

Committee:	Cabinet	Date:	Tuesday, 27 May 2021
Title:	Local Plan Strategic Objectives		
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor J Evans, Portfolio Holder for Planning and the Local Plan		
Report Author:	Stephen Miles, Local Plans and New Communities Manager smiles@uttlesford.gov.uk	Key decision:	No

Summary

1. The Council is working on a new Local Plan, one of the first tasks for the Council is to agree the Strategic Objectives for the plan.

Recommendations

2. Subject to the Local Plan Leadership Group (LPLG) meeting on 24 May 2021, to approve the draft vision and objectives for the new Local Plan as recommended by the LPLG.

Financial Implications

3. The approved budget for the Local Plan in 2021-22 includes sufficient provision for the work needed through to the end of March.

Background Papers

4. 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.
 - [Planning Advisory Service - Local Plan Route Mapper](#)
 - [Planning Advisory Service - Good Plan Making Guide](#)

Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	The draft timetable builds in three stages for people to make representations on the draft Local Plan.
Community Safety	N/a.
Equalities	Forthcoming policies will be subject to an Equalities and Healthy Impact Assessment

	(EqHIA).
Health and Safety	N/a.
Human Rights/Legal Implications	Preparation of a local plan is a statutory duty. It needs to meet legal tests and comply with regulations.
Sustainability	Forthcoming policies will need to meet the sustainability objectives of the Council and the Local Plan will be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal.
Ward-specific impacts	All.
Workforce/Workplace	N/a.

Situation

6. The Council is working on a new Local Plan for the district. The Local Plan Leadership Group has a key role in this process – in providing clear direction during the preparation of the Draft Plan so that officers can carry out the technical work that is required to write the Draft Plan. The timetable is tight and it is vital that decisions are made in accordance with the agreed timetable so as to avoid slippage.
7. The timetable for the Local Plan was agreed at Cabinet in October 2020¹. At Local Plan Leadership Group (LPLG) on 29 April the Group considered the detailed work programme to December 2021. This programme sets out three key tasks for LPLG and Cabinet over the summer, the first of which is to agree the strategic objectives for the Draft Plan.
8. In order for officers to assess sites and prepare draft planning policies it will be necessary to set some clear strategic planning objectives. This is identified as a role for the Cabinet informed by the deliberations of this Group. It is proposed that the strategic objectives will provide high level direction and that they be derived from the following:
 - a. National Planning Policy Framework (plans must be consistent with the NPPF to be sound);
 - b. The approved Uttlesford District Council Corporate Plan;
 - c. The Inspectors' findings on the withdrawn local plan;
 - d. Feedback from the Issues and Options Stage; and
 - e. Other relevant sources (for instance best practice that arises from the longer term planning response to Covid-19)

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- ¹ The timetable for the Local Plan is contained in the Council's Local Development Scheme

9. A workshop with members of LPLG is set up for 17 May to discuss the vision and strategic objectives. Using the above principles this workshop will consider the national requirements, the local policy drivers and look at what the Local Plan should be looking to achieve.

The local plan must contain a vision which should be aspirational but realistic. It should set out the intended character of the plan area, based on current trends and trajectory of key data such as that related to population and economy. Objectives should flow from the vision, establishing the way in which the plan area will deal with the identified critical issues. Together, these should be clear, realistic, locally distinctive and spatial in planning terms.²

10. The workshop will examine the vision and objectives of recently adopted Local Plans to use ‘best practice’ and will need to address (for example):
 - a. The need to deliver a sufficient supply of homes;
 - b. The national need and local commitment to address climate change and achieve zero carbon; and
 - c. The local commitment to be an active place maker.
11. A paper setting out the conclusions of this workshop will be presented to LPLG on or before 24 May.

Risk Analysis

12.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That the objectives are not approved in a timely manner impacting on the ability of the Council to keep to the timetable for the Local Plan in the LDS	2 – the timetable is tight	3 – any delay in the Local Plan timetable extends the period of time that the district is vulnerable to speculative development	The member workshop on 17 May allows for an opportunity to discuss the potential objectives

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.

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- ² PAS – Good Plan Making Guide paragraph 1.1