

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY GROUP held at the COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 4.00pm on 27 JULY 2005

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

Officers in attendance:- A Bovaird, S Clarke, R Harborough, H Hayden, J Mitchell and M T Purkiss

SDAG30 APOLOGIES

Apologies of absence were received from Councillors P Boland, C M Dean, M A Gayler, E J Godwin, R T Harris and A R Thawley.

SDAG31 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2005 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

SDAG32 ECONOMIC INDICATORS FOR INCLUSION IN A STRATEGIC VISION FOR UTTLESFORD

The Chief Executive reminded Members that at the meeting of the Advisory Group on 22 March 2005 Members had been asked to contribute ideas towards the development of a vision for the future direction of Uttlesford. At the same time the Executive Manager Development Services had compiled a list based on the following themes for future consideration and eventual development into an agreed strategic vision:

- Economic
- Social
- Environmental

Members then considered a presentation by the Planning Policy and Conservation Manager on Economic Indicators. He put forward the following five topic areas for consideration;

- Labour Market
 - Workplace (jobs in Uttlesford)
 - Workforce (residents of working age)
- Business/Enterprise
- Value of Economic Activity
- Affordability of living in Uttlesford
- Transport Infrastructure

He then dealt with each of these areas in more detail and in relation to the section on Value of Economic Activity. He explained that Gross Value Added

indicates the economic activity within a region by measuring the production of goods and services. Because it is measured at the Regional level it is an estimate at district level, calculated from the average gross weekly earnings, average GB gross weekly earnings and the share of national employment.

He also looked at the issue of Multiple Deprivation and it was noted that Uttlesford was in the top ten of the least deprived districts in England and Wales. However, it was accepted that there were some disparities between the wards in the District.

The Policy and Conservation Manager then set out some suggested economic indicators and Members were asked for their comments on whether these should be pursued further and what priority should be given to them.

There was general consensus that the main priorities should be affordability of living in Uttlesford, rural deprivation, the impact of the airport on the economy and transport indicators particularly relating to accessibility. Members felt that more information was needed on the shortage of labour within the district for manual and some other jobs and on inward and outward migration. It was also considered that further research on tourism should be given low priority.

The meeting ended at 5.40pm.