

## Cabinet 27 May 2021 Supplementary Paper

### 1. LPLG Workshop 17 May 2021 & LPLG 24 May

#### 1.1. Background

1.1.1. On the evening of Monday 17 May a workshop was held for LPLG members to discuss the vision and objectives for the Local Plan. Members discussed the purpose of the vision and objectives, in terms of:

- The vision setting out an aspirational view of what the district will look like in twenty years' time; and
- The objectives setting out aspirational and realistic ways of achieving this vision.

1.1.2. This vision and accompanying objectives will be used to develop the policies and allocations for the plan.

1.1.3. Members considered and discussed what was important to the district and looked at examples of others' visions and objectives. Officers took notes throughout the discussion and after the workshop have used the members' views to prepare the below draft vision and objectives.

1.1.4. On 24 May LPLG considered the draft vision and objectives and made a number of changes. LPLG then recommended that Cabinet approve this draft vision and objectives for the purpose of informing the drafting of the Local Plan and the assessment of sites.

1.1.5. LPLG noted that members will have the opportunity to refine the wording of this vision and objectives, as the final version will be agreed for consultation in early 2022. Therefore, at this point in time LPLG focussed on the principles in the draft text set out below. Future text to be added, as well as changes from the version discussed at LPLG are highlighted yellow.

#### 1.2. Draft Vision for Uttlesford

1.2.1. Our vision reflects the ambition required to achieve net-zero carbon status by 2030 and to protect and enhance Uttlesford's rich natural environment and built heritage.

1.2.2. Residents will know their views have been listened to and will have the opportunity to influence decision making. Town and Parish councils will play an increasing role in this. Local people will be involved in making Uttlesford 'the best place to live, work and play'.

**Uttlesford will embrace the changes required to be net zero carbon, enabling us to live, work and play within the limits of the environment whilst protecting our natural environment**

1.2.3. The essential landscape value of Uttlesford's countryside will be enhanced promoting biodiversity and increased woodland, contributing to the region's prosperous rural and

agricultural economy. The rivers of Uttlesford will be protected and enhanced, and together with green infrastructure, contribute to a network of blue and green corridors for the benefit of wildlife and people. Hatfield Forest will be part of this network, however it will also be protected from overuse. Access to the countryside for recreation and tourism will be promoted in a managed way, supporting agricultural diversification, the creation of jobs and the healthy lifestyles of residents and visitors alike. The network of footpaths, safe cycle routes and bridleways will be expanded and improved resulting in Uttlesford residents having the highest levels of active travel and health in Essex.

**Uttlesford's rich natural and historical heritage will be protected and enhanced, for the health and enjoyment of people now and in the future**

- 1.2.4. Uttlesford will be known for its beautiful rolling countryside, its market towns and villages with a rich heritage, and a strong cultural offer and economy that operates at a local, national and international scale. The needs of local people, as well as generations after will be met and the people of the district will be healthier, happier and able to meet most of their day-to-day needs locally within a community that is good for their health and well-being.

**Uttlesford will have a diverse, resilient and thriving sustainable economy**

- 1.2.5. Uttlesford will have a diverse range of businesses and a tourism offer which supports the attractive towns and villages acting as employment and service centres for the surrounding rural hinterland. The district will work with its partners to ensure business growth will be ambitious, innovative, future focussed and benefit the whole district. Small businesses, creative start-ups and a growing number of people working from home will be positively supported. The local benefits of Stansted Airport will be maximised, while its environmental impacts are managed and minimised. Links to other sources of prosperity will also benefit the district. The north of the district will benefit from appropriate improved links into the high-skilled 'Cambridge phenomenon', supporting high-value job growth at Chesterford Research Park and elsewhere. The south of the district will benefit from appropriate improved links to Harlow, Chelmsford, Bishop's Stortford and Braintree.
- 1.2.6. The market towns of the district will have sustainable, viable and vibrant town centres with a diverse range of stores and other facilities to attract people to shop and visit. Villages with smaller centres will meet the day-to-day needs of their local catchments.

**New development will link homes with jobs, be of high quality design and focus on sustainable construction, materials and travel**

- 1.2.7. New development will be focussed on providing the right homes and employment in the right place, in line with policies, to address the challenge of climate change, to strengthen communities and provide greater opportunities to live and work locally. ... *[To be added to following consideration of the Preliminary Outline Strategy in July]*
- 1.2.8. How people travel through and around the district will have changed, and the use of public transport and active travel as an alternative to the car will be far greater than it is today. The necessary infrastructure to support this change will be delivered in a timely manner. The district will support car use shifting to zero tailpipe emission vehicles by providing

appropriate infrastructure. Furthermore, the level of commuting will be addressed to reduce the need to travel and address congestion and climate change.

- 1.2.9. High quality design will protect and enhance the intrinsic character and built heritage of Uttlesford's towns, villages, and the wider environment will be balanced with the benefits of proportionate development to provide affordable housing, local jobs or additional community facilities. The quality of new development will be high, and supported by appropriate design guidance, agreed with local communities.
- 1.2.10. New buildings will be designed to low energy standards and renewable energy generation will meet the district's needs.

### 1.3. Draft Objectives for Uttlesford

a. Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding & drought

To ensure Uttlesford adapts to the effects of climate change including extremes of weather, through:

- The location, design and resilience of development;
- Planning for low energy new development;
- Planning for renewable energy provision in the district; and
- Reducing and managing the risk of flooding and drought.

b. Prioritising water resilience, sustainable consumption and river health

To ensure the health of our rivers and sustainable water use by:

- Ensuring water can be sustainably supplied to new development;
- Incorporating enhanced water efficiency standards in new development;
- Ensuring that sewage treatment and water recycling is upgraded to support development; and
- Prioritising reduced pollution of our rivers.

c. Promoting healthy and safe communities

To plan and design new and existing places to promote healthy and safe communities by:

- Encouraging physical and mental well-being;
- Enabling active travel;
- Designing well-connected communities that function well;
- Enabling access to open green space for leisure, play and sport; and
- Enabling social connection and inclusion.

d. Conserving and enhancing the natural and built environment

To proactively conserve and enhance our natural and built environment by:

- Creating and protecting a network of green and blue wildlife corridors with our partners throughout the district; and

- Protecting the high quality, beautiful landscape of the district;

e. Conserving and enhancing the built environment

To proactively conserve and enhance our built environment by:

- Delivering development of high quality design within existing settlements; and
- Protecting historic buildings and village cores from harmful development.

f. Building a strong and competitive economy

Build a diverse, resilient, sustainable economy by:

- Planning for job growth to align with **the existing population distribution and** population growth in the district;
- Enabling inward investment to promote higher value jobs and diverse employment opportunities within the district;
- Enabling local employment by protecting the best existing employment sites from changing to other uses;
- Supporting agricultural diversification, culture, leisure and tourism to create a diverse rural economy;
- Supporting high quality communications.

g. Ensuring the vitality of town centres

Ensuring the vitality of town centres by:

- Enhancing the role of the market towns in serving the wider needs of their hinterlands;
- Supporting the provision of a wide range of services and facilities for Uttlesford whilst conserving and enhancing the historic character of our town and village centres; and
- Protecting and enhancing retail and commercial sites and managing loss to other uses.

h. Delivering a sufficient supply of the right homes in the right places

Delivering a sufficient supply of the right homes in the right places by:

- Planning for sustainable, safe, attractive and healthy places to live while meeting local and lifetime housing needs in terms of type and tenure including affordable housing and housing for people with specific accommodation needs.

i. Achieving well-designed places and making effective use of land

Achieve well-designed places and make effective use of land by:

- Developing design policies and guidance to support high quality new development; and
- Planning for developments at an optimal density to make an effective use of land, **reduce the loss of agricultural land** and viable support services and facilities.

j. Enabling infrastructure and promoting sustainable transport

To proactively enable infrastructure and promote sustainable transport by:

- Enable utility providers to improve their infrastructure and services so that they can meet people's current and future needs, protect the environment;
- Providing new homes close to jobs, services and facilities, promoting active travel opportunities;
- Enable innovative but realistic transport improvements, particularly better and more integrated public transport, cycling, pedestrian and bridleway facilities;
- Enable the maintenance of and qualitative improvements to sporting and leisure facilities, including enhancing opportunities for culture and tourism; and
- Help the public to access and enjoy open spaces such as parks and allotments and support healthy lifestyles.

k. Protecting the Green Belt and the Countryside Protection Zone

Protecting the Green Belt and Countryside Protection Zone by:

- Ensuring development does not harm the purposes of the Green Belt or the Countryside Protection Zone.