

UTTLESFORD FUTURES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SKILLS AND LEARNING WORKING GROUP

From Working Group Chairman Alan Dean
49 Recreation Ground
Stansted
Essex CM24 8BD

19th May 2010

Mr John Mitchell
Chief Executive
Uttlesford District Council

Dear John

LABGI FUNDING FOR EDS&L WORKING GROUP

Further to the understanding reached at the recent meeting of the Uttlesford Futures Board to request funding from the District Council for economic development initiatives, I am writing to set out the plans that would be supported by these funds. The group would be grateful for the council's assigning of LABGI funds to Uttlesford Futures for use on economic development, skills and learning activity.

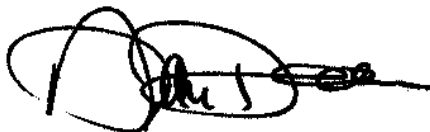
The working group has an action plan which will soon be updated to reflect the implications of the business survey and Futures Assembly at the end of 2009. I have provided the current plan for information even though it does not currently reflect all the foreseen actions which are set out below.

1. **Woodfuel Project:** This is a joint project with the Futures Environment Working Group to develop a local industry that turns wood grown in Uttlesford into fuel consumed in Uttlesford. It is currently at the feasibility stage. Implementation will depend on regional grant funding. The cost of the feasibility study is £5,000 and a further £5,000 is envisaged to pump-prime the project prior to external support being received. Total cost £10,000.
2. **Business Development Services:** Discussions are underway about financial contributions to the enterprise agency that supports

- businesses in Uttlesford but which is currently only funded in Braintree. This will cost £20,000 in 2010 and 2011. A formal request for funding is being processed.
3. **Economic Development Officer (EDO) capacity for Uttlesford in partnership with Epping Forest and Harlow and/or independently:** Partnership working with neighbouring districts in the M11 corridor may be the most effective way to improve EDO capacity in this district. Additional capacity in this and/or in a go-it-alone mode is necessary if the initiatives described in this letter are to be progressed effectively. Cost in 2010 and 2011 is £35,000.
 4. **Meeting and conferences with business partners:** A programme of information-giving and opinion-seeking meetings and conferences has begun and needs to be continued at regular intervals to build a mature relationship between the public and private sectors in Uttlesford. Cost in 2010 and 2011 £8,000.
 5. **Promotion of local economy initiatives:** These are as yet undefined and will flow from the previous item 4. As an example, Uttlesford Futures previously pump-primed the Saffron Walden retail loyalty card for extension to other parts of the district with a £1,000 grant. This budget is for similar initiatives over the next two years. Cost: £6,000.
 6. **Licenses and subscriptions:** External support for economic development expertise can be purchased though either licenses or subscriptions to professional systems and organisations. A cost of £14,000 for 2010 and 2011 is envisaged.

Total provisional budget, which excludes existing funding for the working group's support officer paid by Futures from an Essex grant, is £93,000.

Yours sincerely



Alan Dean
Working Group Chairman