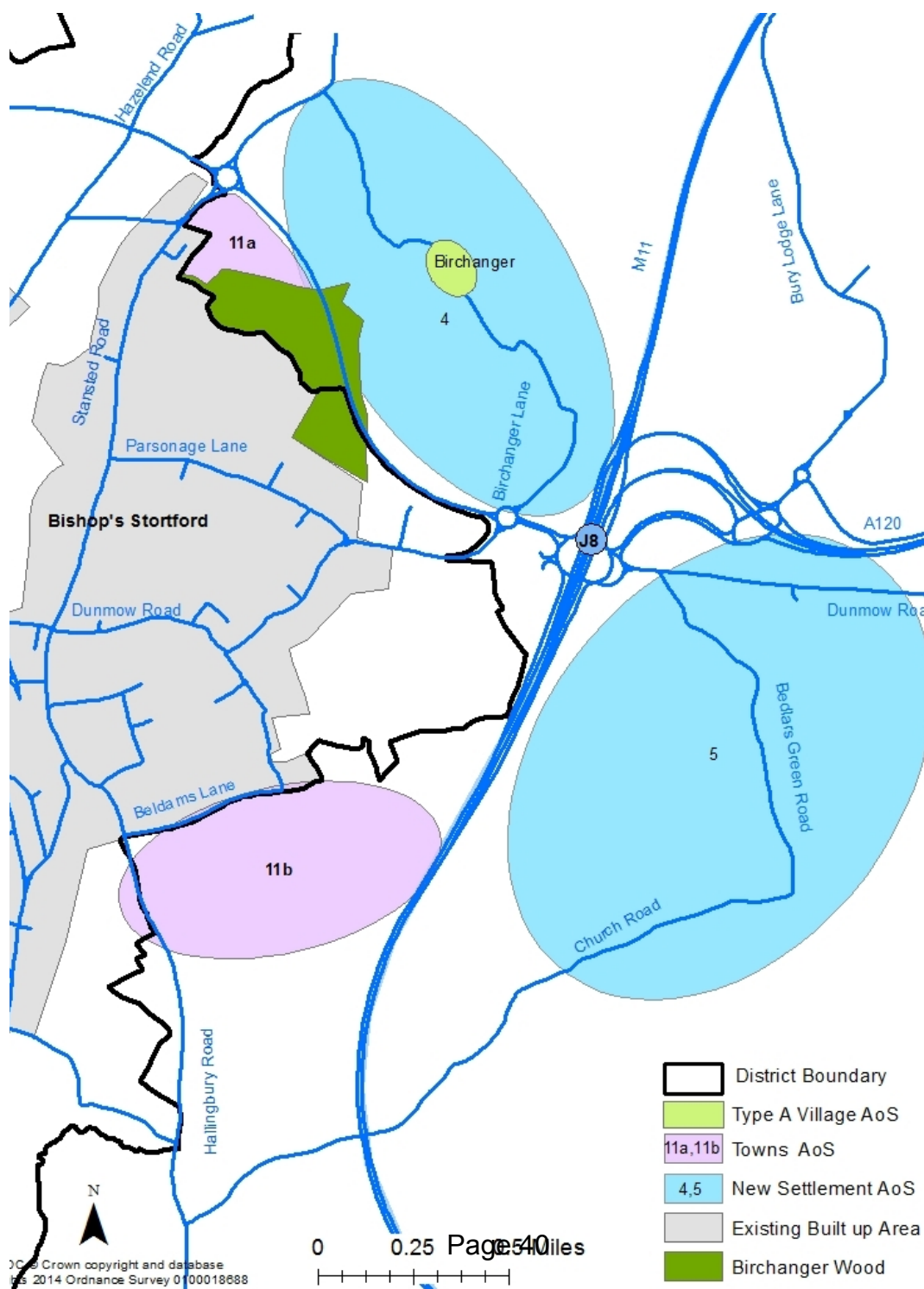
What issues and evidence should the Council consider when assessing the potential for urban extensions to Saffron Walden at Areas of Search 10a-g? Please reference any specific Areas of Search in your response.

3 Areas of Search

3.3 Edge of Bishop's Stortford (within Uttlesford District)

An inset map of has been prepared which shows the potential for two Areas of Search 11a and 11b, which are immediately adjoining the town. Figure 3 below shows these areas in mauve. The new settlement Areas of Search shown in blue are addressed in Section 3.1 above, and the Area of Search for Birchanger Village is addressed in Section 3.5 below.

Figure 3 Edge of Bishop's Stortford Areas of Search



Areas of Search 3

Area of Search 11a is located between the Stansted Road industrial estate in Bishop's Stortford and the A120 town bypass. Birchanger Wood Local Wildlife Site lies outside the area of search to the south.

Area of Search 11b is located to the south of Beldams Lane in Bishop's Stortford, and north of the Sewage Treatment works. Bushy Mead Local Wildlife Site lies outside the area of search on the opposite side of Hallingbury Road.

Close working with East Hertfordshire District Council will be required to assess these areas of search and to ensure that the requirements of the Duty to Co-Operate are met.

Please refer to Chapter 5 of the sustainability appraisal (pages 54-57) in relation to these areas of search.

Question 13: Edge of Bishop's Stortford (within Uttlesford District)

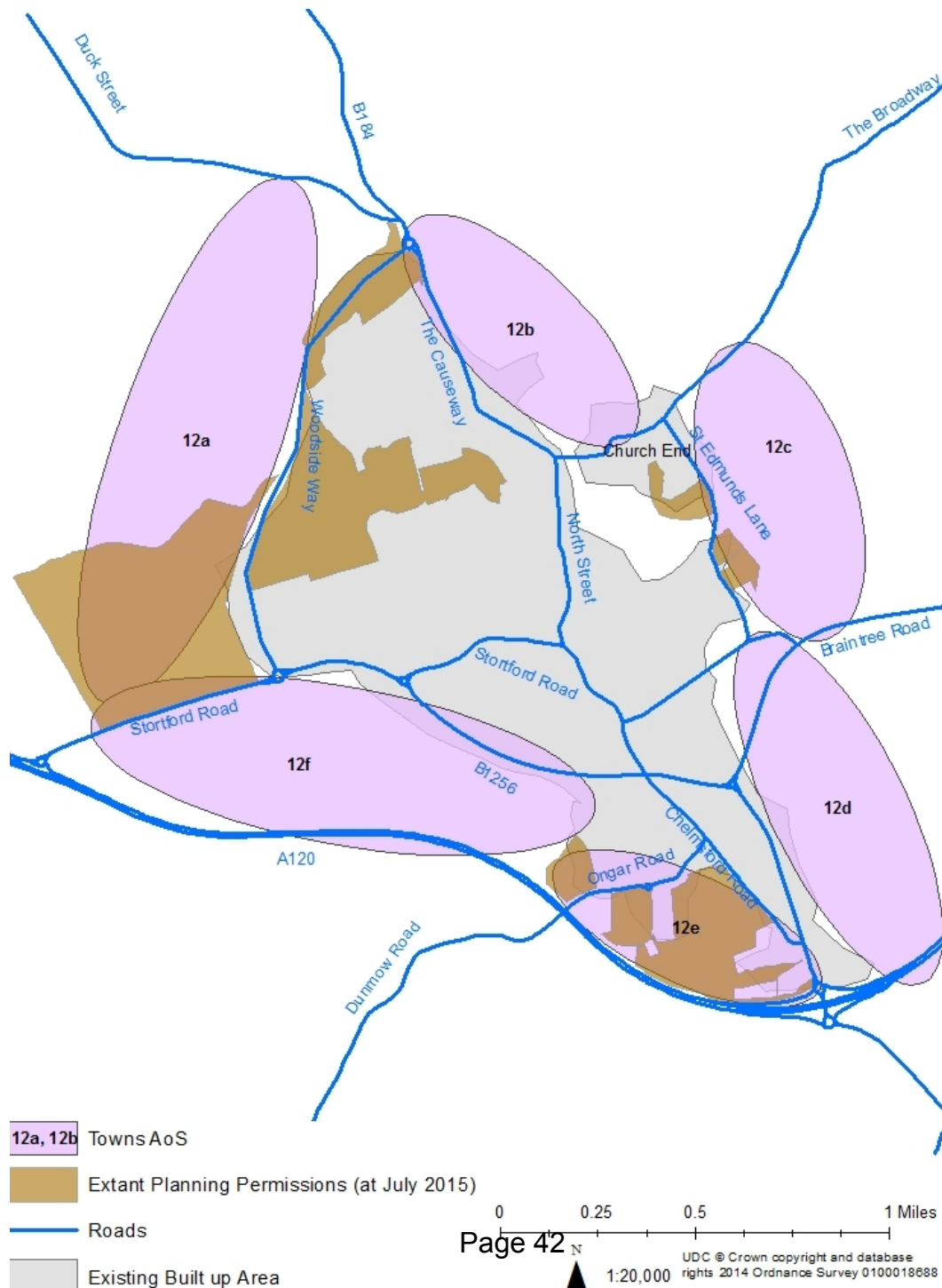
What issues and evidence should the Council consider when assessing the potential for urban extensions to Bishop's Stortford at Areas of Search 11a and b? Please reference any specific Areas of Search in your response.

3 Areas of Search

3.4 Great Dunmow

Great Dunmow Town Council has recently consulted on a draft Neighbourhood Plan for the town. The District Council is working with the Town Council to ensure that the Local Plan and the Town Plan are complementary. However it is necessary to ensure that all the options are properly considered, and any relevant evidence will be shared with the Town Council to enable them to ensure that the Town Plan is robust. Figure 4 shows five Areas of Search around the town.

Figure 4 Areas of Search for Great Dunmow



Areas of Search 3

Area of Search 12a is located between the A120 junction with the Stortford Road and Mill End. It includes the area of Ravens Farm. Hoglands Wood Local Wildlife Site is located within the area, adjoining Great Dunmow. Adjoining the area to the east is Woodlands Park, where there is outstanding planning permission for around 925 dwellings still to be built. The southern part of the area has been granted permission for 790 dwellings (subject to the signing of a S106 obligation) West of Woodside Way (a recently constructed direct road link between the north and west sides of the town). A planning application to the north of this site has been called in by the Secretary of State for determination and a decision is anticipated during July 2015. The implications of this decision for the principles of development in the area will be carefully considered.

Area of Search 12b is located to the north of Great Dunmow in the Chelmer Valley as far as Church End. There is a Scheduled Monument (Parsonage Farm moated site) within this area. The northern part of Church End is a designated Conservation Area.

Note: the area between Church End and Great Dunmow comprises a recreation ground and protected area of open space and is not included within any areas of search.

Area of Search 12c is located in the area beyond St Edmunds Lane. The Merks Hall Local Wildlife Site lies within the area of search. Permission for 22 custom-built units has been granted on appeal east of St. Edmunds Lane.

Area of Search 12d is located between Braintree Road and the A120. The northern part of the area includes Dunmow Park (private land). The southern part of the area includes a Sewage Treatment Works. The Flitch Way Local Wildlife Site lies to the southern end of the area.

Area of Search 12e is located to the south of Ongar Road and north of the A120. Much of this land already has planning permission, including permission granted for 370 homes West of Chelmsford Road together with a retail store, and 100 homes south of Ongar Road. The area also includes some land north of Ongar road, part of which has been granted planning permission for 73 homes.

Area of Search 12f is located between the A120 and the B1256 Stortford Road. This area is bisected east-west by the Flitch Way, and there are a number of woodland blocks including Olives Wood, Ash Grove, and Oak Spring Local Wildlife Sites.

Please refer to Chapter 6 of the sustainability appraisal (pages 58-66) in relation to these areas of search.

Question 14: Great Dunmow

What issues and evidence should the Council consider when assessing the potential for urban extensions to Great Dunmow at Areas of Search 12a-f? Please reference any specific Areas of Search in your response.

3 Areas of Search

3.5 Villages

The Local Plan will need to 'make every effort' to meet housing and development needs. For this reason it is highly likely that the Local Plan will need to consider allocating some development sites in some villages as part of an overarching strategy for the District.

From the point of view of sustainable development, the disadvantage of most villages is that they are relatively remote from the full range of facilities and residents are heavily dependent on private car usage, which can cumulatively add to the strains on the wider transport network as well as local rural roads.

To address these issues most Local Plans categorise villages according to the level of services and facilities and therefore suitability in principle for modest scale development (see Question 3: Settlement Hierarchy).

Because of the small scale of villages relative to towns, these locations are often very sensitive to development and detailed consideration of the landscape setting and character is sometimes necessary in order to avoid substantial harm.

It is necessary for the District Council to reach a view on the overall approach to villages, taking into account the strategic nature of Local Plans, the relatively small contribution to development needs which may be made by the villages collectively, and the new powers and responsibilities invested in Parish Councils through Neighbourhood Planning.

Area of Search 13: Key Villages (village extensions/small sites)

There are seven Key Villages: Elsenham, Great Chesterford, Hatfield Heath, Newport, Stansted Mountfitchet, Takeley, and Thaxted. There have been a number of planning permissions granted recently in these villages.

Please refer to Section 7.1 of the Sustainability Appraisal (pages 69-70)

Area of Search 14: 'Type A' Villages (small sites)

There are 20 Type A villages as shown on the map of Areas of Search. There are many detailed local considerations which will need to be taken into account when assessing the potential of the 'Type A' Villages to contribute towards meeting housing needs. Further consideration will be given to how this will be undertaken in due course.

Please refer to Section 7.2 of the Sustainability Appraisal (pages 70-2)

Question 15: Villages

What issues and evidence should the Council consider when assessing the potential for development in the villages? Please reference any specific Areas of Search in your response.

Level of Development and Scenarios 4

In order to understand the implications of various different combinations of options, the Council has prepared a number of 'scenarios'. At this stage the scenarios are necessarily high-level as no assessment of the suitability of the areas of search has yet been undertaken. The scenarios should therefore be understood as a tentative first step towards understanding the implications of the levels of growth that the Council needs to plan for.

The scenarios set out below are not the only possible combinations of options from amongst the areas of search. The number of scenarios has been limited in order to provide a focused and distinct set of alternatives, which have been subject to sustainability appraisal. Comment on the relevant section of the sustainability appraisal (Chapter 8) is welcomed as part of any consultation response.

4.1 Scenarios A to D (580 dwellings per year)

The first set of scenarios is based on development of 580 dwellings per year, which is based on the Local Plan Inspector's recommendation and is broadly consistent with the findings of recent technical work.

Current or existing planning permissions granted for around 5000 dwellings are common to all options. A windfall allowance of 50 dwellings per year or 750 over 15 years has been made. This approach was endorsed by the Local Plan inspector in his report of December 2014.

Table 2 Scenarios A-D (assuming District-wide provision of 580 per year, or 8,750 over 15 years)

Location	Scenario A New Settlement	Scenario B Villages and Edge of Bishop's Stortford	Scenario C Towns	Scenario D Hybrid
Current planning permissions	5000	5000	5000	5000
Windfall allowance	750	750	750	750
Edge of Bishop's Stortford	0	500	0	500
Great Dunmow	0	0	1500	500
Saffron Walden	0	0	1500	500
Key Villages	0	1500	0	500
Type A Villages	0	1000	0	500
New Settlement	3000	0	0	500
TOTAL	8750	8750	8750	8750

4 Level of Development and Scenarios

Scenario A: Focus on a new settlement (580 per year)

Under this scenario all the development would be focused on a single new settlement. The scale of the new settlement could ultimately reach 10,000 or more dwellings. However, applying reasonable assumptions of construction rates at around 300 dwellings per year, 3,000 dwellings could be completed by 2033, with the remainder of construction in the next 15-year plan period.

Scenario B: Focus on Villages and the edge of Bishop's Stortford (580 per year)

One possible method of distributing development amongst the villages would be to direct a higher level of development to the seven key villages and a lower level of development to the twenty 'Type A' villages. For illustrative purposes, if assessment suggested the potential capacity for 1500 dwellings in the Key Villages, and this were distributed evenly between all seven, this would result in around 215 new dwellings per key village. If assessment suggested that there was potential for 1000 dwellings in the 20 Type A villages, this would result in 50 dwellings per village. In practice it is unlikely that villages will all have the same level of capacity and variations between the villages would need to be taken into account.

Bishop's Stortford lies within East Hertfordshire District, but the boundary of Uttlesford District directly adjoins part of the town. Subject to assessment, there may be the potential for a limited amount of development in the two areas of search identified here, perhaps in the region of 500 dwellings in total.

Scenario C: Focus on Towns (580 per year)

The towns of Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow are the main centres of population and services in the district. This scenario would see 1500 dwellings provided in each town. Both towns have accommodated considerable levels of development in recent years and there are extant planning permissions for significant amounts of further development. Careful consideration will need to be given to the character and setting of the towns, and also the capacity to expand existing services and facilities, such as schools and GP provision.

Scenario D: Hybrid Option 1 (580 per year)

This option would see development spread between towns and villages, and an assumption is made that a start could be made on delivery of housing at a new settlement towards the end of the plan period, with the majority of construction taking place after 2033. This scenario may be considered reasonable if assessment of a new settlement shows that there is no realistic prospect of early delivery.

Please refer to Sections 8.1 to 8.3 of the Sustainability Appraisal (pages 73-81).

Level of Development and Scenarios 4

Question 16: Development at 580 dwellings per year

What do you think the implications of development under scenarios A to D would be, at around 580 dwellings per year?

4.2 Scenarios E to G (750 dwellings per year)

The Council needs to consider a higher level of development in order that it can test the implications for sustainable development. The following scenarios are based on a higher level growth assumption. At this stage it is unknown whether the District may need to accommodate a higher level of growth and if so, what that level might be. A figure of 750 dwellings is proposed as a reasonable assumption for testing at this early stage.

Table 3 Scenarios E-G (assuming 750 dwellings per year or 11,750 over 15 years)

	Scenario E Two New Settlements	Scenario F Towns and Villages	Scenario G Hybrid 2
Current permissions	5000	5000	5000
Windfall allowance (50 per year)	750	750	750
Edge of Bishop's Stortford	0	500	500
Great Dunmow	0	1500	1000
Saffron Walden	0	1500	1000
Key Villages	0	1500	1000
Type A Villages	0	1000	1000
New Settlements	6000	0	1500
TOTAL	11,750	11,750	11,750

Scenario E: Two New Settlements

This scenario is very similar to Scenario A but includes two new settlements, each developed at a rate of around 300 dwellings per year, reflecting the higher level of development needed to meet a higher District-wide housing requirement.

4 Level of Development and Scenarios

Scenario F: Towns and Villages

This scenario is a combination of scenarios B and C, reflecting the higher District-wide housing requirement under this scenario.

Scenario G: Hybrid Option 2

This scenario is similar to Scenario F but the introduction of a new settlement takes some of the pressure off the towns and villages.

Please refer to Section 8.4 of the Sustainability Appraisal (pages 81-90).

Question 17: Development at 750 dwellings per year

What do you think the implications of development under scenarios E to G would be, at around 750 dwellings per year?

4.3 Other Scenarios

The above scenarios form a useful framework for beginning to consider the implications of the cumulative impact of development. However, there may be other scenarios worth assessing.

Question 18: Other Scenarios

Are there any other potential Scenarios not shown which should be assessed by the Council?

Any Other Points 5

5.1 Other Points

Question 19: Other points

Any other points you wish to make which do not relate directly to the questions above.

6 Responding to the Consultation

All consultation responses must be received no later than 4.30pm on Friday 4 December. Responses received after that date will not be considered.

Responses should be sent to the Planning Policy Team at Uttlesford District Council, preferably using the Consultation Portal at www.uttlesford.gov.uk/lpconsult, or alternatively by emailing planningpolicy@uttlesford.gov.uk.

Paper copies of this document and a response form are available on request by calling 01799 510346 or emailing planningpolicy@uttlesford.gov.uk. Response forms or letters may be mailed to:

The Planning Policy Team
Council Offices
London Road
Saffron Walden
Essex
CB11 4ER

All responses must be made in writing, either electronically or otherwise, (there is no need to make responses in more than one format) and should clearly state the question number to which the response relates. Anonymous responses will not be considered. The name, town or village, and (if applicable) organisation of all respondents will be published.

Any responses submitted electronically using the consultation portal or email will receive an automated receipt. Paper-based submissions will not receive a receipt.

Organisations and others may wish to submit additional evidence for consideration. It would be greatly appreciated if any additional evidence could be submitted electronically in a format which is capable of being copied and pasted, and where possible the relevant question numbers should be referenced in the submission. Some documents will be made available on the website so please avoid including signatures.

If you require this publication in an alternative format and/or language, please contact us on 01799 510510.

Committee: Council

Agenda Item

Date: 13 October 2015

14

Title: **Greater Essex Devolution**

Author: John Mitchell

Item for decision

Summary

Discussions about devolution have been taking place between the County Council and the various Unitaries, Districts, Boroughs and City Councils that comprise Greater Essex for several months. The Leader, Cllr Rolfe, has chaired the Leaders' working group and has regularly updated Members on progress through his announcements to Council. The Leaders jointly signed a letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and to Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 4 September. A Members' workshop was held on 16 September. While a copy of the letter was sent to all Members, Officers consider it should be formally noted by Council.

Recommendations

1. That the letter of 4 September signed by all the Greater Essex Councils' Leaders is noted

Financial Implications

2. None at this stage

Background Papers

3. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

None

Impact

- 4.

Communication/Consultation	Press statements have been released by the Greater Essex Leaders. A workshop for Members was held on 16 th September 2015. A further workshop will be held in the autumn/winter.
Community Safety	None at this stage
Equalities	Not clear at this stage

Health and Safety	None at this stage
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None at this stage. Council will need to approve the final submission to Government.
Sustainability	Not clear at this stage
Ward-specific impacts	All
Workforce/Workplace	Not clear at this stage

Situation

5. The Government has been encouraging Councils to come together and to submit bids to demonstrate how, by working together, they can better contribute to the growth agenda by locally allocating central government funds. These bids will then be considered as part of the autumn spending review. Many Councils have submitted bids: some such as Manchester and Cornwall are at advanced stages while others are not. The models vary in accordance with local circumstances.
6. All 15 of the Greater Essex Councils submitted a bid on 4 September stating their intention to set up a combined authority for Greater Essex.
7. The bid sets out the aims and ambitions of devolution. Members should be aware that this is an early stage in the process, and negotiation will take place with representatives of the Government by the end of the year. If successful, approval of Essex authorities will be sought early in 2016. The Deal will then become legally binding and a Combined Authority will be formed. The proposed combined authority would sit alongside existing authorities and provide greater collaboration across the county on strategic issues and focus on improving outcomes for the people and businesses of Essex.
8. Because of Essex's diverse local economies, the model proposed for Greater Essex is bespoke and would see the combined authority working alongside strategic growth boards. Uttlesford is part of the West Essex quadrant comprising ourselves, Harlow and Epping Forest councils – and a formal agreement to work together was approved by Council in December 2010. It is submitted that these arrangements will strengthen the joint public and private sector leadership of growth and strengthen democratic accountability for delivery.
9. The submission focusses on economic growth, connecting people and places, homes and communities, skills and investment.
10. The letter of 4 September is appended.

Risk Analysis

11. There is no formal commitment at this stage so the risk is limited. A detailed risk assessment will need to accompany the final submission.

4th September 2015

The Rt. Hon. George Osborne, MP,
Chancellor of the Exchequer, HM Treasury
And The Rt. Hon. Greg Clark, MP,
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government,

By email

Contact details:

*Nicola Beach,
Chairman of Essex Chief Executives'
Association,
Chief Executive of Braintree DC
c/o Braintree District Council,
Causeway House, Braintree,
ESSEX, CM7 9HB*

*Tel: 01376 557700
nicola.beach@braintree.gov.uk*

Dear Chancellor and Secretary of State,

Greater Essex Devolution – Submission Outline

In March 2015 we wrote to the Rt. Hon Sir Eric Pickles MP registering our interest in developing a devolution deal for Greater Essex (covering the geographic county of Essex comprising the twelve Districts/Boroughs/City councils, the two Unitary councils of Southend and Thurrock and Essex County Council). Since that time, as the fifteen Leaders of these local authorities, we have been meeting regularly to shape an exciting new agenda for our communities, which we believe will provide long-term economic growth, increased productivity, provide greater certainty on housing delivery and world-class, financially sustainable public services. The Greater Essex area has been described as the most complex public service environment in the country. We recognise that challenge and we are now meeting with a renewed spirit of collaboration and partnership on a fortnightly basis to turn the high-level ambitions and proposals set out below into more detailed plans. We are already a major player in the Government's drive for economic prosperity and in ensuring our residents benefit from this. We would welcome continued engagement with you and your civil servants in the development of this next phase of the work, in time to contribute to the Spending Review.

Ambition

Our ambition is for Greater Essex to become the fastest growing UK economy outside London that delivers the opportunity of a high quality standard of living for our residents, with increased and accelerated local and national dividends that are re-invested into world-class public services and infrastructure. We have a strong track record of delivery, for example enabling major port development and expansion at London Gateway and Port of Tilbury in Thurrock; the delivery of the South East's only City Deal and a £20m forward funding for road infrastructure; and a primary school that enabled a stalled housing site of 1,500 homes in N. Colchester to be developed. We have airports which have over 19m passengers a year and ports that provide the throughput for over 40m tonnes of goods. We are ranked third by the Stock Exchange, after London and Manchester, in having the most innovative companies, and in 2013 we saw 10,220 new business start-ups, justifying our reputation for entrepreneurialism.

However we also have untapped potential, where, with the right mechanisms, freedoms and flexibilities in place, we can:

- bring productivity into line with comparable areas;
- accelerate economic growth;

- close the gap between current rates of house building and the level required to meet needs within our communities;
- improve skills levels to better meet the needs of business now and in the future;
- attract foreign investment;
- increase the resilience and robustness of Greater Essex to adapt to economic shocks and shifts in the future;
- and enable strategic planning and investment in infrastructure, including attracting more private sector investment.

Underpinning our devolution approach is a new approach to investment, including attracting private sector investment. Our ambition is to become increasingly self-sufficient of government grant. Greater Essex people and businesses are already net contributors to the Exchequer and our proposals present a real opportunity to significantly increase that contribution. To stimulate increased growth and re-investment in infrastructure, homes, skills and public services we want to enter into a **gainshare agreement** under which the additional revenues generated through local growth would be shared between local and national partners.

We know that given the diverse nature of the Greater Essex economies, a centralised one-size fits all approach will not work. We need an approach which enables and supports our natural economic markets, whether they are rural, coastal, the Thames Gateway, commuter belt or part of the London-Cambridge corridor. That is why we are adopting a bespoke, pragmatic and powerful approach through our strategic growth areas, rather than the City region model which is more relevant in other parts of the country. This understanding will underpin our governance principles.

We believe that a devolution deal will be the spring-board to give us the freedoms, flexibilities and opportunities to deliver a step-change in outcomes, with benefits for the people and businesses of Greater Essex, London and neighbouring areas and, through our increased contribution to the Exchequer, to the wider country. Our ambition is that by 2025, with a devolution deal in place, we will have:

- The strongest economy outside London, increasing our economic output from £33.5bn to £60bn by supporting our economic growth areas to realise their full potential.
- A reputation as an internationally recognised and successful location for inward investment and have doubled the number of our businesses exporting from 7% to 14% in line with UKTI targets to double output by 2020.
- Outstanding connectivity, both transport and digital, that enables our businesses to grow and flourish and strengthens links between key transport hubs, including our airports and ports, with London and neighbouring areas.
- Further improved the rate and reliability of housing delivery to meet local housing plans, by promoting a targeted number of locally identified large-scale developments, including those on garden settlement principles, and utilising brownfield and public land. This will also provide opportunities for science and business parks and inward investment, and utilise SmartCity thinking to provide 'places' designed for healthy living and wellbeing. Due to Green Belt constraints a number of Greater Essex authorities have found it challenging to fulfil their Local Plan targets whilst others who are more ambitious for housing growth are held back by a lack of infrastructure, particularly roads. We seek to work with Government to bring forward schemes and approaches which can address housing need in Greater Essex with greater certainty, quality and pace and ensure that new businesses can locate to our excellent county.

- The most technically skilled workforce in the UK. We will increase by 20% the number of higher apprenticeships completed, focusing upon key growth sectors across the growth areas, such as advanced manufacturing and engineering, health and life sciences, low carbon and renewables, digital and creative industries and ports and logistics.
- Financially sustainable solutions that transform complex public services, focused on supporting sustainable communities, promoting economic wellbeing and healthy lifestyles
- Increased our net return to HMT and through gainshare models which we will be reinvesting in our growth areas and in public services across Greater Essex, to create a virtuous investment circle

Governance

The local authorities of Greater Essex are exploring a combined authority model which captures the cumulative strength and advantage of Greater Essex, but which is based upon our natural economic areas and proposed growth area boards. These arrangements will strengthen the joint public and private sector leadership of growth and, in addition, will strengthen democratic accountability for delivery of our shared ambition and outcomes.

The principles we are developing assume a subsidiarity model where decisions are taken at the most effective level to deliver outcomes with the most impact at the most efficient cost. We see our growth area boards creating an opportunity for strategic localised decision-making and public service transformation through local leadership, shared services and collaboration. The Combined Authority, consisting of leaders of the fifteen authorities, will take decisions and commission activity where there are strategic benefits or gains from economies of scale. We are also exploring the appropriate devolution of powers by County, City, District & Borough councils to lower tier authorities and communities as part of our commitment to ensure all communities gain from the benefits of devolution.

We will ensure that any governance proposals are aligned to the current federated working model within SELEP and that strong business engagement is continued through bodies such as the Greater Essex Business Board, the Growth Partnership for South Essex and the Greater Essex Skills Board.

Our intention is to bring forward a timetable for a formal governance review to support our combined authority proposals.

Next Steps

Our officers have had early discussions with your civil servants and would like to intensify these over the next few weeks, so that we can develop these ideas for the Spending Review. They will be writing to your civil servants with more detailed proposals to explore further. At the same time we will be intensifying our engagement with business leaders, wider public service partners and with our communities. We would also welcome the opportunity to explore some of these issues with you in more detail.

Yours sincerely,

Leaders of :





Cllr Phil Turner
Basildon Council



Cllr Graham Butland
Braintree District Council



Cllr Louise McKinlay
Brentwood Borough Council



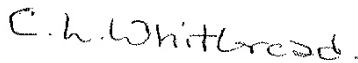
Cllr Colin Riley
Castle Point Borough Council



Cllr Roy Whitehead
Chelmsford City Council



Cllr Paul Smith
Colchester Borough Council



Cllr Chris Whitbread
Epping Forest District Council



Cllr David Finch
Essex County Council



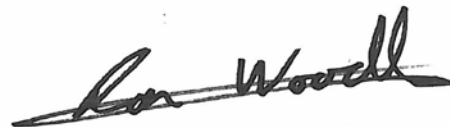
Cllr Jon Clempner
Harlow Council



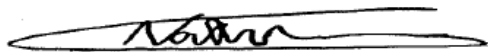
Cllr Miriam Lewis
Maldon District Council



Cllr Terry Cutmore
Rochford District Council



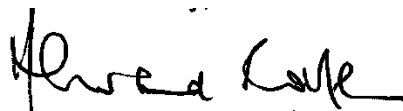
Cllr Ron Woodley
Southend-on-Sea Borough Council



Cllr Neil Stock
Tendring District Council



Cllr John Kent
Thurrock Council



Cllr Howard Rolfe
Uttlesford District Council

Committee: Council

Agenda Item

Date: 13 October 2015

15

Title: Appointment of Independent Remuneration Panel

Author: Rebecca Dobson

Item for decision

Principal Democratic and Electoral Services Officer

Summary

1. Council is requested to note the appointment of a new member and shadow member of the Independent Remuneration Panel, and to approve the payment of £250 to the shadow member.

Recommendations

2. To note the appointments to the Independent Remuneration Panel and to approve the payment of £250 to the shadow member.

Financial Implications

3. *The recommendation will save the Council money, as the recruitment of the shadow panel member at this stage will save further costs of advertising the role at a later date.*

Background Papers

4. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

None.

Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	None
Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None

Sustainability	None
Ward-specific impacts	None
Workforce/Workplace	None

Situation

1. Appointments to the Independent Remuneration Panel are for a term of four years. There has been a vacancy on the Panel following the end of the term of office of Mr John Nowell earlier in 2015. Recruitment to this post has taken place during August and September. The outcome has been successful in that an appointment has been made to this vacancy. The new panel member is Mr David Brunwin, whose appointment takes immediate effect.
2. The next vacancy on the Panel is due to occur in April 2016, when the term of office of another member expires. The recruitment process during the summer represented an opportunity to appoint not only to an existing vacancy but also to offer a shadow post if another suitable candidate were to be identified, with a view to that person then becoming a full panel member in due course. A second candidate, Mrs Steph Grace, has therefore been appointed to act in a shadow capacity until taking up the full post in April 2016.
3. Full members of the Independent Remuneration Panel receive an annual payment of £500. In order to recognise the time and commitment in attending meetings of the Panel as a shadow member, it is proposed that Mrs Steph Grace receives payment of £250. There is no provision for this payment in the current scheme of allowances, therefore Council is asked to approve this additional sum.
4. The recommendation will save the Council money, as the recruitment of the shadow panel member at this stage will save further costs of advertising the role at a later date.

Risk Analysis

5. There are no risks associated with this report.
 - 2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.
 - 3 = Significant risk or impact – action required
 - 4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.