

Committee: Council

Date: Tuesday,

Title: Uttlesford Economic Recovery Plan
2020 - 2022

8 December 2020

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Neil Reeve, Portfolio Holder for the
Economy, Investment and Corporate Strategy

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Summary

1. The COVID-19 global pandemic has had a significant impact on the Uttlesford district economy.
2. Unemployment is at levels not seen in the district since May 1994. Thousands of residents have been furloughed from their employment. Some sectors have been hit very hard, including retail, hospitality, personal services, the visitor and entertainment sectors, aviation and transport.
3. This is an ever-changing situation and the recent second national lockdown has caused even more concern amongst many local businesses. While some businesses have found ways to pivot their business model, there are others unable to adapt and therefore without an income.
4. Many local businesses have slipped through the net of Government business support initiatives, some are new businesses, others are located in shared accommodation or working from home without fixed property costs.
5. Appendix A contains the Uttlesford Economic Recovery Plan, an evolving plan based on the available data in an ever-changing situation. It aims to identify and address local issues that are not addressed by national, regional or county initiatives. It contains four work themes, which are
 1. Business Engagement and Support
 2. Information, Advice and Guidance
 3. Skills and Training
 4. Job Creation
6. It is anticipated that the economic situation will be clearer in six months' time. A report will be submitted to Council at that time, which will include SMARTer actions and more detailed financial costings.
7. Cabinet met on 24/11/2020 and approved the report attached at Appendix A, subject to changes to be made by Cllr. Reeve in response to comments received by him.
8. Cabinet recommends the report to Council for approval.

Recommendations

1. That Council approves the report included at Appendix A.

Financial Implications

2. None

Background Papers

3. None

Impact

- 4.

Communication/Consultation	N/A
Community Safety	N/A
Equalities	N/A
Health and Safety	N/A
Human Rights/Legal Implications	N/A
Sustainability	All sustainability issues are addressed in the report at Appendix A
Ward-specific impacts	All initiatives are targeted at residents and businesses across the district, unless specific business sectors.
Workforce/Workplace	N/A

Situation

Risk Analysis

- 5.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
The Plan at Appendix A aims to identify gaps in support initiatives and address	Significant risk of negative impact if no action taken.	3	Economic Recovery Plan is based on available data, and actions within it will increase

those gaps locally. Without that support local residents and businesses would be unsupported.			understanding of local issues so that activities can adapt to local needs.
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- 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.