

Good evening. My name is Ken McDonald. I have lived in Uttlesford for 36 years.

Uttlesford's draft Local Plan calls for a massive increase in population – around 43% over the 22 years covered by the plan. This is considerably more than almost anywhere else in the country. The fact that it is so extreme begs for greater scrutiny.

Responses to the Regulation 18 consultation have persistently questioned the housing need.

Other responses have questioned the impact on housing need of the assumptions made about employment at Stansted Airport

For more than two years, I have been calling for a clear statement of how Uttlesford's so-called "Housing Need" has been calculated. I have also been asking that alternative methods of calculation be considered. The consideration of alternative, properly justified, approaches is permitted under the National Planning Policy Framework and also under the Government's current consultation "Planning for the right homes in the right places".

Despite repeated assurances that this Local Plan will be "evidence-led" and transparent, my requests have been rejected or ignored. I submitted a detailed and damning assessment of the SHMA, both in response to the 2015 Local Plan consultation and in response to the Regulation 18 consultation. In 2015, my multi-page submission was summarised in three words, whilst I can find no reference at all to my updated multi-page objection to Policy SP3 in this latest consultation.

We are left with no audit trail and no consideration of alternatives. Each of these deficiencies will provide massive scope for argument when the final Plan is considered by an Inspector.

Each of these deficiencies also leaves Uttlesford at risk of its plan again being found Unsound.

Will the District Council now commit to publishing the following four key pieces of evidence?:

- (a) A clear and auditable statement of how it has arrived at the total Housing Need for Uttlesford.**
- (b) A clear and auditable statement of how that Need might be calculated if the exceptional period of "airport-related" house-building early this century were to be discounted.**
- (c) A reasoned explanation as to why one of these options has been adopted and not the other.**
- (d) A clear and auditable statement of what has been assumed about future employment numbers at Stansted Airport and how that has influenced the forecast Housing Need for Uttlesford.**