

**XXXXX PLEASE ADD LETTERHEAD XXXX**

Jonathan Blathwayt  
Senior Planning Officer  
Planning Development Plans  
The Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government  
Fry Building,  
2 Marsham Street,  
London SW1P 4DF

XX June 2021

Our ref: Please ask for Simon Payne on 07789 816405

email: spayne@uttlesford.gov.uk

Dear Mr Blathwayt,

**Uttlesford Local Plan Update**

I refer to my previous letters when I provided you with an update on progress by the Council to prepare a new local plan. This letter deals with the position up to the end of Quarter 1 of the current financial year.

I am pleased to advise you that work continues to progress in accordance with the revised Local Development Scheme which was adopted by the Cabinet of the Council on 20 October 2020. The attached diagram shows the next six months of work.

The Issues and Options stage of the local plan was completed last month with the involvement of an online Community Stakeholder Forum which met over a five month period exploring nine separate local plan topics. The public and all stakeholders feedback will form a central part of the local plan evidence base. In addition the following progress has been made:

- A call for development sites period recently ended and around 300 sites are currently being verified prior to publication as part of the evidence base of the local plan;
- Procurement of studies to form part of the evidence base are underway; all together seventeen studies are being commissioned with a total budget of £1 million;
- Work on the Sustainability Appraisal and Infrastructure Delivery Plan have all commenced;
- The Cabinet of the Council has agreed a draft vision and objectives for the new local plan;
- A Strategic Infrastructure Delivery Group, comprising senior councillors from the district and the county council, has meet four times and received presentations from leading practitioners on climate change, rural issues and strategic transport;
- Duty to Co-operate meetings continue to be held with a range of stakeholders including Greater Cambridge and East Hertfordshire.
- Meetings of the Local Plan Leadership Group and Cabinet are planned to confirm housing numbers and also a Preliminary Outline Strategy for the local plan.

The Scrutiny Committee of the District Council continues to carefully monitor progress on the local plan through regular updates on the Risk Register and Project Plan. It is expected that you will receive the next update before the end September 2021.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Miles.....

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