

Committee: Local Plan Leadership Group
Title: National Farmers Union – Agricultural issues to consider for the Local Plan
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Summary

1. Rob Wise, Environment Adviser of National Farmers Union (NFU) East Anglia has been invited to present to the LPLG on agricultural issues for consideration in the Local Plan.

Recommendations

2. To reflect on agricultural issues that require policy development in the emerging Local Plan.

Financial Implications

3. The approved budget for the Local Plan in 2021-22 includes sufficient provision for the work needed through to the end of March 2022.

Background Papers

4. The following briefing documents on the Levelling up and working towards net zero are appended:
 - Levelling up rural Britain (NFU)
 - Net Zero & Agriculture – A guide for Local Authorities (click on the pages for further details on each topic)

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	Preparation of a local plan is a statutory

Implications	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. 97% of the district is agricultural land, mostly arable. 379 holdings farm 51,152 hectares employing 988 people [Defra 2016]. There is a need to understand how changes to the Environment Bill and agricultural diversification will impact Uttlesford; and how to address agriculture in policy terms in the emerging Local Plan.
7. The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) are responsible for improving and protecting the environment. Their aim is to grow a green economy; sustain thriving rural communities; and support our world-leading food, farming and fishing industries. There is a need to consider how planning policies can support changes in Agriculture.

Risk Analysis

8.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That legislative changes in agriculture are not ready on time to inform the reg 18 Local Plan	3	That legislative changes in agriculture are not taken into account in the reg 18 Local Plan	Ensure consideration and engagement on agricultural issues as a strand of work in Local Plan preparation

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.