

Committee:	Local Plan Leadership Group	Date:	
Title:	Uttlesford Employment Needs & Economic Development Evidence	Monday 29	November 2021
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Summary

1. This report sets out current progress on the assessment of economic growth and employment needs that will inform the Local Plan.

Recommendations

2. To note the findings in the Uttlesford Employment Needs & Economic Development Evidence report, which will be utilised in the development of the emerging Local Plan.

Financial Implications

3. This work is within the 2021/22 budget.

Background Papers

4. Uttlesford Employment Needs & Economic Development Evidence Report (Iceni - November 2021)

Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	N/a
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 intention of this work is to detail the baseline assessment of employment needs, employment land availability and economic development forecasts, and identify the economic issues to:
 - Inform the Preferred Options Local Plan
 - Build a strong, competitive economy and support a prosperous rural economy, as required in the NPPF
7. The report reviews the following:
 - The baseline situation for Uttlesford's population structure, employment sectoral composition and spatial distribution of employment and enterprises
 - Commercial market review
 - Key learning from a business survey, focusing on small businesses
 - The growth context of Stansted airport
 - Economic growth sectors and drivers
 - Employment land supply
 - Employment floorspace needs
 - Recommendations for policy development
8. The report completes the baseline assessment and forecasting, considering the different strands of Uttlesford's economy including life sciences, Stansted airport and surrounding area, the rural, visitor and green economies.
9. The programme of work includes:
 - Topline input into strategic context - three working papers completed July 2021:
 - Literature review
 - Socio-economic baseline assessment
 - Insights from employment projections prepared by Cambridge Econometrics
 - This report to inform the Preferred Options Local Plan – November 2021 (the report appended)
 - Further work to inform Reg 19 Submission Plan – Autumn 2022
 - Contribution to Local Plan examination of Reg 19 Submission Plan and modifications, as required - Autumn 2023-Spring 2024

Risk Analysis

10.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
If the Council does not have an NPPF compliant evidence base the plan could be found unsound	2	4 – delays in adopting the Local Plan	Professional evidence developed in line with the NPPF and PPG
That the uncertainty around the pandemic impacts on the quality of the evidence	2	this will impact the ability of the Local Plan to implement the right policies	Up to date forecasts are being used to inform the evidence, if necessary an early review of the plan can update policies

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.