

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY GROUP held at the COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 10.00 am on 30 JUNE 2005

Present:- Councillor P A Wilcock – Chairman.
Councillors C A Bayley, J F Cheetham, S Flack, E J Godwin, R T Harris, B M Hughes, S C Jones and J I Loughlin.

Officers in attendance:- A Bovaird, R Chamberlain, S Clarke, P O'Dell, P Snow and T Turner.

SDAG25 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Boland, A Dean, C M Dean, A J Ketteridge and A R Thawley.

SDAG26 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2005 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

SDAG27 BUSINESS ARISING

(i) Minute SDAG23 – Taking Stock Presentation

The Chief Executive advised Members that the PowerPoint presentation he had given at the last meeting had been sent electronically to all Members of the Group. He confirmed that the presentation would be given to the Council at its meeting on 19 July.

SDAG28 TAKING FORWARD THE IDENTIFICATION OF KEY INDICATORS

The Chief Executive reminded Members about the preparation of wall charts at the last meeting as part of the exercise of gathering together key indicators for inclusion in the strategic vision. He circulated an updated version of the indicators discussed at the last meeting under the three chosen themes of economic, social and environmental.

He said that the Group should now consider three separate strands of the vision agenda with a view to determining how the matter could be progressed. He suggested that the first strand should be to decide what could usefully be done with the chosen indicators in terms of what this would add to the strategic vision process. The second factor was how the chosen indicators could be co-ordinated through the regional agenda with bodies such as the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA). There was a possibility that the monitoring of regional indicators would be carried out at a sub regional level and this might provide the opportunity to utilise data relating to Uttlesford.

The third strand was the work specifically of this Group and how it could be organised to meet the remit set out. He suggested that the work of SDAG should be viewed as time limited and time allocated within the timetable of meetings to consider the three broad themes. The Group should be asking at each stage whether the chosen indicator was the correct one, what was its current status in relation to the wider regional picture and where did we want to be by 2016. As it was being suggested that there should be seven further scheduled meetings, he suggested that each theme should be allocated two meetings with the final meeting left free to pull all the strands together and draw up a robust concluding report.

In the meantime, there were a number of mechanisms for spreading the message about what the future strategic vision for Uttlesford could be. First there would be the presentation to Council in July and there was also the option to hold either one or a series of Member workshops concentrated on the various themes. The political groups would also have the opportunity to discuss the vision agenda and he suggested that the groups could be more proactive in this area. Finally, the Uttlesford Futures Annual Assembly would take place in September the focus for discussion would be refreshing the Community Plan. At this stage, he considered that it was premature for this Group to attempt to produce an interim report.

Members discussed the way forward in general terms and considered the possibility of holding an extraordinary council meeting to consider the strategic vision. Consideration was also given to the proposal to share a research assistant with the Uttlesford Primary Care Trust and on various sources for the availability of locally relevant data.

The Chairman commented that it was important to ensure that the Group's final report would not contain any major shocks for the Council to consider and urged all Members to participate fully in the process of providing clear feedback to officers on all of the suggested indicators.

Action:- The process suggested by the Chief Executive was endorsed by the Advisory Group and it was agreed that the next two scheduled meetings would be devoted to the consideration of economic indicators as the data available in this field was generally more developed than in the other themed areas.

SDAG29 **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The dates suggested on the agenda for this meeting were agreed but with the proviso that, except for the meeting scheduled on 27 July, the starting time would be revised to 10.00 am. The agreed dates were as follows:

Wednesday 27 July 2005 (already scheduled)
 Tuesday 6 September 2005
 Thursday 13 October 2005
 Tuesday 29 November 2005
 Wednesday 18 January 2006
 Wednesday 8 March 2006
 Wednesday 19 April 2006

Members discussed the need for more dialogue to take place between working groups generally and the political groups. It was agreed that political groups should arrange for a standing agenda item on the progress made by SDAG in particular. Arrangements would also have to be put in place to ensure that there was interface between the political groups and EMT.

The meeting ended at 10.50 am.