

**Committee:** Council

**Date:**

**Title:** Report of the Leader of the Council

Tuesday, 9 April  
2019

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Howard Rolfe, Leader of the Council

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## Summary

1. This report summarises the key activities for the year 2018/19 in the Leader's portfolio.

## Recommendations

2. None.

## Financial Implications

3. .None

## Background Papers

4. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

None

## Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	N/A
Community Safety	N/A
Equalities	N/A
Health and Safety	N/A
Human Rights/Legal Implications	N/A
Sustainability	N/A
Ward-specific impacts	N/A
Workforce/Workplace	N/A

## Situation

6. 2018-19 has been a good year for Uttlesford District Council.
7. Financially, our accounts are in very good order. Despite shrinking Government support we have ended the year over £800,000 in credit. However it should be noted that the Council received £1.7m income from its involvement in Chesterford Research Park so without that shrewd investment we would have had £900,000 to find. We are now looking further ahead for more investments so that we can always offer great services to the residents of Uttlesford.
8. We submitted the Local Plan before the January deadline. This Plan will be considered by the Inspectors at the beginning of July and, if it is approved, will give Uttlesford protection against unwanted development. UDC are working closely with a number of communities to produce their own Neighbourhood Plan (NP) and congratulate Thaxted for their adoption.
9. The Council was delighted to be awarded £750,000 to continue its Garden Community work. Not only is the money important but it is a welcome recognition by the Ministry of the good work that UDC's planning officers are undertaking, it also embraces Uttlesford into the Garden Community network. A member of the ministerial team will visit Uttlesford after the election. We continue to work closely with other key stakeholders in the Innovation (M11) Corridor so that there is appropriate infrastructure and modes of transport from Cambridge to London and from east to west. The Mayor of Cambridge and Peterborough's sustainable transport plan that includes rapid transport links will be of significant benefit to north Uttlesford.
10. Cllr Redfern is reporting separately but the renovated Sheltered housing scheme in Newport is a triumph and much appreciated by its residents, we have also opened Cornell Court, the first Extra Care Home in Uttlesford. Again the Council is looking to the future and anticipating the needs of an ageing population. Uttlesford continues to build its own Council homes (not all Councils are doing this) and together with Affordable homes (rented or part ownership) over 350 have been delivered this year, this is welcome news for those on the Council's housing waiting list.
11. The Council was also delighted to be a contributor to the new Harlow College at Stansted airport, the college is full and demand for future places is high so we will work with others to anticipate future growth.
12. Following resident feedback we have invested in more litter pickers, new waste vehicles and new road sweepers. Together with a plan to educate, to work with community litter collections and to prosecute we will continue our campaign to keep Uttlesford a beautiful place to live.
13. There is more – the rollout of Broadband, support for the Voluntary sector, investment in new sporting facilities and the arts, the work for Health and WellBeing, for local communities, for the Community Safety Partnership.
14. In summary, it has been another good year!