



Public Document Pack

Uttlesford District Council

Chief Executive: Dawn French

SUPPLEMENTARY PACK

Council Remote Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 21st July, 2020

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: Zoom - <https://zoom.us/>

Chairman: Councillor M Foley

Members: Councillors A Armstrong, H Asker, G Bagnall, S Barker, M Caton, A Coote (Vice-Chair), C Criscione, C Day, A Dean, G Driscoll, D Eke, J Evans, P Fairhurst, R Freeman, N Gregory, N Hargreaves, V Isham, R Jones, A Khan, P Lavelle, G LeCount, P Lees, M Lemon, B Light, J Lodge, J Loughlin, S Luck, S Merifield, E Oliver, R Pavitt, L Pepper, N Reeve, G Sell, A Storah, M Sutton, M Tayler and J De Vries

ITEMS WITH SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION PART 1

Open to Public and Press

4 Reports from the Leader and Members of the Executive 4 - 13

To receive matters of report from the Leader and members of the Executive – the following reports have been made available in this supplementary pack.

- Portfolio Holder for Planning – update report
- Portfolio Holder for Council and Public Services – update report
- Portfolio Holder for the Environment & Green Issues and Equalities – update report
- Portfolio Holder for Infrastructure and Stansted Airport – update report
- Portfolio Holder for Economic Development – update report

9 Appointments to the Standards and Scrutiny Committees

14

To consider appointments to the Scrutiny and Standards Committees as follows:

- To appoint Councillor LeCount to the Standards Committee in place of Councillor Reeve.
- To appoint Councillor Storah as a substitute to the Standards Committee in place of Councillor LeCount.
- To appoint Councillor Storah to the Scrutiny Committee in place of Councillor Reeve.
- To appoint Councillor de Vries as a substitute to the Scrutiny Committee in place of Councillor Storah.
- To appoint Councillor Asker as the Chair of the Standards Committee.



Uttlesford District Council

Chief Executive: Dawn French

For information about this meeting please contact Democratic Services

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Agenda Item 4

PLANNING PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR JOHN EVANS REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL, JULY 2020

Having withdrawn the previous Local Plan in April 2020, the Council has commenced preparatory work on a new Local Plan. The new Plan could take up to around 4 years to adopt. The Council is committed to preparing the new Plan with representatives of the local community and residents themselves fully engaged throughout the process. The new Plan must be evidence-led and subject to robust analysis throughout its development.

This preparatory work has involved the continued engagement of the East of England Peer Review Team and has started with the setting up of new governance arrangements for preparing the new Plan to ensure that the appropriate decision-making measures are in place to consider and steer the new Plan's development.

These governance arrangements involve the setting up of a new Local Plan Leadership Group, this will be made up of members from different political parties and different geographical locations across the district and will meet in public.

Looking forward, the Council will now look to put in place an updated Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), setting out how the Council will engage with the public on the new Local Plan, as well as a Local Development Scheme, setting out the timetable for the production of the new Local Plan.

In order to fill a potential planning policy vacuum following the withdrawal of the Local Plan, an Interim Planning Policy Document is now being finalised. This will include planning policies specifically aimed at tackling climate change through the planning process. Although the policies will not be statutory, they will set out the Council's key planning policy expectations and will be used in pre-application discussions with developers to pro-actively encourage them to develop high quality schemes.

The Council continues to support Neighbourhood Plans across the district, an immediate change to the SCI has been agreed to allow for consultations to go ahead in the current public health emergency.

The Development Management service continues to deliver an efficient and effective service with our performance figures currently all well above the Government's targets. There is a drive to have more local community and member involvement in the pre-application stages of planning applications so that they can help shape the details of applications before they are submitted. More Planning Performance Agreements (PPAs) are being entered into with developers to ensure that applications are processed in a well-managed way and generate income for additional planning resources.

Finally, Manchester Airport Group (MAG) has announced its intention to lodge an appeal against the Council's decision to refuse planning permission earlier this year. If, as expected, the appeal is submitted to Government by the end of July, officers will need to start work on preparing the Council's case over the summer. However, it

is expected that the actual Public Inquiry will not be held until well into the 2021 as it has been indicated that such an important inquiry could not be effectively conducted “virtually”. The impacts of Covid-19 will therefore need to have been addressed before a traditional “face to face” Inquiry could be arranged.

COUNCILLOR RICHARD FREEMAN - PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR COUNCIL AND PUBLIC SERVICES:

COUNCIL REPORT, JULY 2020:

The title 'Council and Public Services' can be very widely interpreted. For me, it means getting involved where we provide a service a member of the public or for a fellow councillor or officer. Service provision is a yardstick by which our administration is measured. I see my role as trying to make sure that everyone – especially the tax-paying public – receives the service they should expect.

Thus far, my duties have been fairly light! Probably that is because our officers provide a highly satisfactory and professional service anyway, and don't need any inputs from us to do it better. Also, our councillors are highly committed to their tasks and duties, and carry them out with enthusiasm and dedication. That said, there is always room for improvement, and in every organisation things sometimes slip between the floorboards. Part of my job is to help pick up the pieces when that happens and fix whatever it is, working alongside our officers.

Another part of my brief is to monitor and review the our statutory services. Of this, Planning is of closest interest to me, and the service which I know most about. So I maintain a healthy interest in our planning activities and how well they perform.

If there are any aspects of our service delivery which you feel requires attention, please let me know. Likewise, if you believe there are failings in our internal provision for councillors or for members of staff, let me know about that too.

Best regards

Richard Freeman
Member for Council and Public Services

COUNCILLOR LOUISE PEPPER, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT & GREEN ISSUES AND EQUALITIES

COUNCIL REPORT, 21 JULY 2020

Climate Change

Climate change is the greatest challenge facing our world today. There is overwhelming scientific evidence saying we have limited time to act. We are experiencing it **NOW!** If the world is to avoid warming by more than 1.5C, countries need to increase their carbon-cutting ambitions five- fold. By allowing temperatures to rise more than 1.5 degrees, it will have hugely damaging effects for human, plant and animal life across the planet.

Experience has shown that local government is a good place to start government commitment to climate emergency action. UDC has been addressing climate change issues for 15 years. However, in July 2019, we took this serious issue even further by declaring a cross-party climate & ecological motion and setting a bold net zero carbon target by 2030.

Climate Working Group

We set up a cross-party climate emergency group, consisting of councillors, officers and invited outside residents (around 40 people), that will work collectively towards a Climate Local Strategy and Action Plan. Our six climate sub-groups (Biodiversity, Transport/Air Quality, Energy, Waste & Recycling, Planning & Development and Campaigning & Lobbying), are cross-party lead. We have already started video conferencing workshops, seeking enterprising solutions that will help to reduce our local carbon emissions. With a minimal budget in these tight financial times, we are using expertise within our community rather than expensive consultants. We are directly empowering people within our community to have a bigger say on how we should spend public money and what affects them where they live.

Green Climate Objectives & Achievements

Our council will lead, with rolling out a Green Champion programme coordinating green changes within the council. This was also rolled out at our Climate Business Breakfast in November, where 120 local businesses attended. Our Parish and Town councils will also be invited to select Green Champions. They have already received a list of simple steps to help with climate change and how local residents can get started.

UDC are switching to a green tariff. This will almost halve UDC's own carbon footprint and will demonstrate the Council's commitment to leading by example.

We have reduced our organisation's emissions by 1/3 (down to 2291 tonnes/yr). 90 council owned properties have had heat pumps installed, 80 properties have had oil boilers replaced, we've upgraded boilers at our two leisure centres, 280 council owned properties have had external wall insulation, solar panels installed on 300

council owned properties, solar array on Lord Butler bowls club and 44KW array at our Shire Hill depot. We have installed electric car charges in public carparks. We regard our cycle infrastructure as **a key priority**. We've installed cycle racks in Saffron Walden, Great Dunmow and at Audley End train station and we're urgently seeking funding to make further improvements to our cycling facilities, cycle lanes and lowering speed limits to 20mph in busy traffic hotspots, allowing safer cycling for everyone. This is especially imperative around schools and now that less people are inclined to use their cars.

We have recently raised water scarcity and taken direct action by contacting Water Resources East and joining their organisation.

We are looking into tree management and the varying seasons we encounter. Trees need to be planted in the right place at the right time and require consistent management to help them to thrive.

We will look into reducing local air pollution, toxic spraying and recycling. Last year Uttlesford DC recycled 52.4% of waste. We were the highest performing collection authority in Essex in terms of dry recycling, collecting 32.8%. We will continue to encourage composting garden waste. We will be actively raising awareness about litter and the danger it causes to our wildlife and environment.

In respect to new developments, we are developing a comprehensive Interim Planning Policy Document to address climate change issues in the absence of an up to date adopted Local plan. This will set out the Council's expectations in new developments to become fully sustainable. With less than 10 years to avoid catastrophic climate change, building net zero carbon developments is essential.

Raising climate awareness & lobbying

A six- page document titled, "Preparing for a sustainable future", was sent to All Councillors & an LGA think tank (72 different council members). This was regarding Central Government transitioning to a greener economy and making sure the fossil fuelled industry bail-out came with green strings attached. This also highlighted Uttlesford District Council's key green objectives.

Two letters have been written to Dunmow Broadcast. 1) What positive environmental changes have occurred during lockdown 2) The importance of rewilding

An email was forwarded to Kemi Badenoch supporting the Local Electricity Bill.

An email was forwarded to the Climate Minister Lord Duncan (cc Kemi Badenoch) titled "The future is in our hands". The urgency to carrying on reducing our emissions hasn't gone away. We need to harness our greener lifestyle change and adopt robust green policies and a green economy.

Another letter was sent to Boris Johnson (cc Lord Duncan & Kemi Badenock), titled "Our future is in your hands". Due to covid 19 and lack of funding for 2020-2021, Local Authorities have been forced to review "essential spending only". It was suggested that Central Government takes the same approach and pumps money

into existing services and infrastructure **which desperately require funding and upgrading**. Building more roads is carbon intensive and creates more traffic and pollution. We need to build towards a climate smart recovery.

All of the above was highlighted at the Essex Climate Action Forum hosted by Simon Walsh on 13th July 2020, pledging his support towards central government's green infrastructure funding to be fairly allocated to **all** Essex councils and lowering speed limits in busy areas. This is vital so that we reduce local carbon emissions, pollution and harness covid 19's new mode of green transport (cycling). We will look at working collectively on key climate objectives.

Climate pandemic conclusion

Lastly, during lockdown, not only have we seen a vast improvement in our air quality, the UK workforce have learnt to work and host video meetings from home, there's been an increase in the sale of bikes, seed plants and more people are outdoors enjoying nature, cycling and walking in public parks and open countryside.

We need to grasp this opportunity and make sure that we continue with our greener lifestyle that will not only benefit our health and well-being but the future of our children and the planet.

Equalities

Black Lives Matter – public statement in support. *"I was saddened and appalled by the recent killing of George Floyd in the USA. The world-wide response shows that this tragedy has been felt globally. It highlights the discrimination and injustice that still exists for BAME communities. Discrimination is never acceptable and nobody should ever have to face it because of the colour of their skin. Never. In the UK we still have much to do to eradicate discrimination in our society.*

"Uttlesford District Council is fully committed to treating everyone in our district fairly and with respect and to listening to all voices in our communities. I would like to assure all residents that we will not tolerate discrimination, whether as an employer, in the delivery of our services, when applying our policy guidelines or where we see it in our district. We believe Black Lives Matter."

As leader of the Equalities portfolio, it was important that Uttlesford District Council sent out a strong message condemning black injustice and any form of discrimination. We acknowledge that this serious issue needs to be addressed and eradicated.

Starting with our council members, a Residents for Uttlesford Town Councillor, Jonathon Toy shared a personal blog titled 'Wallpaper of life', that poignantly highlighted the brutal inequalities UK Black Communities suffer on a regular basis.

To establish further enlightenment, council members who have been working closely together (along with Community Officers), will look into raising additional awareness and offering our support to an Independent panel (to be selected), that will focus on Uttlesford's Black and Minority Ethnic Youth and Wider Community.

COUNCILLOR DERYK EKE, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT AND STANSTED AIRPORT

COUNCIL REPORT, 21 JULY

Infrastructure –

I attended a meeting of the NEPP Joint Parking Committee on 25th June and still chasing final approval of funding for expansion of Stansted car parks.

The easing of parking restrictions due to Covid 19 have been withdrawn and full restrictions reinstated as of 6th July.

Government made funding available to make walking and cycling in towns and cities easier post lockdown as a boost to local businesses. However the implementation of walking and cycle paths across Uttlesford remains outstanding.

In contrast, a new guidance document issued by the DOT gives a number of measures under the heading “Reallocating road space” to facilitate cycling such as:

- Reducing speed limits: 20mph speed limits are being more widely adopted as an appropriate speed limit for residential roads, and many through streets in built-up areas. 20mph limits alone will not be sufficient to meet the needs of active travel, but in association with other measures, reducing the speed limit can provide a more attractive and safer environment for walking and cycling.
- Introducing pedestrian and cycle zones: restricting access for motor vehicles at certain times (or at all times) to specific streets, or networks of streets, particularly town centres and high streets. This will enable active travel but also social distancing in places where people are likely to gather.

I have written on several occasions to ECC requesting action and to provide a breakdown of the funding from central government and where this money has been spent in Uttlesford.

Disappointingly, at a meeting with ECC Highways and the SW County Councillor on 7th July, it was confirmed the funding is focussed on the main urban areas in Essex and not on Uttlesford!

In addition it was confirmed that no capital funding is available for cycling schemes in Uttlesford, mainly because in ECC’s view, in rural areas there would be too little usage of these facilities. However there is no evidence that ECC could provide to back this up. This issue will be pursued vigorously.

Transport – A further meeting of the Uttlesford Transport Forum was held on 29th June by Zoom.

ECC are submitting a bid to the DFT Rural Mobility Fund to set up and pilot a demand responsive minibus service in central Essex. Following input to a meeting I attended held in February, the pilot scheme area now includes a large portion of rural Uttlesford and hence I have issued a letter supporting the bid.

On 29th June I attended the first Transport East Portfolio Holders meeting. This is a group representing Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk County and District Councils with the aim of developing transport strategies together with delivery and investment plans for our region.

Stansted Airport – The consultation on Future Airspace at Stansted Airport is on-going with various Focus Groups representing stakeholders such as general public, elected representatives, business, aviation, consultative bodies and national organisations taking part. There have been several meetings of the Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG), attended by myself via zoom, to review the process and provide constructive comment

The airport has now finished Step 1B – Design Principles, after completing engagement with local communities and other stakeholders for this first stage, they have submitted the proposed Design Principles to the industry regulator, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) for review. The Design Principles report and all accompanying appendices can be viewed on the CAA's dedicated airspace change portal.

At a recent meeting of STACC the airport management team gave an update of the restart of flying operations, the plan being to get to 40% of last year's levels by Oct 2020, mostly from Ryanair.

Currently Ryanair, Easy Jet, Pegasus and Turkish airlines are some of the carriers who have re-started operations and early indications are they have load factors in excess of 70%.

Councillor Neil Reeve, Portfolio Holder for Economic Development
Council Report, 21 July 2020

Economic Development Covid-19 Work Priorities

Pre-pandemic there were two members of the Economic Development Team but one post became vacant in mid-March 2020. There have been two full-time members of staff since mid-May 2020. The following have been the priorities for our work since mid-March.

- Initial focus was delivery of clear and consistent messages to local businesses about the Government guidance. The Economic Development Team has worked closely with the Communications Team on e-newsletters, the Leader's messages, briefing notes for Ward Members and Parish and Town Clerks, as well as messages targeted at local business networks.
- The Government business support package altered the focus towards the delivery of information regarding access to the support initiatives, both those being delivered by the District Council, initially the Business Support Grants, and the support offered through other agencies.
- Economic Development worked closely with Revenues and Benefits staff to deliver the Business Support Grants, and in the development of the Discretionary Grant Fund. Colleagues in the Customer Service Centre assisted with efforts to contact more than 300 businesses directly who were considered eligible for the Business Support Grant, according to Council records, but had not applied.
- The Economic Development Team has taken a lead in the re-opening of the town and village centres. Working closely with a wide range of partners, and internal colleagues we have established multi-agency partnerships for the three centres of Stansted Mountfitchet, Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow. We have agreed action plans for those three centres and have submitted a Grant Action Plan to Government with a plan to spend £80k on the re-opening between 1/6/20 and 31/3/21.
- Support was also provided to a number of villages with retail and hospitality businesses including Thaxted, Hatfield Heath, Newport, Stebbing and Felsted. This work was completed with support from Environmental Health Officers.
- There has been a promotion of the MiPermit app for use in the car parks. This will, we hope, reduce the use of the pay and display ticket machines.
- Work also continues to monitor the delivery of the Gigaclear contract to install superfast broadband. There have been some reported delays due to abuse of contractors in several villages across the district. Gigaclear have now produced a Recovery Plan and hope to be back on track by the end of September 2020.

Agenda Item 9

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS 2020-21

REVISED JULY 2020 – UPDATED APPOINTMENTS HIGHLIGHTED IN YELLOW

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Chair: Cllr S Merifield
Vice-Chair: Cllr M Lemon

Cllr G Bagnall
Cllr M Caton
Cllr R Freeman
Cllr G LeCount
Cllr P Fairhurst

Cllr J Loughlin
Cllr R Pavitt
Cllr N Reeve
Cllr A Storah
Cllr M Sutton

Substitutes:
Cllr S Barker
Cllr N Gregory
Cllr R Jones
Cllr B Light

Cllr E Oliver
Cllr G Sell
Cllr J de Vries

LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chair: Cllr P Lavelle
Vice-Chair: Cllr C Day

Cllr S Barker
Cllr R Freeman
Cllr J Loughlin
Cllr B Light

Cllr V Isham
Cllr P Lees
Cllr L Pepper
Cllr M Tayler

Substitutes:
Cllr A Armstrong
Cllr A Coote
Cllr C Criscione
Cllr P Fairhurst

Cllr M Foley
Cllr A Khan
Cllr E Oliver

GOVERNANCE, AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

Chair: Cllr E Oliver
Vice-Chair: Cllr G Driscoll

Cllr G Bagnall
Cllr V Isham
Cllr R Jones
Cllr A Khan

Cllr M Foley
Cllr S Luck
Cllr J de Vries

Substitutes:
Cllr H Asker
Cllr S Barker
Cllr M Caton

Cllr C Criscione
Cllr M Tayler
Cllr M Sutton

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Chair: Cllr N Gregory
Vice-Chair: Cllr G LeCount

Cllr Dean
Cllr A Coote
Cllr C Criscione
Cllr G Driscoll

Cllr R Jones
Cllr P Lavelle
Cllr G Sell
Cllr A Storah

Substitutes:
Cllr S Barker
Cllr Caton
Cllr J DeVries
Cllr Khan

Cllr M Lemon
Cllr R Pavitt
Cllr M Sutton

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Chair: **Cllr H Asker**
Vice-Chair: Cllr V Isham

Cllr S Barker
Cllr A Dean
Cllr M Foley

Cllr N Gregory
Cllr A Khan
Cllr B Light
Cllr G LeCount

Independent Members (non-voting):
Georgina Butcher-Doulton
David Pearl
Catherine Wellingbrook-Doswell

Substitutes: Cllr Sell, Cllr P Fairhurst, Cllr Lemon, Cllr J Loughlin, Cllr R Pavitt, **Cllr A Storah** and Cllr M Tayler