

Public Document Pack

Uttlesford District Council

Chief Executive: Dawn French

SUPPLEMENTARY PACK

Council Remote Meeting

Date: Thursday, 8th October, 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

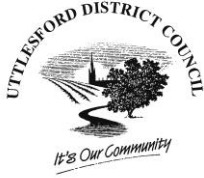
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To receive matters of report from the Leader and members of the Executive.

This supplementary pack includes:

- Councillor Lees, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Health update report
- Councillor Evans, Portfolio Holder for Planning and the Local Plan update report



Uttlesford District Council

Chief Executive: Dawn French

For information about this meeting please contact Democratic Services

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Councillor Lees – Portfolio Holder for Housing and Health

Council – 8 October 2020

Projects;

- **Uttlesford Health Heroes**

The Uttlesford Health Heroes pilot will work with up to 10 of the district's schools helping to develop projects that encourage a whole school approach to health improvement. The schools have been identified in partnership with the Healthy Schools Team at the Essex Child & Family Wellbeing service. Schools had begun to apply prior to covid lockdown and will be given the opportunity to modify their initial applications in light of new restrictions and new emerging health improvement themes. (This will be circulated to schools week commencing 21st September.

Each school can apply for up to £1000- match funding is encouraged but not essential – Each school will also need to complete the entry level Healthy Schools Criteria.

- **West Essex Falls Prevention – Strength and Balance Classes**

In partnership with Epping & Harlow we have secured funding from the CCG to deliver a strength and balance service in the district.

The programme will consist of 12 weekly sessions. Primarily these will be delivered at the districts leisure centres at Saffron Walden. Great Dunmow & Stansted with the plan to expand to more rural settings in line with demand and when more suitable covid safe facilities become available.

We have already had 20 residents express an interest to take part with the first classes due to start week commencing the 28th September.

- **Health & Wellbeing Board Grants**

Health & Wellbeing Board Grants have been launched for 2020/21 – Initially we invited declarations of interest and project outlines in July at the peak of the pandemic so that any immediate and emerging issues could be addressed. The response was not conclusive so the date for applications has been pushed back until the 25th September –

Each HWB priority theme will be able to apply for funding up to £5k.

Uttlesford Health & Wellbeing Board Priorities

- Combatting loneliness and social isolation
- Supporting people to age well in Uttlesford
- Enabling people to eat well and be active
- Alleviating winter pressures and fuel poverty
- Planning for healthy communities-

Improving Mental Health is not a stand-alone priority but something that overarches all health and wellbeing board priorities and subsequent projects and programmes.

- **Holiday Hunger Provision summer of 2020 and plans for future support.**

The Essex Boys and Girls Clubs delivered a summer Holiday Hunger programme funded by DEFRA and the Big Lottery.

The Takeley sessions had 88 attendances reaching 41 different young people. There were also 88 family food activity packs given out.

The programme for Newport, Thaxted, and Great Sampford had 624 attendances reaching 192 different young people.

Between both the programmes engagement with 222 different young people from across Uttlesford was achieved. Each young person spent time outdoors and received a healthy lunch at each session.

In partnership with the Boys and Girls Club we have applied for an additional 5k from ECC (DEFRA) to enable us to deliver a similar program in October and February half-term.

- **COVID19**

We're in the process of producing a covid support guide (title TBC) for residents, as discussed at the recent H&W board.

It will be a concise but informative guide, directing people to different support services, informing people on relevant winter health messages (i.e. flu jabs etc.) and most importantly, promoting the Uttlesford covid response hub phone number and email address. The guide will be posted out to households as a standalone, trusted source of info for people across the district.

Info from the above will also be disseminated via online platforms/social media channels through the UDC Comms team and we will ask our partners to do the same, where appropriate.

Funding has been received from DEFRA to help support vulnerable residents to access food and essential supplies. Due to the tight timescale for the allocation of the funding the monies will be used in partnership with the CAB and the Essex Child and Welfare service (children's centres) in the form of vouchers which can then be used for emergency food or heating costs in the recovery stages of the pandemic.

Micro grants will also be available to support the local volunteer groups and organisations that have been supporting residents across the District through out this pandemic. The grants will be available to those groups that need to continue to help those residents access food and essential supplies throughout the recovery and ending of the furlough period.

Councillor Evans - Portfolio Holder for Planning and the Local Plan

Council - 8 October 2020

Local Plan update

Local Plan Leadership Group and then Scrutiny and Cabinet will continue in their consideration of papers on initiating the Local Plan Project, the timetable for its production and its consultation arrangements. Important 'process documents' (Project Initiation Document, Local Development Scheme & Statement of Community Involvement) are the first steps in ensuring the Council starts the process of developing a Local Plan in the right way and have now been approved at the last meeting of LGS. 'Behind' the timetable sits a detailed project plan that will evolve as the Local Plan develops, and a further paper is proposed to come to Scrutiny Committee (Local Plan) to set out further detail on the project plan as well as the process documents mentioned above.

Local Plan Leadership Group (LPLG) has also considered a draft response (which was submitted by 1 October) to the government's consultation 'Changes to the planning system' which identifies a draft housing need for the district of some 500 homes more than the current need identified by the standard methodology (1,231 compared to 706). Furthermore, the LPLG will be looking at and giving views on how the initial engagement on the Local Plan will be undertaken, and how areas of search for new development sites might be identified.

On the initial Local Plan engagement, an innovative approach is proposed looking across a number of different themes and running for a number of months, each theme preceded by a meeting of constituent members of a community forum. This is designed to engage with as many people and interests as possible, including those who do not routinely get involved in planning consultations.

On the subject of "areas of search", these will include sustainable locations to be considered for potential development but will not of course contain any predetermined views on such potential locations. Being within an area of search will not mean that development is being proposed, let alone supported, there. Similarly, not being within an area of search will not mean that potential development will not be allocated there, since other smaller sized locations or where there may be more requirements for infrastructure or services and facilities will be reviewed too. This will mean that the Council will not be entirely reliant on sites submitted or advanced by landowners and promoters.

Government White Paper - 'Planning for the Future'

Immediately after the White Paper was published, the Party Leaders were advised by me that Uttlesford had subscribed to the LGA cross party campaign of "Keep it Local" and we shall continue to support the LGA in this. Consistent with that, we shall of course be responding thoroughly and in detail to the radical proposals contained in the White Paper by the deadline of 29 October. As with the 'Planning Changes' proposal, the draft response will be brought before the LPLG, but it will

strongly reflect the views widely expressed informally by members and residents alike that any proposals which would have the effect of reducing members' and community involvement in the planning process are considered to be undemocratic. Likewise, any automatic development rights, limiting Development Management processes in review and appreciation – including pre-application processes -, are also not considered acceptable. The proposed status of Neighbourhood Plans is not yet entirely clear but we shall express our continuing support for them. Any proposals which run contrary to local democracy and community engagement will not be considered acceptable.

Stansted Airport Appeal Update

In July, MAG submitted its appeal against the Council's decision to refuse planning permission for the expansion of the airport's capacity for up to 43 million passengers a year. The Planning Inspectorate notified the Council that the appeal was validly submitted on 12th August and so set out the programme for the Inquiry. The programme moving forward is very tight, given the scale and nature of this appeal therefore the Council acted decisively and appointed expert witnesses and our QC and Junior Barrister were instructed to address the technical and legal aspects of our case.

Having appointed a strong and experienced legal and technical team, the first key piece of work to complete was the Council's "Statement of Case" which was submitted by 16th September and a copy of the document has been provided to all colleagues. Having submitted a strong "Statement of Case" on behalf of the Council, officers and the legal and consultant team now have to finalise a "Statement of Common Ground" with MAG by 28th October. Importantly, MAG are required to submit any addendum to their Environmental Statement first – by 16 October. Moving forward after this, the Council and MAG will need to submit Proofs of Evidence to the Planning Inspectorate by 8th December. Given the amount of technical and legal input needed to complete robust Proofs of Evidence, an early December deadline doesn't give us a lot of time to prepare and refine our final case before the Inquiry formally begins on 12th Jan 2021. This is the date fixed for commencement of the Inquiry (to be conducted before three Inspectors) and PINS currently proposes to conduct the enquiry partly in person (with live witness evidence) and partly virtually (under new procedures brought about post COVID-19). However, we will of course ensure that the strongest case possible is put to the Inquiry by the deadline for consideration. PINS and the parties will be considering matters regarding the Inquiry at further procedural hearings (Case Management Conferences).

Development Management

The Development Management team continues to perform consistently well, meeting its targets for dealing with planning applications. Significant improvements are being made in the way officers liaise with members and the town/parish councils at the pre-application stage of the planning application process. Meetings are now being held on a number of schemes whereby the developer is presenting proposals to members and town/parish councils before the planning applications are formally submitted.

This enables the developers to hear what members and town/parish councils think of their proposals prior to planning applications being finalised. Amendments can therefore be made to improve schemes to address local people's concerns. Developers are also being pro-actively encouraged to present their proposals to the Essex Quality Design Panel. This Panel of planning and design experts is an independent body that reviews larger development proposals with a view to being a critical friend – suggesting improvements to schemes where appropriate. All of this will hopefully lead to more planning applications coming to Planning Committee in a form that has already picked up and addressed the concerns, needs and expectations of the local community.