

Committee: Planning Policy Working Group

Agenda Item

Date: 13 July 2015

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Title: Local Plan Work Plan and Risk Assessment

Author: Martin Paine, Planning Policy Team Leader

Summary

1. Production of a sound Local Plan is complex and requires the sustained commitment and understanding of Members as decision-makers.
2. In order to assist Members in this challenging task, an indicative Work Plan has been prepared and is appended to this covering report. The Work Plan outlines the main activities to be undertaken in pursuit of the goal of achieving a sound Local Plan.
3. As explained in the Work Plan document, many Local Planning Authorities have faced delays and difficulties in preparing their Local Plans, and currently only 27% of Local Planning Authorities in England have had plans found sound by the Planning Inspectorate since the introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in March 2012. The latest position according to the Planning Inspectorate is set out in **Appendix A**.
4. The document also contains a Risk Assessment addressing potential risks to both the timeline and the soundness of the plan.
5. In recognition of the large amount of Local Plan terminology in the NPPF, and which Members will come across as work progresses on the Local Plan, a **Glossary and list of acronyms is contained at Appendix B**.

Recommendations

- A: That the Work Programme and Risk Assessment be noted, subject to future modification as circumstances change.
- B: That any Member comments or suggestions on the Work Programme and Risk Assessment be discussed.

Financial Implications

6. The costs associated with the delivery of the work plan can be met from existing budgets.

Background Papers

7. None

Impact

Communication/Consultation	Formal consultation as the Local Plan develops will be carried out in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement.
Community Safety	None
Equalities	The Local Plan impacts on all sectors of the community.
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None
Sustainability	Appraisal of alternatives to the emerging plan will be undertaken.
Ward-specific impacts	All.
Workforce/Workplace	Planning Policy Team and other officers as appropriate.

Situation

8. Following receipt of the report of the Planning Inspector on the previous submission Local Plan in December 2014, and subsequent withdrawal of the plan in January 2015, Uttlesford Council has restarted the Local Plan process, including reconsideration of the options for development.
9. Establishing a clear and agreed process is central to attainment of a sound Local Plan. A Work Plan is an important part of this because it enables appropriate resources to be targeted at each task, and also because it helps those engaged in the process of plan-making, in particular District Councillors, to understand the challenges involved in making a sound plan.
10. A regular progress update on Local Plan work will be presented to the Planning Policy Working Group.

Risk Analysis

11. A Risk Assessment is contained within the report.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Resource risks, operational risks, and political risks	2. Risks are identified some within	3. There are some significant risk	A list of mitigating actions are contained in the Risk

are identified in the report.	and some outside the Council's control.	to the production of the Local Plan.	Assessment Table
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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.