

Draft core strategy objectives

Below is a list of the Council's objectives for the Local Development Framework. They were devised in 2006 as a means of achieving the Council's Vision. It is important that we review these in light of changing national policy and local priorities to ensure they are still relevant.

Uttlesford 2021 – The vision

Our vision

Uttlesford will enjoy a sustainably high quality of life in which the benefits of the unique character of the district are equally available to all residents, workers or visitors

1. Facilities will exist for companies to grow in Uttlesford
2. There will be convenient, comfortable, safe and affordable alternatives to private transport, whether by bus or rail serving the settlements of Elsenham/Henham, Great Dunmow, Great Chesterford, Newport, Saffron Walden, Stansted Mountfitchet, Takeley and Thaxted and the regional interchange centre of Stansted Airport
3. A network of footpaths and cycleways will exist throughout the District
4. The houses and facilities people need will be available and affordable locally
5. New housing developments have been concentrated on relatively few sites to enable the provision of the maximum level of public service infrastructure
6. Our countryside, its habitats, agriculture, cultural and visual qualities will be protected and accessible to all
7. The local distinctiveness and historic character of our towns and villages will be preserved and enhanced and they will continue to be separate entities with green space between them
8. The district's high quality natural and historic environment and richness in biodiversity will have been maintained and environments requiring improvement will have been enhanced
9. The vitality and viability of our towns will have been maintained and enhanced and they will be safe, clean and attractive places
10. 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
11. There will be accessible, high quality health services and effective promotion of healthy living will mean that healthy lifestyles are available to all

Core Strategy Objectives

1. Employment Growth

To support a local economy which retains and encourages growth of existing and new employers by providing enough land and premises of the right type and in sustainable locations that will meet the anticipated needs and aspirations of businesses.

2. Employment Opportunities Related to the Airport

To provide opportunities for catalytic employment growth related to the airport.

3. Reducing Car Travel

To reduce the need to travel by car promoting realistic alternatives to the car and locating new development so that journeys can be reduced and residents and employees can access public transport but recognising the continuing role that the car has in meeting transport and accessibility needs in this rural area.

4. Walking and Cycling

To protect and improve existing cycle routes and footpaths. To provide new routes as part of new development which will improve network connectivity making it easier for people to walk and cycle.

5. Meeting Housing Needs

To meet the housing requirement for Uttlesford (as set out in the East of England Plan) ⁽¹⁾ and to make sure that the housing being provided creates balanced communities and meets local housing needs in terms of type and tenure including affordable and special needs housing.

(1) Although this is the housing objective as currently worded in the Core Strategy the Council has resolved to set its own housing target.

6. Infrastructure

To plan for provision of infrastructure that will allow people to access social, educational, health, employment, recreational, greenspace and cultural facilities within the district.

7. Metropolitan Green Belt

To maintain and protect the Metropolitan Green Belt by only allowing building in the most exceptional circumstances.

8. District Character

To preserve, conserve and where possible enhance the locally distinctive and historic character of the market towns and rural settlements and their settings within Uttlesford and to retain the separation between settlements.

9. Landscape Character

To protect, conserve and where possible enhance the varied landscape character within Uttlesford, reflecting landscape sensitivity and promoting local distinctiveness and an understanding of the historic significance of landscape features.

10. Protecting the Environment

To protect and enhance the natural environment, including its biodiversity and the historic environment through positive improvement.

11. Open Space

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LDF Working Group, 2 March 2012, item 5

To protect existing open space, play, sport and recreational facilities and provide enough new facilities to meet the community's needs.

12. Function of the Market Towns

To support high quality new development and improvements to the public realm that respects, preserves and enhances the historic nature of the town centres of Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow and supports their function as important local retail centres within the District.

13. Use of Natural Resources

To reduce the use of resources, including water to the lowest practical minimum in the construction, operation and eventual disposal of developments.

14. Reducing Emissions

To minimise greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging the supply and use of renewable energy and low carbon technologies.

15. Reducing Flood Risk

Allocate sites and control development to avoid flood risk to people and property.

16. Stansted Airport

The Core Strategy as a whole will need to be sufficiently robust to accommodate development at the airport which equates to full use of the existing runway at around 35 million passengers a year.

17. Access to the Airport

The maximum number of journeys to and from the airport by air passengers and workers will be made by public transport. Appropriate surface access infrastructure and service capacity will be provided to meet airport related demand without impacting on capacity to meet the demands of other network users.

18. Air Noise, Ground Noise and Air Quality

The Council will seek to minimise the impact of air noise, ground noise and air quality on the health and amenity of local communities and the historic environment.

19. Hatfield Forest

The Council will seek to minimise the impact of poor air quality on local biodiversity in particular on Hatfield Forest National Nature Reserve and Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

20. Impact on Communities

The Council will seek to maintain the cohesion of rural communities particularly affected by the airport.

21. Health and Well Being

To support the well being of Uttlesford residents by delivering safe, attractive and healthy places to live and making sure enough health facilities and other community facilities e.g. for sport are provided to meet current needs and the additional requirements arising from any new development.