

Meeting between Braintree and Uttlesford District Councils 21st November 2016

Attendees

- Nicola Beach
- Jon Hayden
- Emma Goodings
- Dawn French
- Roger Harborough
- Gordon Glenday

Uttlesford DC explained that the pause in the Local Plan process was to allow its members more time to reflect on the evidence being used to shape officers' recommendations and members' final decisions. A revised timetable for the Local Plan is currently being worked on and is expected to be presented to Members once officers have explored the options available. A revised LDS will also be prepared.

Work is continuing on evidence base documents including work on the West Essex housing market area.

Braintree DC updated that the timetable continued to be unchanged and the final elements of work were being completed on the evidence base.

Highway consultants for both authorities have agreed to liaise directly to ensure the cross boundary strategic highway issues, particularly relating to the A120 and M11 are being considered.

Update on the AECOM work and that local authority officers and Councillors from both sides have been involved in the current round of work. A discussion was held on additional work that may be needed from AECOM on the West of Braintree garden community to fully explore all the options across the potential whole area. It was agreed that a further brief with implications for costing and timings would be agreed for AECOM to work to

An update on the direction of travel for the garden community project was given by BDC and it was agreed to circulate links to the latest committee report on LDV and deliverability to Uttlesford. The brief with regards to the Peer Review which is currently underway on the garden communities project would also be shared.

The potential of an MOU between the authorities and ECC was discussed and considered to be appropriate. This was to be drafted and signed shortly.

It was agreed that a co-ordinated position should be taken with regards to the press and that officers from the comms team in both authorities should work closely together on this in the short term. In the more medium term a specific comms and marketing person is to be appointed by the garden communities project and it is to be ensured that they liaise with Uttlesford officers.

It was agreed that a Member to Member meeting would be helpful to have just before Christmas, prior to the publication of the Braintree submission Local Plan. A further high level officer meeting would also be arranged for just after Christmas for the same reason.

Further meetings would continue to take place between policy officers.