

Councillor Eke – Portfolio Holder for Infrastructure, Transport and Stansted Airport
Council – 8 December 2020

Infrastructure –

I presented a paper to the Cabinet meeting on 20th October regarding the formation of the Strategic Infrastructure Delivery Group (SIDG) and its Terms of Reference. This group is intended as a Member Reference Group for the Cabinet chaired by myself with cross party membership. Members will also be invited from Essex County Council, East Hertfordshire, Braintree and South Cambridgeshire District Councils, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire County Councils will not normally attend but meeting papers will be shared for information.

Among other things the group will identify, and develop proposals for the provision of infrastructure, including funding and delivery arrangements, to support the Council's corporate priorities and objectives in the emerging local plan.

In October I attended the NEPP Joint Committee Meeting and can confirm all TRO requests submitted for Uttlesford were approved.

The easing of NEPP parking restrictions due to Covid 19 and the current lockdown requirement have been circulated to all councilors.

I am continuing to lobby for safer cycling and walking routes throughout Uttlesford, particularly urgent due to recent accidents involving cycling. Despite repeated requests for meetings with the ECC official responsible for cycling and several promises to discuss opportunities for safe cycling routes, as yet I have not been able to secure a meeting date.

Transport – A meeting of the Uttlesford Transport Forum was held on 17th September by Zoom. Turn out was disappointing but, due to covid, public transport numbers are exceptionally low. We are now receiving regular reports from the Transport Focus Group on transport useage and satisfaction surveys.

On 26th November I attended the Transport East Partnership 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. The meeting focused on reviewing the findings of economic, social and environmental goals already set out in documents such as Local Plans and Local Industrial Strategies to ensure the Transport Strategy aligns with the objectives of our partners. This work will feed directly into the work of the SIDG.

Stansted Airport – The consultation on Future Airspace at Stansted Airport is on-going with the various Focus Groups representing stakeholders having made their initial contributions.

The Airport is now in the process of developing plans for Stage 2 of the process. This is expected to be completed by the end of this year and we expect to reconvene SRG in January to receive a presentation from the team

The airport is currently operating essential flights only including cargo operations, which continues to bring in essential items like food and pharmaceuticals from around the globe.

The terminal is only open from 05.00 to 17.00hrs at present but is ready to adjust operations to meet demand and return to normal as soon as the pandemic allows.