

Committee:	Cabinet	Date:	9 July 2020
Title:	Summary of the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations regarding the proposed New Local Plan Governance Arrangements		
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor John Evans, Portfolio Holder for Planning and the Local Plan		
Report Author:	Ben Ferguson, Democratic Services Manager bferguson@uttlesford.gov.uk	Key decision:	No

Summary

1. In regard to the New Local Plan Governance Arrangements, the following recommendations to Cabinet were endorsed by the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 6 July as summarised by the Chair, Councillor Gregory:
 - We would welcome an explanation from the EELGA consultants as to their reasoning in coming to their conclusions and how they were illuminated in their thinking by the lessons learnt from the past.
 - We wish to see the maximum amount of transparency in the workings of all of the bodies in relation to the Local Plan process, but we appreciate that by whatever mechanism there must be some degree of confidentiality in certain fora.
 - We would encourage the highest possible degree of consultation with residents by the Local Plan Leadership Group. However, it is a matter for that Group as to how they discharge that duty.
 - The Committee would welcome a greater role for the Leader of the Council alongside the Chief Executive on the Corporate Overview Board.
2. There was disagreement in regard to which body would be responsible for oversight and scrutiny of the Local Plan process.
3. In summary, the views expressed were as follows:
 - Oversight and scrutiny of the Local Plan to be carried out by the existing Scrutiny Committee
 - A sub-committee of Scrutiny to be established, answerable to and comprised of existing Scrutiny members, to provide oversight and scrutiny of the Local Plan

- A Local Plan Scrutiny Committee to be established by Full Council, with distinct Terms of Reference and a different membership to the existing Scrutiny Committee
4. It was proposed to recommend to Cabinet the establishment of a distinct Local Plan Scrutiny Committee. The proposal was rejected with 4 for, 6 against. The Chair said that there was no overwhelming mandate on the issue. Deferral of the item was proposed, so the discussion of whether the LP would be scrutinised by the existing Scrutiny Committee, or whether a sub-committee would be established, would be returned to by the Committee prior to Council on 21 July.

Recommendations

5. That Cabinet considers the comments and recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee in regard to the Local Plan Governance Arrangements. .

Financial Implications

6. None.

Background Papers

7. [New Local Governance Arrangements proposal](#) report

Impact

8. None to this report. For further information, please see the [New Local Governance Arrangements proposal](#) report

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

Risk Analysis

9.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
None associated with this report.	N/A	N/A	N/A

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.