

Committee: Scrutiny

Date: 19th January 2021

Title: Update on Planning Related Studies

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Summary

1. This report provides a brief update of the 3 planning related studies that Scrutiny is currently engaged with, namely Airport related car parking, Planning Obligations and the Planning Advisory Service's (PAS) review of major planning applications.

Recommendations

2. Note the updates of the 3 planning related studies.

Financial Implications

3. None. There are no financial implications associated with this report

Background Papers

5. 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

6.

Communication/Consultation	No specific impacts
Community Safety	No specific impacts
Equalities	No specific impacts
Health and Safety	No specific impacts
Human Rights/Legal Implications	No specific impacts
Sustainability	No specific impacts
Ward-specific impacts	No specific impacts

Workforce/Workplace	No specific impacts
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Situation

7. **Airport – related Parking Task and Finish Group** – The implications of Covid 19 began to impact on airport passenger numbers in February 2020. There were around 28 million passengers per annum using the airport pre - Covid 19. This figure went down to as low as 200-400 passengers per day at one point and the airport terminal was closed for 12 hours each day and all car parks were closed except short stay. Given the recent and on-going Covid-19 related issues and restrictions, passenger numbers have remained low compared to pre-Covid-19 figures. It is not clear at present when passenger numbers will start to get anything nearer pre Covid-19 levels therefore the problems associated with fly-parking at the airport is not significant. Consequently, no further work has been taken forward by the Fly-Parking Task and Finish Group. However, when passenger numbers start increasing, the Council will need to monitor the situation closely to make sure that once the airport starts operating to a fuller capacity, the issue of fly-parking doesn't begin to become an issue in Uttlesford again. This review should be undertaken quarterly as a minimum for now so a further update report should be brought to Scrutiny Committee for consideration in Spring 2021.

8. **Planning Obligations Task and Finish Group** – this work has been paused in order to ensure the appropriate distribution of officer resources during the coronavirus pandemic, at the request of the Task and Finish Group Chair, Cllr Criscione. Task and Finish will be reconvening during January with the aim of bringing the recommendations to Scrutiny in Spring 2021. This includes the need to agree a process for formally consulting with Town and Parish Councils to ensure the actions agreed take account of their needs and concerns.

The report format will on the following lines:

- Foreword
- Committee Membership
- Recommendations
- Background
- Methodology
- Key Findings
- Conclusion
- Appendices relating to Terms of reference, the Survey Questionnaire and the Notes from Interviews.

9. **PAS review of major planning applications** – PAS has now completed all of the interviews it needed to do as part of the fact-finding stage of the study. Unfortunately, the final report has still not been issued as there has been a delay in signing off the final comments by some participants. PAS has now been respectively requested to take the necessary action to have the report completed and signed off by the end of January so that Scrutiny Committee can consider the findings and agree appropriate actions to enhance our planning application processes.

Risk Analysis

1.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
<p>Task and Finish Group's conclusions will not be endorsed by Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>PAS refuses to issue its report due to it not being signed off by all participants</p>	Little (1)	Low (2)	<p>Ensure Scrutiny is kept informed of emerging work and findings prior to final report being written. If necessary, request PAS to issue its report with necessary caveats to address its concerns re lack of sign off.</p>

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.