

**Committee: Planning Policy Working Group**

**Agenda Item**

**Date: 13 July 2015**

**6**

**Title: Development Strategy: Options Stage  
Methodology**

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### **Summary**

1. In formulating a new Local Plan, the central task is to ensure that it is underpinned by a sound development strategy. The development strategy is the mechanism by which a locally-led vision for the future of the District will be brought together with national requirements to produce a plan which the Council is confident will be found 'sound' by a Planning Inspector following Examination in Public, and will thereby attain legal weight for use in the consideration of planning applications.
2. The attached report sets out the proposed methodology for formulation of options and scenarios for consultation in the autumn. It also explains the national policy requirements and how these should inform the Council's approach to work on the development strategy.

### **Recommendations**

- A: That the Local Plan Development Strategy: Options Stage Methodology be noted.
- B: That any Member comments or suggestions on the Methodology be discussed.

### **Financial Implications**

3. The costs associated with the Development Strategy: Options Stage Methodology can be met from existing budgets.

### **Background Papers**

4. 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

5. 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.
6. Subject to discussion of the methodology at the Working Group on 13 July, it is proposed that maps of the options and scenarios be considered at the meeting of the next Working Group, scheduled for 27 July.

### Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Without an agreed methodology there is a risk to the Options stage in production of the new Local Plan.	1. Can be addressed and managed through the Working Group discussion forum.	3. The Options stage helps to ensure that the Local Plan is justified when considered against the reasonable alternatives.	Discussion at the Working Group to ensure understanding of the methodology and propose refinements if necessary.

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.