

## Corporate Plan Delivery Plan 2021/22 Progress to 31 August 2021

***Vision: Making Uttlesford the best place to live, work and play***

<b>Progressive Custodian of our Rural Environment</b>				
<b>We Will:</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Outputs/Milestones</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Lead Member</b>
<b>1. Take action on Climate Change</b>				
<i>a. Adopt policies to meet new environmental national guidelines/standards as they emerge</i>	Develop a Climate Crisis Action Plan, prioritised by impact, cost, and deliverability.	Action Plan to be developed by 30 Sept 2021	Officer time in 2021/22. Funding allocated for the plan actions of £333K for 21/22	Portfolio Holder for Environment and Green Issues; Assistant Director of Planning
<b>Comment:</b> The Climate Crisis Action Plan is being presented to Scrutiny Committee in November for consideration. The Committee will be asked to comment on priorities within the range of potential actions to tackle climate change in Uttlesford on the basis of the indicative timescales and resources needed to deliver the various actions.				
<i>b. Drive policies to deliver low carbon buildings</i>	Implement policies that reduce the carbon footprint of new development	Detailed proposals to come from the Climate Crisis Action Plan (30 Sept 2021)	Within existing officer resources	Portfolio Holder for Environment and Green Issues; /Assistant Director of Planning
<b>Comment:</b> The Interim Climate Change Planning Policy requirements are being requested in all appropriate planning applications coming forward. Although non-statutory, the Interim Policies are proving to be adding value to the process of ensuring new planning applications are as environmentally sustainable as possible.				
<i>c. Improve average energy efficiency of Council housing stock</i>	To be included in the Review of HRA business plan	Measurable improvement in energy efficiency of housing stock.  Details to be included in the HRA business plan to be developed by 30 Sept 21	Within existing officer resources and subject to BEIS grants	Portfolio Holder for Housing and Health / Assistant Director of Housing, Health and Communities
<b>Comment:</b> Funding opportunities for government and industry grants being explored. Asset list identifying installation measurers at each location is being prepared to enable a bid to be submitted.				

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<i>d. Increase the number of trees in the district (and protect existing trees).</i>	Introduce a tree planting initiative in partnership with town and parish councils.	Detailed proposals to be included in Climate Crisis Action Plan (30 Sept 2021)	Climate Change Budget	Portfolio Holder for Environment and Green Issues /Assistant Director of Planning
<b>Comment:</b> The Climate Crisis Action Plan is being presented to Scrutiny Committee in November for consideration. The Committee will be asked to comment on priorities within the range of potential actions to tackle climate change in Uttlesford on the basis of the indicative timescales and resources needed to deliver the various actions. An action relating to the need to increase the number of trees within new planning applications will form part of the Action Plan.				
<i>e. Oppose a second runway at Stansted Airport</i>			Any policy proposals that might signal potential increase in runway capacity will be reported to members	Portfolio Holder for Infrastructure, Transport and Stansted Airport/Assistant Director of Planning
<b>Comment:</b> MAG's current focus is on the infrastructure for which it has sought planning permission.				
<i>f. Set a Net Zero Carbon goal for the Council and implement supporting policies</i>	In making every policy decision, consider the opportunity to reduce the Council's carbon emissions, including:	Detailed proposals to come from the Climate Crisis Action Plan (30 Sept 2021)	Part of Climate Change Budget	Portfolio Holder for Environment and Green Issues; Equalities/Portfolio Holder for Finance and Budget/Assistant Director of Environmental Services
	Review viability of replacing Council vehicles & equipment with electric alternatives at end of life.	Review capital programme to consider vehicle replacement and acquisitions programme ahead of budget setting for 2022/23.	Within existing resources	Portfolio Holder for Planning & the Local Plan
		All handheld petrol driven council equipment (such as	Existing equipment budget	

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		<p>strimmer's), will transition to electric; 50 separate items of equipment by 31 Dec 2021.</p> <p>Conduct a study to investigate the feasibility of Electric Shuttle Buses for Saffron Walden and Dunmow by 31 Dec 2021</p> <p>Explore the option of hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) as an alternative to diesel for the Council fleet. If feasible implement by 31 December 2021</p>	<p>Climate Change budget</p> <p>£45,000 for the installation of suitable fuel tanks</p>	

### Comment:

- Vehicles – alternative fuels are being considered for replacement vehicles in the Council's light fleet e.g. vans. The market for hybrid vehicles is still developing and at present is limited to smaller courier style vans. A number of van manufacturers have yet to approve the use of HVO (see below) in their vehicles and as a result there is limited options in terms of moving away from diesel powered vehicles. In terms of the Heavy fleet, major manufacturers have released electric, or hydrogen powered vehicles. A review of options and environmental benefits will be conducted later in the financial year as part of the climate change strategy action plan. Officers are also investigating of the use of solar panels on HGV fleet to help reduce fuel costs, this is relatively new technology that can be retrofitted to existing fleet and would help power electric bin lifts etc, improving fuel consumption. A case study will be completed in October with potential trial on a number of vehicles, later in the financial year.
- Tools and equipment – electrically powered equipment for use within the grounds maintenance team is gradually replacing petrol driver equivalents, although there is limited market at the current time for larger sit-on style mowers. As well as reducing fossil fuel usage, electrically powered equipment does reduce exposure to Hand Arm Vibrations which over the long term can cause health issues and are quieter to operate. Good progress is being made in this area and the majority of smaller equipment should be replaced by electrically

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<p>powered tools by the end of the financial year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ HVO trial – The trial for HVO fuels is nearing completion and fuel consumption information between regular diesel and HVO being compared on a modern refuse vehicle. The data analysis will be completed by mid-September.</li> </ul>				
<p><i>f. Set a Net Zero Carbon goal for the Council and implement supporting policies</i></p>	<p>Optimise the environmental opportunities at Little Canfield Business Park (LCBP)</p>	<p>Install a new vehicle washdown facility that recycles 90% of the water used. Install PV panels on the vehicle workshop</p>	<p>Within existing budget</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Environment and Green Issues; Equalities/Assistant Director of ICT and Facilities/Assistant Director of Environmental Services</p>
<p><b>Comment:</b> The project timetable has slipped due to delays in obtaining planning permission. In addition to the washdown facility and PV panels there will also be EV charging points and potential use of Biofuel for the refuse fleet. On site work recommenced at the end of August and the steels for the workshop have been erected. Due to national shortages, there is some challenge in building material supply, but the project is expected to complete by the end of March 2022 with the Environmental teams relocating to this site in April 2022</p>				
<p><i>g. Increase walking, cycling and sustainable transport</i></p>	<p>Improve connectivity for walking and cycling</p>	<p>Leverage S106 contributions and liaison with ECC to secure the implementation of additional walking and cycling facilities.</p>	<p>Within existing budget.</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Infrastructure, Transport and Stansted Airport/ Assistant Director of Planning</p>
<p><b>Comment:</b> The Climate Crisis Action Plan is being presented to Scrutiny Committee in November for consideration. The Committee will be asked to comment on priorities within the range of potential actions to tackle climate change in Uttlesford on the basis of the indicative timescales and resources needed to deliver the various actions. The Plan includes actions to increase the opportunities for more walking and cycling in the District. This involves working collaboratively with ECC to develop appropriate schemes to develop an effective “Active Travel” programme for Uttlesford.</p>				

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<i>g. Increase walking, cycling and sustainable transport</i>	Introduce EV charging point provision	Four 22kw fast charging posts with twin ports at London Road Council Offices by 30 Sept 21. Twelve 7kw charging posts across three car park sites (Chequers Lane, White Street, Crafton Green) by 30 Sept 21. Four 7kw charging points at LCBP by 31 October 2021.	Resources identified as part of the Climate Change Budget (and £15k capital programme and external grant funding)	Portfolio Holder for Planning & the Local Plan / Portfolio Holder for Environment and Green Issues; Equalities /Assistant Director ICT and Facilities
<p><b>Comment:</b> White Street, Great Dunmow - Charge points have been installed &amp; commissioned            Crafton Street Car Park, Stansted - Wayleave agreement negotiations ongoing between UKPN, equipment provider BP Pulse &amp; third-party land owner            Council Offices, Saffron Walden – awaiting delivery of chargers from BP Pulse due to world shortage of the chips that go into the charging units. There have been further delays due to a Gas Leak at the front of London Road which clashed with UKPN’s planned works to connect the power supply – this has now been pushed back again and we await a new completion date.            Chequers Lane Car Park, Dunmow – chargers have been installed            Little Canfield Business Park – Power due to be re-connected in September, EV points to be ready for site completion in March 2022</p>				
<i>h. Recognise the district’s ‘greenest’ businesses and developers</i>	No proactive work is scheduled on this item in 2021/22			Portfolio Holder for Environment and Green Issues / Assistant Director of Planning
<p><b>Comment:</b> The Economic Recovery Plan has necessitated prioritisation of key actions over others which are less urgent</p>				
<p><b>2. Conserve our natural resources</b></p>				

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We Will:	Activities	Outputs/Milestones	Resources	Lead Member
<p><i>a. Implement and enforce policies that protect water and reduce energy consumption</i></p>	<p>Include in Climate Change Action Plan</p> <p>Engage in Water Resources East's work on developing projects with the water industry to address over abstraction of the chalk aquifer and protect the district's chalk streams</p>	<p>Detailed proposals to come from the Climate Crisis Action Plan (30 Sept 21)</p> <p>The details of precisely what action might be required by UDC is not yet clear; engaging with WRE is the preliminary stage</p>	<p>Resources identified as part of the Climate Change Budget</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Environment and Green Issues / Assistant Director of Planning</p>
<p><b>Comment:</b> The Climate Crisis Action Plan is being presented to Scrutiny Committee in November for consideration. The Committee will be asked to comment on priorities within the range of potential actions to tackle climate change in Uttlesford on the basis of the indicative timescales and resources needed to deliver the various actions. As part of the Action Plan, the need to protect water and reduce consumption is acknowledged with an appropriate action. A water cycle study has been commissioned from consultants as part of the evidence base for the new local plan. This specifically includes abstraction from the chalk aquifer and the chalk streams. The consultants have briefed the SIDG. The Interim Planning Policies also emphasise the need for the efficient use of water resources in all new developments.</p>				
<p><i>b. Drive programmes that increase biodiversity</i></p>	<p>Include in Climate Change Action Plan</p>	<p>Detailed proposals to come from the Climate Change Action Plan Sept 21</p>	<p>Resources identified as part of the Climate Change Budget</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Environment and Green Issues / Assistant Director of Planning</p>
<p><b>Comment:</b> The Climate Crisis Action Plan is being presented to Scrutiny Committee in November for consideration. The Committee will be asked to comment on priorities within the range of potential actions to tackle climate change in Uttlesford on the basis of the indicative timescales and resources needed to deliver the various actions. Biodiversity forms a key element of the Action Plan and also relates to the emerging Local Plan. A study to assess the current situation relating to the District's biodiversity is being commissioned. This will also provide information on how we can protect and enhance the biodiversity of Uttlesford for the future.</p>				
<p><i>c. Support local energy production initiatives</i></p>	<p>Develop local energy production initiatives</p>	<p>Detailed proposals to come from the Climate Crisis Action Plan Sept 21</p>	<p>Resources identified as part of the Climate Change Budget</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Environment and Green Issues; Equalities /Director of Public Services</p>

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**Comment:** UDC is working with Eastern New Energy (ENE) who are in turn working with the Energy Systems Catapult to map our Local Energy Asset Representation (LEAR). This data will provide baseline data and options for decision making on local energy production projects. Subsequent stages of projects which will actually deliver energy production infrastructure (based on this baseline data) – can be also be facilitated by ENE. UDC is working on this local energy production project in collaboration with ECC. This leg of the project – the baseline data capture – is at no cost to UDC, as ENE has grant funding to cover it. It is expected that the baseline data will take several months to gather and present to UDC. Further opportunities for local energy sources will continue to be investigated.

<i>d. Implement programmes to reduce single-use plastics</i>	Develop the Chair’s Charter to promote reduction in single use plastics and carbon footprint	<p>The details are still being worked up but will initially focus on residents and communities.</p> <p><i>The intended roll out to schools and then businesses will need to be timed to ensure that they are able to engage fully in this promotion having regard to the pandemic related issues they will be managing for most of this year In addition it should be recognised that some businesses will have the added burden of new trading arrangements with the EU.</i></p>		Portfolio Holder for Environment and Green Issues; Equalities /Assistant Director Environment
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**Comment:** The Chairman’s charter was launched in April 2021 and includes a simple action plan to promote the reduction of plastics alongside other environmental initiatives throughout the coming year.

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<b>We Will:</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Outputs/Milestones</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Lead Member</b>
e. Work to reduce per-capita landfill in the district			BAU: campaigns will be run, within existing resources, including Love food Hate waste campaign and Keep Britain Tidy National Litter Pick (11 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> September 2021)	Portfolio Holder for Environment and Green Issues; Equalities /Assistant Director of Environment
<p><b>Comment:</b> A refresh of the Essex Joint Municipal Waste Strategy has started at County level. This project alongside the Government’s Resources and Waste Strategy, will enable Uttlesford to review its existing service delivery model and consider alternative options that meet changing requirements and ambitions. This programme of work will be a good opportunity for the Council to plan for the future and ensure that our climate change action plan aspirations are included. Inspections of contamination levels and ‘capture’ rates for materials collected for recycling are being carried out to establish where and how to target waste education initiatives into the last part of the year. Data on waste collections made across the district is being analysed to improve operational performance and will lead to a collection round refresh in early 2022 following the depot move.</p>				
<p><b>3. Protect and enhance our rural character and heritage</b></p>				
<i>a. Meet or exceed national standards for open and green spaces</i>	Policies to be developed through the Local Plan process	Timescales incorporated in the Local Development Scheme	Within existing resources	Portfolio Holder for Planning and the Local Plan/Assistant Director of Planning
<p><b>Comment:</b> Policies will be taken forward in the emerging Local Plan. The Open Spaces Strategy being developed and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan will provide the evidence base for such policies.</p>				
<i>b. Encourage positive planning that values and protects our heritage</i>			Heritage will continue to be protected using existing resources	Portfolio Holder for Planning and the Local Plan/Assistant Director of Planning
<p><b>Comment:</b> The Preliminary Outline Strategy for the Local Plan that has been prepared captures this objective.</p>				

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<i>c. Work with others to increase access to the heritage and history of our district</i>	Walden Castle project	Castle to reopen to the public early summer 2021 (Subject to Covid19 restrictions)	Within existing resources	Portfolio Holder for Sports, Leisure, Education and the Arts/Assistant Director of Corporate Services/Assistant Director of IT, Facilities and Assets
<b>Comment:</b> The final parts of the multi-year project to remove the castle from the scheduled ancient monument at risk list completed in early 2021/22. The castle is now open to the public, along with a new gateway making easier access from the Common to the castle grounds. Public bookings for use of the castle for events are being managed by the team at Saffron Walden Museum.				
<i>c. Work with others to increase access to the heritage and history of our district</i>	Saffron Walden Museum improvements	<p>Completion of National Lottery Heritage Fund Resilient Heritage Project by 30 April 21</p> <p>Completion of Fund-raising Strategy and Forward Plan for selected development option by 31 October 21</p> <p>Fund-raising and new approach to National Lottery Heritage Fund for significant Heritage Grant Stage 1 application by 31 March 22.</p> <p>Note: New grant scheme about to be rolled out so details of specific requirements uncertain at this stage.</p>		Portfolio Holder for Sports, Leisure, Education and the Arts/Assistant Director of Corporate Services/Assistant Director of IT, Facilities and Assets
<b>Comment:</b> The Museum has just completed the two-year Resilient Heritage project, funded with a £51,200 grant from the NLHF and £10,000 matching funding from Saffron Walden Museum Society Ltd. The Museum has worked with consultants to provide in-depth reports and analysis to determine its future strategy and development options to improve user figures, income generation and sustainability in the long term. Saffron Walden Museum Society Ltd, which is a charity, is responsible for raising funding for capital development of the Museum building and redisplay of the galleries, and it is intended to approach the NLHF for a				

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significant development grant in due course. Proposals for improving the Museum will be brought to the Museum Management Working Group and Cabinet later this year. The informal Museum Development Committee continues to meet to discuss future options.				
<i>d. Work with our rural partners and developers to maintain habitat and wildlife corridors</i>		Detailed proposals to come from the Climate Crisis Action Plan (Sept 21)	Resources identified as part of the Climate Change Budget	Portfolio Holder for Environment and Green Issues / Assistant Director of Planning
<b>Comment:</b> More pro-active engagement with the rural community is being promoted through the emerging Local Plan and Climate Crisis Strategy. Targeted meetings with the NFU and other rural community partners have taken place and will continue to happen throughout the Local Plan process to inform the strategy, policies and proposals.				
<i>e. Target littering and fly-tipping</i>			BAU: Through the Cleaner Essex Group and KBT we continually promote initiatives to help combat or clean up littering which remains an issue within the district.	Portfolio Holder for Environment and Green Issues; Equalities / Assistant Director of Environment
<b>Comment:</b> UDC Supported national spring clean by offering litter picking kits to Parish Council's and other community groups alongside collection of any waste collected through community-based picks. Planning is underway across the County to support the national litter pick in September and for a targeted anti-littering campaign over the winter.				
<b>4. Take strong action on dealing with pollution</b>				
<i>a. Increase air quality monitoring across the district</i>			BAU: continuous automatic monitors continue and Air Quality Annual Status Report will be published in 30 June 21	Portfolio Holder for Environment and Green Issues; Equalities / Assistant Director of Housing, Health and Communities

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<p><b>Comment:</b> The 2020 Annual Status report is almost complete and the service plans to publish this report in August. A review of Air Quality monitoring within the district will occur in Quarters 2 &amp; 3. All existing real time analysers and mobile sensors are operational.</p>				
<p><i>b. Deliver reductions in pollution at identified problem areas</i></p>	<p>No proactive work is scheduled on this item in 2021/22</p>			<p>Portfolio Holder for Environment and Green Issues; Equalities / Assistant Director of Housing, Health and Communities</p>
<p><b>Comment:</b> The service is considering options and will be applying for grant funding to support a range of ideas that will focus on awareness and behaviour change. Further engagement with Essex County Council is also proposed to tackle junction improvements.</p>				