

Corporate Plan Delivery Plan 2021/22 Progress - Quarter 3 2021/22 CPDP Update

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

Champion for our District				
We Will:	Activities	Outputs/Milestones	Resources	Lead Cabinet Member
1. Improve Uttlesford's connectivity				
<i>a. Hold ECC to account: Work to set the agenda for ECC highway maintenance and pothole fixing</i>	Promotion of links to services and responsibilities of ECC, as well as reporting mechanisms for potholes, footpaths, pavements and street light repairs	Enhanced reporting ensures most up to date and accurate information is available when key decisions are made	Within existing resources	Portfolio Holder for Planning, Stansted Airport, Infrastructure Strategy and the Local Plan Portfolio Holder for Council and Public Services Assistant Director of Corporate Services
<p>Comment: Our website includes information and links to the relevant reporting mechanism on the Essex Highways website. Ensuring links are easy to find helps to ensure maximum reporting of problems, enabling the discussions with ECC to take place with the most accurate picture. Whenever and wherever in the district Essex Highways carries out work, we ensure that the information is shared via our own social media accounts. We share all relevant information about schemes and initiatives in the district across our social media channels, including road repairs and how to report faded lines, potholes etc.</p>				
<i>b. Work with ECC and communities to develop the highway improvement schemes we need</i>			Within existing resources	Portfolio Holder for Planning, Stansted Airport, Infrastructure Strategy and the Local Plan Interim Director of Planning
<p>Comment: The council continues to fulfil its influencing role in relation to the Essex Transport Strategy and the Local Transport Plan which stems from that strategy.</p> <p>The council continues to play an active role in the Highway Panel, a body made up of members of Uttlesford District Council and Essex County Council which is responsible for making recommendations and setting priorities for highways schemes in the district. The Panel meets approximately quarterly and monitors progress on highways schemes which this year total £436,000.</p>				

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We Will:	Activities	Outputs/Milestones	Resources	Lead Cabinet Member
<i>c. Hold ECC to account to deliver what they promise</i>			Through regular contact with officers and members at ECC, ensure that delivery in Uttlesford is as expected; seek the support of Scrutiny Committee where significant under-performance	
<p>Comment: Uttlesford District Council continues to engage with Essex County Council through a range of access points into the authority, including but not limited to Leader/Chief Executive meetings, political liaison with our county councillors, and bodies such as the Highways panel. Through these means the district council can ensure concerns are raised and resolved. Currently there are no outstanding requests for the Scrutiny Committee support to address under-performance.</p> <p>With regard to improving connectivity specifically, the council continues to fulfil its role in pushing the rural superfast broadband project forward and a full update can be found below at 1f – “Work with ECC and hold them to account to deliver rural superfast broadband in our district.”</p>				
<i>d. Promote and support sustainable transport initiatives, such as bus, rapid transport and rail upgrades</i>			Within existing resources	Portfolio Holder for Planning, Stansted Airport, Infrastructure Strategy and the Local Plan Interim Director of Planning
<p>Comment: The Council is working with its transport consultants and Essex County Council to identify the highway improvements needed to support development. These will be required in the Local Plan.</p>				
<i>e. Lobby Highways England to improve the capacity and safety of the M11</i>			Within existing resources	Portfolio Holder for Planning, Stansted Airport, Infrastructure Strategy and the Local Plan Interim Director of Planning
<p>Comment: This key junction is impacted by development from beyond the district (and county) as well as being likely to be affected by development allocated in the Local Plan. This requires a joined up approach to identifying solutions. The Council is working with partners to set up a group to lobby for improvements to junction 8 of the M11.</p>				

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f. Work with ECC and hold them to account to deliver rural superfast broadband in our district	Monitor the progress of the delivery by Superfast Essex and the provider	Target is 4,627 premises where full fibre broadband service has been installed and is ready for service by 31 Dec 2021. Half yearly reports will identify progress.	Monitor progress within existing resources	Portfolio Holder for Planning, Stansted Airport, Infrastructure Strategy and the Local Plan Assistant Director of Resources

Comment: The original scope of properties has been reduced where Wayleaves (permission to access private land) cannot be obtained, and the Essex County Council's Superfast Broadband Board is in discussion with provider Gigaclear on managing the 'high cost' properties, for example where a property is a long way from another property. Currently out of the 4,627 properties included in the original contract, 3,584 were completed at the beginning of December with a further 62 being constrained by Wayleaves and 226 constrained by funding. The remaining 755 properties are still to be connected and fortnightly meetings are in place to monitor the progress of the contract, deal with any issues arising and confirm the final delivery dates. The target was not met because of delays caused by Covid lockdowns and what the district council considers to be an overambitious delivery plan, given the nature of the district. Uttlesford remains an active partner in the Essex and Herts Digital Innovation zone, an awarding winning partnership that includes Local Government, Health, Education and Private sectors working together to increase and improve access to high quality broadband services.

2. Support our students, schools and libraries

<i>a. Conduct a wholesale review of school transport to understand the gap in provision of what ECC provides</i>	Political representations to Essex County Council	Letter written to the county council by responsible Cabinet member		Portfolio Holder for Planning, Stansted Airport, Infrastructure Strategy and the Local Plan
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Comment: School transport is an Essex County Council function and it would be for the county council to conduct such a review. The district council will fulfil its influencing role by the responsible Cabinet Member writing to the county council setting out concerns and requesting a review takes place.

<i>b. Ensure that developer contributions are collected for ECC to provide our local school and Early Years places</i>			Within existing resources	Portfolio Holder for Planning, Stansted Airport, Infrastructure Strategy and the Local Plan Interim Director of Planning
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Comment: The council always collects developer contributions, where appropriate, in line with ECC education formula requirements. This is a well-established and ongoing area of work.

Champion for our District

We Will:	Activities	Outputs/Milestones	Resources	Lead Cabinet Member
<i>c. Create and support new services inside our libraries to increase their viability</i>				Portfolio Holder for Sport, Leisure, and the Arts Assistant Director of Housing, Health and Communities Assistant Director of Corporate Services

Comment: Covid 19 restrictions has meant work to review district council operations from Uttlesford's libraries has not progressed. Currently, there is no physical customer service presence in any library as there was pre-pandemic. The focus has been on first restoring a front desk presence in the Saffron Walden council offices when it was safe enough to do so, but public uptake has been extremely low and consideration will need to be given to how customers can best be served at other district locations in 22/23 and beyond as the country moves into a post-pandemic phase.

3. Work with partners to keep the district safe

<i>a. Work with the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable to reduce crime on our area</i>	An annual strategic assessment will be produced to complement the Fire, Police and Crime Commissioner's vision for Essex. This Essex Police Strategic Assessment will focus on local data to ensure that safe and secure communities are at the forefront of the partnership work.		Work is undertaken with partners to produce the annual Strategic Assessment and deliver identified priorities; targets and milestones are contained in the specific action plans and reported in an annual report. Within existing resources	Portfolio Holder for Communities Youth, Public Safety, Emergency Planning and liaison with the Police and Fire & Rescue Service Assistant Director for Housing and Environmental Health
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Comment: Collation of information and data from statutory partners is progressing to enable production of the Strategic Assessment for 22/23. The delivery plan for the priorities identified will sit alongside the assessment and lead the work for the coming year. This plan will inform the Office of the Fire Police and Crime Commissioner (OFPCC) of the work identified for the year.

From the Strategic Assessment for 21/22, an end of year report will be available by June 2022 for the Police and Crime Commissioner to update on the work undertaken with grants received from the OFPCC over the 2021 period.

Champion for our District

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Working with the Commissioner's Office allows us to work together on preventative projects that can be delivered locally. Funding has been sought for projects and has been used to fund the Reaching our Rural Communities project.

b. Continue to be an active partner of the Community Safety Partnership

Work is undertaken with partner agencies within the Community Safety Partnership to reduce and prevent crime and anti-social behaviour; this includes partnership working with local councils and the PCSOs to address the fear of crime. Targets are identified in the work plans. Within existing resources.

Portfolio Holder for Communities Youth, Public Safety, Emergency Planning and liaison with the Police and Fire & Rescue Service

Assistant Director of Housing, Health and Communities

Comment: 50 vehicles joined the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) on a FREE Catalytic Converter Anti -Theft Marking event held in partnership with SelectaMark and TreadFirst at Shire Hill in October. This project was established in response to the increase in the theft of catalytic converters across the district. A further event took place on Sunday 16 January 2022 which was fully subscribed.

Operation Sceptre, through which the Uttlesford CSP will take a vehicle out to parishes to encourage residents to dispose of their knives, is continuing. The operation is in part a response to recent changes in legislation to knife possession, in particular ornamental knives.

Uttlesford CSP has been recognised as a partner of Friends Against Scams and is currently recruiting Scam Champions. The Scam Champions will then recruit 'Friends' who will assist the CSP in spreading awareness on how to protect each other against this type of crime which has risen throughout the pandemic period. A booklet for residents has also been produced and distributed.

The Reaching Our Rural Communities project continues to be well received by the farming and rural communities and the Office of the Fire, Police and Crime Commissioner (OFPC) has acknowledged this project as a good practice initiative. Community Safety Partners have been supporting Essex Council of Voluntary Youth Services and the OFPC's Violence and Vulnerability Unit with the consultation on the perception and fear of violent crime. The outcome report will inform CSP projects/work going forward. Community Safety Accreditation training will take place in February for officers within the Environmental Health and Communities teams in partnership with Essex Police.

Champion for our District

We Will:	Activities	Outputs/Milestones	Resources	Lead Cabinet Member
<p>4. Work to create a better local Health Service for residents</p>				
<p><i>a. Work with NHS on in-district local healthcare provision</i></p>			<p>Work towards the Integrated Care Partnership will continue, within existing resources</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Housing and Health Assistant Director of Housing, Health and Communities</p>
<p>Comment: In May 2020 Hertfordshire and West Essex became one of the 18 Integrated Care Systems (ICS) across the country. The Council is a partner in the ICS through the One Health and Care Partnership Board. The partnership is working to deliver improvements to the health and care of residents tackling everything from ante-natal care and end of life planning to making the best use of technology and reducing health inequalities so that everyone has the opportunity to live a healthier life.</p> <p>From Spring 2021, it was announced that Integrated Care Commissioning Boards would take over the function of the existing Care Commissioning Groups but to date this has not happened and is now scheduled for July 2022. Uttlesford will be covered by an ICCB operating on the broader Hertfordshire and West Essex footprint. Existing NHS England functions will be devolved to ICCBs. The ICCBs will though be underpinned by placed based partnership in which district councils are expected to play a key role bringing a public health perspective informed by their knowledge of their communities.</p> <p>Another major piece of local healthcare work delivered in partnership is the highly successful Covid vaccination and testing programmes which has seen council facilities used by NHS colleagues to deliver these services to thousands of people in the district.</p>				
<p><i>b. Work to secure Addenbrookes, The Princess Alexandra Harlow, and Mid-Essex hospitals as our recognised local hospital providers</i></p>			<p>Work towards the Integrated Care Partnership will continue, within existing resources</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Communities Youth, Public Safety, Emergency Planning and liaison with the Police and Fire & Rescue Service / Assistant Director of Housing, Health and Communities</p>
<p>Comment: These hospitals are our recognised local hospital providers. Council officers hold regular meetings with NHS colleagues and these hospitals are always recognised key health provision sites for this district.</p>				

Champion for our District

We Will:	Activities	Outputs/Milestones	Resources	Lead Cabinet Member
<i>c. Deliver programmes to support our ageing population</i>	Review of community services to meet the needs of residents, including older people	As a result of the recent discussions on establishing a Cabinet task and finish group to support the Cabinet Member to undertake the review, the details have not yet been scoped.	Within existing resources	Portfolio Holder for Council and Public Services/ Assistant Director of Housing, Health and Communities

Comment: A Community Services working group has been set up to identify the best way to deliver/commission support services for the elderly. The work of this group has been focused on the reopening of the day centres in Great Dunmow and in Thaxted to allow for future consultation with the community as to services that may be delivered from those venues.