

The cross-party motion for a Vote of No Confidence in the Leader and Cabinet of Uttlesford District Council

The Leader and Cabinet of Uttlesford District Council have failed on a number of fronts to the detriment of our residents. This is a direct result of the lack of transparent, accountable and honest leadership which has been consistently demonstrated during the past two municipal years through the following unacceptable actions and behaviours and failure of leadership that must not be allowed to continue.

1. A FAILURE TO DEFEND DEMOCRATIC DECISIONS

The Council Leader and Cabinet failed to uphold the Planning Committee's decision to unconditionally refuse Stansted Airport Limited (STAL) permission to expand Stansted Airport to 43 million passengers per annum. In so doing they compromised the Council's case at the recent appeal hearings. Furthermore, the same leading Members have unacceptably failed to be accountable by not answering sixteen questions about the appeal process posed by other Members in January 2021.

2. A FAILURE OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

The Council Leader and Cabinet have failed to run the Council in a proper manner and have demonstrated a lack of Good Governance. The same leading Members have refused to call upon parties involved in an ongoing 14-months' long Police Investigation and to follow good practice and to stand aside until the investigation's completion, thus causing substantial reputational and financial damage to the Council. Until the Police and any internal investigation are completed the external auditor is unable to sign off the Council's Annual Governance Statement and the Council's accounts for 2019/20.

3. A FAILURE OF ACCOUNTABILITY

The Council Leader and Cabinet have failed to respect the principle of Democratic Accountability. They have displayed dishonesty and have created a bullying and intimidatory culture which tolerates neither dissent nor questioning from backbench members. Elected members who question, or ask for clarification are frequently dismissed, demeaned or intimidated by administration party members, often in a vicious or otherwise inappropriate manner, so effectively suppressing the democratic representation of their constituents.

Conclusion

Council therefore resolves to pass a Vote of No Confidence in the current Leader and Cabinet and affirms that they are unfit to lead this Council.

PROPOSER: Councillor M Caton

SECONDER: Councillor V Isham

REQUISITION

We, the undersigned, hereby sign this requisition calling for an Extraordinary Council Meeting to take place on June 28th in order to conduct the following business:

A Vote of No Confidence in the Leader and Cabinet of Uttlesford District Council.

REQUISITION SIGNED BY:

Councillor Susan Barker (Con)

Councillor Paul Fairhurst (Green)

Councillor Melvin Caton (Lib Dem)

Councillor Vere Isham (Green)

Councillor Christian Criscione (Con)

Councillor Ayub Khan (Lib Dem)

Councillor Alan Dean (Lib Dem)

Councillor Mark Lemon (Con)

Councillor Barbara Light (Green)

Councillor Janice Loughlin (Lib Dem)

Councillor Edward Oliver (Con)

Councillor Geoffrey Sell (Lib Dem)

Councillor George Smith (Con)