

Committee: Local Plan Leadership Group
Title: Settlement Hierarchy paper
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Date:
Wednesday, 9
March 2022

Summary

1. This paper considers a new settlement hierarchy for the emerging Local Plan.

Recommendations

2. That the group note the paper on the proposed new settlement hierarchy for the emerging Local Plan.

Financial Implications

3. None

Background Papers

4. None.

Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	The timetable builds in three stages for people to make representations on the draft Local Plan.
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. A settlement hierarchy seeks to identify the function of settlements in a district. It groups and categorises settlements according to the size, economic and retail role, as well as the services and facilities available in the settlement. The purpose of identifying a settlement hierarchy is to inform the spatial strategy for the Local Plan and to ensure that development at existing settlements reflects the relative sustainability of settlements.
7. The appended paper identifies a settlement hierarchy for Uttlesford. This hierarchy will be used to ensure that the Local Plan spatial growth strategy focuses housing and economic growth in the most sustainable areas. This is all done with the aim of ensuring the vitality of the district's towns and villages supporting and rural communities by encouraging sustainable development, whilst helping to support and local services and facilities. It is also relevant that larger settlements with more jobs and better services and facilities allow residents to meet more of their day-to-day needs within the settlement offering opportunities to reduce the need to travel (particularly by car), thereby addressing climate change.
8. The key difference in the hierarchy from the now withdrawn Local Plan to this emerging Local Plan is Stansted Mountfitchet's proposed classification in the top tier of the hierarchy.

Risk Analysis

9.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That the emerging Local Plan does not appropriately address strategic issues	1	4 there is a risk that the Local Plan is found unsound	This paper seeks to set out a settlement hierarchy for the district

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.