

Committee: Uttlesford Planning Policy Working Group

Agenda Item

Date: 23 February 2015

4

Title: Evidence base review and work programme

Author: Andrew Taylor, Assistant Director Planning
and Building Control

Summary

1. This report provides a review of the current evidence base and highlights where updates or additional work will be required.

Recommendation

2. To note the report.

Financial Implications

3. None –expenditure can be met from existing budgets and the Planning Reserve.

Background Papers

None

Impact

- 4.

Communication/Consultation	Future work will be subject to public consultation
Community Safety	n/a
Equalities	The updated plan will be subject to an EQIA
Health and Safety	n/a
Human Rights/Legal Implications	n/a
Sustainability	The updated plan will be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal, including and Strategic Environment Assessment
Ward-specific impacts	Effects all Wards
Workforce/Workplace	None

Situation

5. The Local Planning process is an iterative process moving from plan to plan and is not a start and finish process. The evidence base as a whole needs to be continually reviewed to be kept up to date and to respond to changing national guidance/requirements and local priorities.
6. While the existing evidence base is still relevant, officers have carried out a review of the evidence base to highlight where updates will need to be commissioned or where there are additional requirements together with an indicative cost.

Evidence base	Notes
Green Belt boundary review	2011 – In house. Update 2015
Employment Land Study	2011 – In house. Update 2015
Air quality assessment	2013 – Update 2015 to assess allocations. £8,000
Retail Needs Study	2014 - Update 2015 £8,000
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	2008 - Update 2015 £15,000
Water Cycle Study	2012 –Update spring 2016 £40,000
Transport Assessment	2014 – Update spring 2016 £40,000
Infrastructure Delivery Plan	2014 –In house. Update spring 2016
Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment	2014. In house. Full update April - June 2015
Strategic Housing Market Assessment	2012 - Currently being updated
Sites Viability Assessment	2014 - Update 2016 - £15,000
Conservation Area Studies	In house – work nearing conclusion
Protected Lanes Study	2012 – No update
Leisure and Open Space Study	2014 - No update
Landscape character assessment	2006 –No update
Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment	2014 – No update, unless Government guidance alters

7. The attached document is a detailed review of the evidence base and the key issues of each document.
8. In addition to these documents a new Sustainability Appraisal will be needed at each step of the development of the new Local Plan. This is likely to cost in the region of £30,000.
9. It is not possible to determine exactly when, how detailed or how much a survey will cost at this stage until further decisions on the housing numbers and strategy have been taken. For example for retail if the housing numbers are similar then only a limited review will be needed, however, if the numbers rise considerably a more detail review will be needed to assess demand. As work progresses through this year the need and scope for updating surveys will become clearer.

Risk Analysis

10.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Insufficient evidence on which to base decisions.	1. A thorough review of the evidence base has been carried out.	2. This will delay further work on the Local Plan.	Officers to Working Group to keep need for additional evidence under review.

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.