



# **Uttlesford District Council Local Plan**

## **Duty to Co-Operate Topic Paper**

**October 2023**

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## 1.0 Introduction

1.1 This topic paper is prepared to support the Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan Consultation document (here after referred to as the Local Plan) to help demonstrate how the council has met its responsibility in accordance with the Duty-to-Cooperate (DtC) process as set out by the Localism Act 2011 and the National Planning Policy Framework.

1.2 The evidence and processes set out in this paper have helped to inform the preparation of the Local Plan ready for consultation. The Local Plan sets out the spatial strategy for Uttlesford, its key priorities and objectives for how it will deliver sustainable development up until 2041. It identifies the number of homes and jobs the area needs, and the associated infrastructure required to support this growth, including provision for retail, leisure and green and blue infrastructure, through the allocation of sites and development management policies.

1.3 A significant amount of work has taken place since the previous plan was withdrawn in 2020, including the initial issues and options consultation in 2021 and an extensive collection and analysis of evidence base to inform the development and refinement of the Local Plan 2021 - 2041. The main steps undertaken include:

- Issues and options – 2021
- Call for sites – Early 2021
- Call for Sites Technical Consultation – December 2021
- Evidence base gathering and review, and plan preparation – 2021 - 2023

## 2.0 What is the Duty to Co-operate?

2.1 The Localism Act 2011 sets out the Duty to Co-operate (DtC) which applies to all local planning authorities, National Park authorities and County Councils in England and to a number of other public bodies (Section 110). The duty requires that councils set out planning policies to address strategic issues<sup>1</sup> and that councils and public bodies “engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis” to develop strategic policies. This should include considering joint working to determine where additional infrastructure is necessary, and whether development needs that cannot be met wholly within a particular plan area could be met elsewhere. (Para.26, NPPF)

2.2 The council is required to co-operate with certain organisations and neighbouring authorities on strategic planning matters. Collaboration will provide a strong basis to develop effective working arrangements to help prepare a sound plan and to assist in aspects of its delivery. We are required to demonstrate co-operation to the Local Plan Inspector both on the spatial strategy and plan policies. Early engagement and demonstrating co-operation with neighbours and the prescribed bodies are key to meeting the legal tests of the DtC.

2.3 The DtC does not necessarily require agreement. However, we will endeavour to co-operate on cross-boundary and strategic planning matters and will aim to seek agreement or areas of agreement through Statements of Common Ground (SOCG), as far as this is possible. We aim therefore to ensure we:

- are proactive and constructive in our co-operation on cross-boundary planning matters

- achieve a legally ‘sound’ Local Plan in this respect, and
- help to facilitate effective strategic planning in the region<sup>1</sup>.

2.4 Strategic planning refers to policies that address issues which cannot be dealt with by one local planning authority working alone but which will need to be addressed and delivered working together with neighbouring authorities and other bodies through other plans and strategies. Strategic issues can include:

- the provision of homes and jobs
- retail, leisure and economic development across a travel to work area
- the provision of infrastructure for transport, waste and minerals, water, energy generation, and telecommunications
- the provision of health, security, and local community infrastructure facilities, and
- climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation protection and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including our landscape and townscape.

2.5 While the duty does not apply to residents, developers, parish councils, our engagement with these organisations and others is essential on the development of the Local Plan. Details of this will be set out in the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), with the exception of developers, as this relates to the delivery of proposed allocated sites. Here it is proposed that Memorandum’s of Understanding (MOU) will be used to assist in demonstrating to the Plan’s Inspector that proposed sites can deliver the necessary infrastructure requirements, having worked constructively and on an on-going basis with the developer and landowner throughout the process of allocating the site and master-planning the design features of most importance, similarly to the DtC process.

2.6 It is important for the Examination in Public (EiP) stage of the Local Plan that Uttlesford District Council (UDC) can demonstrate the approach and process it followed to working with its prescribed bodies on strategic issues of a cross boundary nature, and that these are identified early in the process. This assists with showing the required co-operation between authorities on an on-going basis and what outcomes and actions have resulted that may have influenced the plan. This goes towards demonstrating the plan is sound. That is, positively prepared and effective.

2.7 Positively prepared – as set out in paragraph 35 of the NPPF means:

“providing a strategy which, as a minimum, seeks to meet the areas objectively assessment needs; and is informed by agreements with other authorities, so that unmet need from neighbouring areas is accommodated where it is practical to do so and is consistent with a chieving sustainable development”.

2.8 Effective – as set out in paragraph 35 of the NPPF means:

“deliverable over the plan period, and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters that have been dealt with rather than deferred, as evidenced by the Statement of Common Ground”.

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<sup>1</sup> The Localism Act 2011 defines strategic matters as: (a) Sustainable development or use of land that has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas, including (in particular) sustainable development or use of land for or in connection with infrastructure that is strategic and has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas, and (b) Sustainable development or use of land in a two-tier area if the development or use - (i) is a county matter, or (ii) has or would have a significant impact on a county matter

### **3.0 Statements of Common Ground**

3.1 To demonstrate effective and on-going joint working, our local plan work includes Statements of Common Ground (SOCG) and Memorandums of Understanding (MOU). These documents address strategic matters or issues of a common nature between UDC and a statutory body or organisation that are being addressed and progressed throughout the plan-making process to provide transparency, and wherever possible, working towards areas of agreement.

3.2 Individual SOCG have been drafted to assist in the collaboration between the council and the prescribed body to demonstrate that the Duty to Cooperate has taken place and clearly set out where we agree, where this is possible.

3.3 Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) may be drafted with landowners and developers rather than SOCG, as they are not strictly DtC bodies. However, as important key stakeholders in the delivery of proposed strategic allocated sites, the council feel it important to demonstrate that cooperation has been continual throughout the plan making process to show delivery of its proposed allocated sites. This will ensure that the necessary development requirements, time scales and other build factors can be considered up front to assist in demonstrating deliverability of proposed development at the Examination in Public.

3.4 The current signed SOCG are set out in Appendix 2 to help inform the Reg 18 consultation. Further examples of SOCG and the MOUs will follow in due course. Furthermore, the SOCG and MOUs may be updated for the next stage of the Plan process.

### **4.0 Duty to Co-Operate Bodies**

4.1 Uttlesford is adjoined by six local planning authorities. There are seven planning authorities that the duty most directly applies, and these are shown in context in Map 1 below and are:

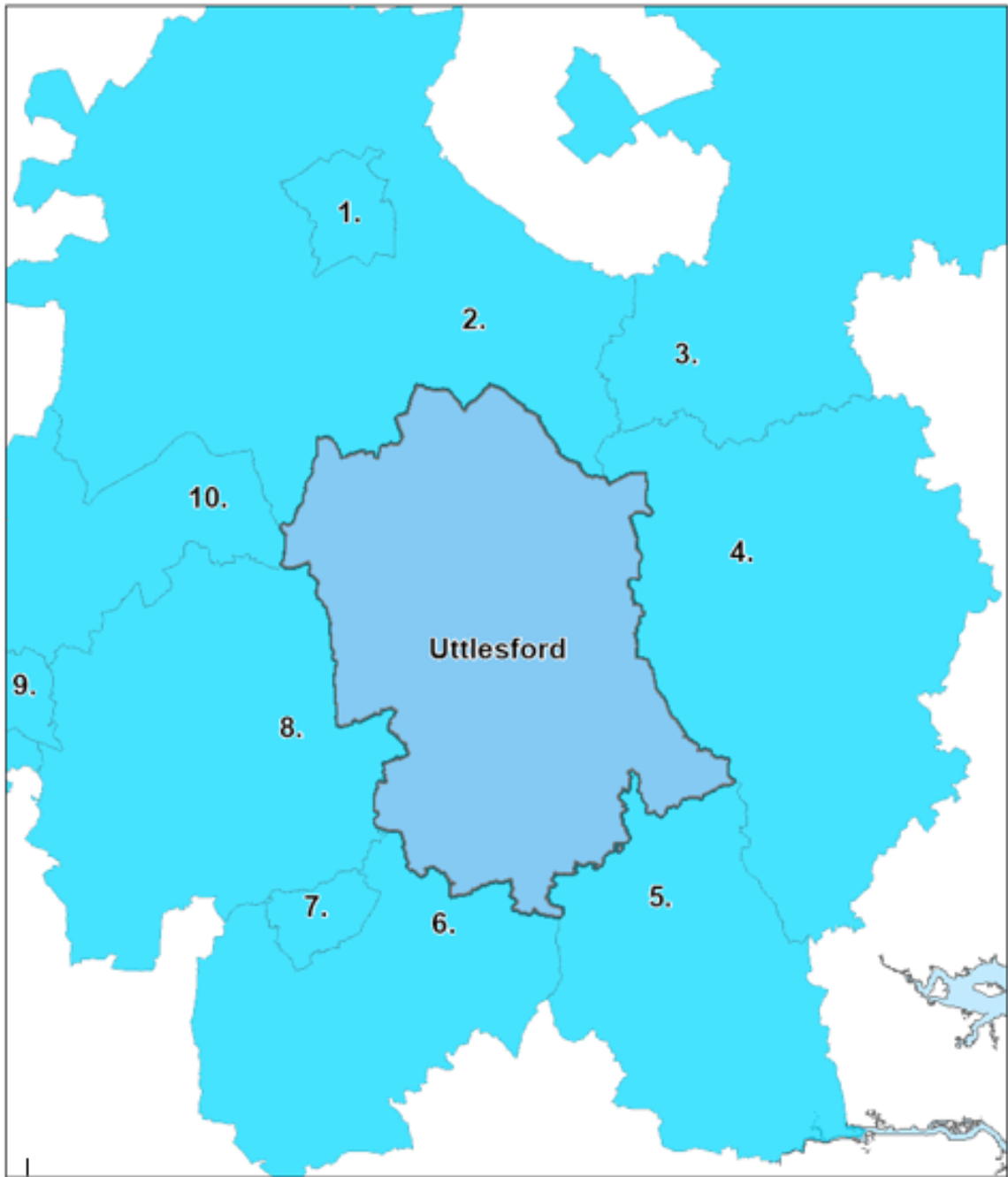
- Braintree District Council
- Chelmsford City Council
- East Hertfordshire District Council
- Epping Forest District Council
- Harlow District Council – does not adjoin the boundary of Uttlesford
- North Hertfordshire District Council
- South Cambridgeshire District Council

4.2 The County Councils of relevance include the following (and are shown in Map 2):

- Cambridgeshire County Council (including the Cambridgeshire Partnership)
- Essex County Council
- Hertfordshire County Council

# Map 1:

## Neighbouring Authorities



Key	
1.	Cambridge City Council
2.	South Cambridgeshire District Council
3.	West Suffolk District Council
4.	Braintree District Council
5.	Chelmsford City Council
6.	Epping Forest District Council
7.	Harlow Council
8.	East Herts District Council
9.	Stevenage Borough Council
10.	North Herts District Council

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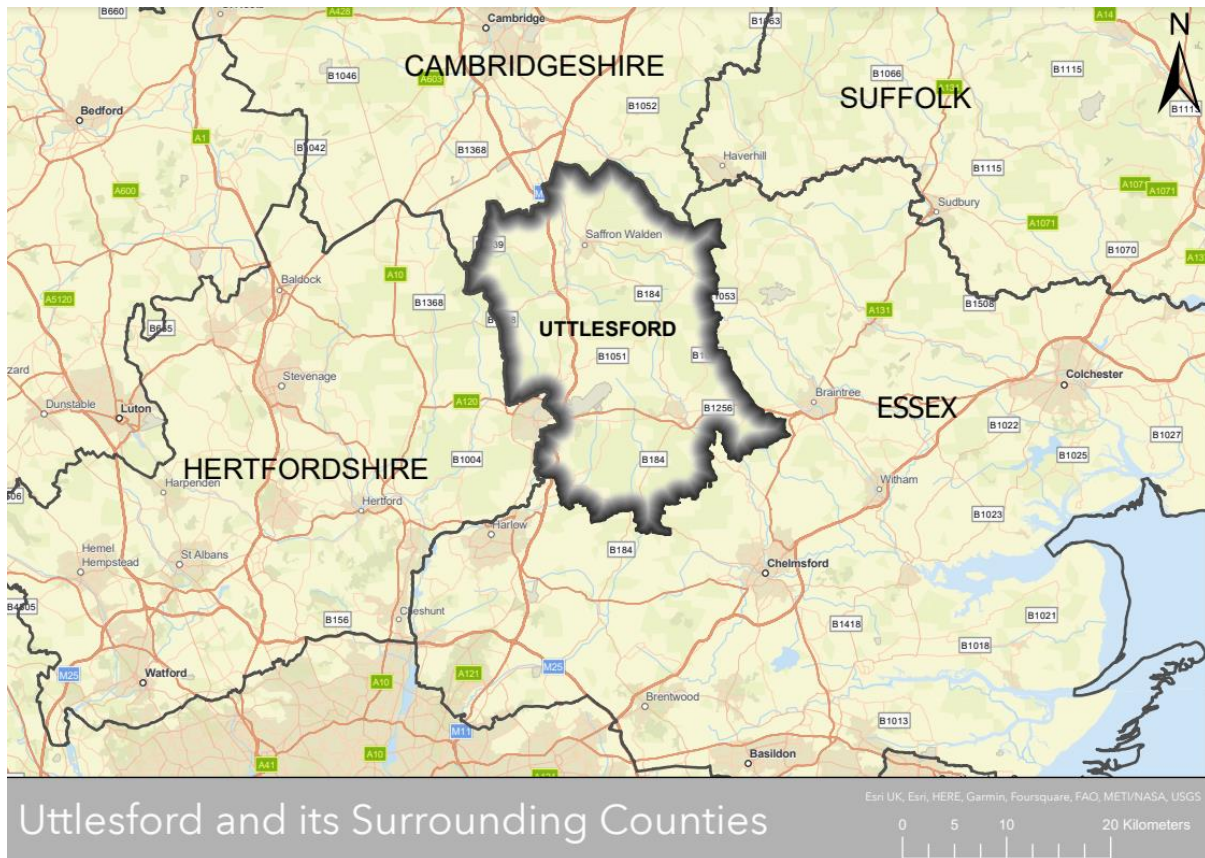
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Enr, CGIAR, USGS, Enr UK, Enr, HERE, Garmin, FourSquare, FAO, METI  
NASA, USGS

Uttlesford District Council

## Map 2: County Councils in relation to Uttlesford District

Essex County Council is the local Highway Authority, Education, Minerals and Waste, and Drainage Authority



4.3 Other prescribed bodies are identified in Part 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2021<sup>2</sup>. The list of prescribed bodies has been amended to include the Local Enterprise Partnership and the Local Nature Partnership<sup>3</sup>. The prescribed bodies of relevance to Uttlesford are, the:

- Active Travel England
- Civil Aviation Authority
- Manchester Airports Group (London Stansted Airport)
- Environment Agency
- Essex Local Nature Partnership
- Highway Authority (Essex County Council)
- Historic England - Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England
- Integrated Transport Authority (Transport East)
- National Health Service/Integrated Care Board (HWEICB) that covers West Essex and Hertfordshire
- National Highways
- Natural England

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/767/contents/made>

<sup>3</sup> The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Amendments) Regulations 2012 are available at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/2613/made>

- North Essex Economic Board (NEEB)
- Office of Rail Regulation

4.4 Although not subject to the requirements of DtC, in addition to the above, we have and will continue to liaise with the following, as necessary:

- Essex Climate Action Commission. Advisory group of informed practitioners and decision makers directing on county-wide action to tackle climate change
- Essex Coast Recreation Disturbance Avoidance Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) Steering Group (partnership of Essex local authorities, County, Essex Wildlife Trust, Natural England, and RSPB)
- Essex Planning Officers Association (EPOA)
- Health and Wellbeing Board, Uttlesford Local Strategic Partnership
- North Essex Economic Board, on co-operation on strategic growth issues
- Other North Essex authorities - Colchester, Maldon, Tendring

## 5.0 Sustainability Appraisal

5.1 It is important in plan making that the options we develop are tested through a Sustainability Appraisal (SA). This is a legal requirement of the plan process as set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended)<sup>4</sup>. This has taken place in accordance with planning practice guidance<sup>5</sup> and alongside the preparation of the plan. The SA has helped to identify reasonable alternatives and refined the preferred options and informed the development of the plan, as a whole. To ensure credibility and robustness of the process, the SA was carried out by independent consultants.

## 6.0 Strategic Issues, challenges and opportunities

6.1 We have identified several cross-boundary challenges and opportunities through the review of relevant plans and strategies, previous consultations, and ongoing engagement with our neighbouring authorities and prescribed bodies. These are summarised below:

### *Housing*

6.2 We need to follow a robust approach to meet the local housing needs of Uttlesford now and in the future, including a diverse range of affordable housing needs. However, it is noted that after discussions, there is currently no requirement to meet any needs arising from neighbouring authorities in this plan period.

6.3 To ensure that the housing and employment development and accompanying infrastructure we plan for recognises the importance of achieving sustainable development, including, for example, ensuring that we maximise opportunities for sustainable travel choices.

6.4 Ensure that the accommodation needs of the gypsy, traveller and travelling show people communities are planned for appropriately across the district, based on local identified need.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/5/section/19>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal>



## **Transport**

6.5 Recognise the strategic role that transport routes and infrastructure play regionally and nationally, including the M11, West Anglia Mainline rail and London Stansted Airport. Ensuring that planned growth across Uttlesford does not unduly impact on the capacity and the performance of the Strategic Road Network (SRN), or local road network, e.g., the A120 including an assessment of the impact on journey times and junction delays and suggesting what mitigation measures should be considered. (See Appendix 1 for Uttlesford's Strategic Connections).

6.6 Ensure the local transport conditions in the towns and villages have been considered when locating new development to encourage a shift in behaviour to sustainable transport modes, including the prioritisation of sustainable transport choices in the strategic allocations.

6.7 As a large rural area, Uttlesford has a fragmented network of cycle and walking routes, which will need to be improved to provide strong local and strategic networks. The walking and cycling networks need to provide connections between existing communities and to key services. Routes such as the Flitch Way and Icknield Way Trail provide long distance connections out of the district and require enhancement. These strategic routes may cross county boundaries.

6.8 Help deliver the London Stansted Airport Airspace Modernisation Strategy<sup>6</sup> and support the redevelopment of the consented plans for the passenger terminal<sup>7</sup> (subject to consultation in late 2023), which informs how passengers and others get to and from the airport. Although not directly a transport issue but associated, is the condition of Stansted Brook to the North of the Airport, which is reported to be in bad ecological status<sup>8</sup> and is being monitored for pollutants. Other watercourses that transverse the Airport include (Pincey Brook) and The Bourne to the North of the Airport's boundary, which also need to be considered for water quality issues associated with runoff from hardstanding areas such as the Airport runways. It is therefore recognised that care needs to be taken to ensure that runoff from the runways and the highway network does not adversely affect water and ecological quality of the local environment.

## **Economy**

6.11 Help to deliver the economic objectives of the North Essex Economic Board<sup>9</sup>, which works with authorities and organisations across mid and north Essex to make the area more prosperous for all. The board helps to improve skills; support business and develop economic strategies and increase inward investment.

6.12 Ensure sufficient employment growth is allocated at strategic growth areas to complement proposed housing allocations in accordance with the identified need.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.stanstedairport.com/futureairspace/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://assets.live.dxp.magnfrastructure.com/f/73114/x/f43c8f8e47/stn-sustainable-development-plan-economy-and-surface-access-2015.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/WaterBody/GB106038040090>

<sup>9</sup> <https://neeb.org.uk/>

6.13 Consider the impact of travel to work patterns, given Uttlesford's strategic geographical location in relation to the Cambridge and the London Innovation Corridor. Rail links, the road network to the Midlands and east coast ports, and the expanding and international airport mean that goods, services and people can contribute to the local economy. Working collaboratively with organisations responsible for interconnectivity will be vital to long term prosperity and growth.

### ***Climate Change***

6.14 Ensure that developments contribute to meeting local and national Climate Change targets including those set in the council's Climate Crisis Strategy which is currently under review.<sup>10</sup>, recognising the characteristics of the district, with its dispersed settlement patterns, agrarian (cultivated land) uses and rural diversification, ecologically sensitive habitats and wildlife corridors, whose connectivity is important to complete and extend beyond the district's boundary.

6.15 Adaptation and mitigation to Climate Change is essential to ensure we safeguard existing communities and new developments and seek opportunities to create new connections for wildlife and people. This can include, but is not limited to:

- flood risk mitigation measures, including working at the river catchment scale across district boundaries. This should incorporate protection from water pollution measures from all sources, such as the airport and major highways, protected areas and landscapes
- providing strategic green and blue infrastructure (ecological networks) connecting people and wildlife to place and creating biodiversity net gain and environmental net gains
- supporting proposals for renewable energy installations subject to local safety and amenity considerations, and
- responding to the water scarcity issues locally, particularly in the protected Chalk Stream areas.

### ***Hatfield Forest***

6.16 Successfully mitigate any potential impacts on Hatfield Forest from the proposed growth in the district. It is noted that there are currently relatively limited opportunities to access areas of publicly accessible open space elsewhere in the district, away from Hatfield Forest.

### ***Essex Coast RAMS***

6.17 Continue to collect development levy fees for the Essex Coast RAMS, which offset impacts from developments in Uttlesford that may increase pressure on the coastline and its habitats on the east coast.

### ***Infrastructure***

6.18 Ensure that sufficient community infrastructure including education, health, sports, cultural and essential utilities are in place for the proposed growth across the district for the

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/climate-crisis-strategy>

plan period. For example, sports facilities with wider patronage, new secondary school; sixth form; specialist health; learning facility; and emergency services provision.

### ***Minerals and waste planning***

6.19 Minerals and waste planning is a county council function; however, the council needs to ensure that proposed development does not impede the Essex Waste and Minerals Plan's<sup>11</sup> and ensure sufficient supply of natural resources and facilities are available to accommodate the proposed level of growth.

### ***Statement of Compliance***

6.20 Any important areas of co-operation and engagement activities during the preparation of this Local Plan 2021 – 2041 e.g., issues arising, decisions taken and justification for actions, are shown by Table 1: Significant cross-boundary issues relevant to the Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan and how the Duty to Co-operate has been met.

6.21 Table 1 collates the evidence to demonstrate our Statement of Compliance for the Duty to Co-operate. It demonstrates how the issues covered in this report have been addressed, and how preferred strategic approaches and policies have been influenced by effective co-operation and joint working.

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.essex.gov.uk/planning-land-and-recycling/planning-and-development/minerals-and-waste-planning-policy/waste-local>

**Table 1: Significant cross-boundary issues relevant to Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan and how the Duty to Co-operate has been met**

Key cross-boundary issues	Evidence that has informed these issues	How the DtC has been met and how it has informed the Reg 18 Draft Local Plan 2041
<b>Housing</b>		
<p>We need to follow a robust approach to meet the local housing needs of Uttlesford now and in the future, including a diverse range of affordable housing needs. However, it is noted that after discussions, there is currently no requirement to meet any needs arising from neighbouring authorities in this plan period.</p>	<p>The housing proposals in the Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan for Consultation are based on the Local Housing Needs Assessment for Uttlesford (JG Consulting, March 2023). This identifies the objectively assessed need for the district to be 13,680 dwellings for the plan period 2021 – 2041.</p>	<p>We have liaised with our neighbouring authorities on the position of their local plans and their own objectively assessed needs.</p> <p>However, given the variety of stages that each local authority is at in bringing forward their Local Plan's and the necessity for Uttlesford, which it is noted has the most out of date local plan in the wider area, it is considered important the Plan is progressed quickly.</p> <p>There is no identified unmet housing need for Uttlesford to consider in this plan, but this will be reviewed again in the future. It is anticipated that the Plan will be reviewed quickly, within five years from adoption.</p>

		<p>The quantum of development required in Uttlesford includes a sufficient buffer to ensure the council can meet its 5-year housing land supply and meet the necessary affordable housing requirement in the district.</p> <p>The Draft Plan includes Strategic Policies setting out the quantum and distribution of housing development across the district. Other development management style policies and allocation policies pick up on affordable housing requirements, including by Proposed Strategic Allocation.</p>
<p>To ensure that the housing and employment development and accompanying infrastructure we plan for recognises the importance of achieving sustainable development, including, for example, ensuring that we maximise opportunities for sustainable travel choices.</p>	<p>The employment evidence (Iceni) sets out the demographics for the area and the various sectors and travel to work corridors. Recognition of Uttlesford's location to the Cambridge Oxford Arc is acknowledged. The Local Plan seeks to allocate 4 Strategic Employment Sites. This has also been informed by the Local Housing Needs Assessment for Uttlesford (March 2023).</p>	<p>DtC has been undertaken with ECC on employment matters. The North Essex Economic Board has a new strategy, May 2023 and the districts are looking to adopt it during October / November 2023.</p> <p>The quantum of employment proposed has been assessed against the housing need. Considering the locational requirements of strategically important locations for new</p>

		<p>development, new employment sites have been proposed for allocation that seek to meet the local need, although it is recognised that Stansted Airport, has a larger than local role, which is also addressed in the updated evidence.</p> <p>The Local Plan includes Strategic Policies setting out the quantum and distribution of employment development across the district. Other development management style policies and allocation policies pick up on specific requirements, including site requirements for any Strategic Employment Site Allocations.</p>
<p>Ensure that the accommodation needs of the gypsy, traveller and travelling show people communities are planned for appropriately across the district, based on local identified need.</p>	<p>A joint Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Show People Accommodation Needs Assessment is being prepared with ECC and is likely to be published in the near future. This will be considered to inform the next stage of plan making (Regulation 19).</p>	<p>We will continue to work with ECC and our neighbouring local authorities in the preparation of evidence and work with other county councils to understand the needs arising from elsewhere, as appropriate.</p> <p>The evidence is anticipated to show that Uttlesford's requirement for the community are reasonably low and can be addressed</p>

		<p>through good community engagement and planning. A policy will be included in the Reg 19 Plan that deals with the needs of the Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People.</p> <p>SOCG have been sought and some signed with our neighbouring local authorities and county councils and ECC to assist in working towards this objective.</p>
<b>Transport</b>		
<p>Recognise the strategic role that transport routes and infrastructure play regionally and nationally, including the M11, West Anglia Mainline rail and London Stansted Airport. Ensuring that planned growth across Uttlesford does not unduly impact on the capacity and the performance of the Strategic Road Network (SRN), or local road network, e.g., the A120 including an assessment of the impact on journey times and junction delays and suggesting what mitigation measures should be</p>	<p>Transport East have developed a Transport Strategy to 2050<sup>12</sup>. It seeks to improve connections and new infrastructure and make life better for everyone. They have 4 key priorities: To decarbonise transport; connect growing places; energise coastal and rural communities; and better connect ports and airports to provide a Global Gateway.</p> <p>The current 2011 Essex Local Transport Plan emphasises the prioritisation of sustainable travel options. A new Local Transport Plan is currently being produced and will focus on sustainable transport and the enhancement of Essex's strategic transport connectivity.</p> <p>Previous consultation responses raised concerns about congestion (i.e., queueing traffic) and issues on the road network, particularly around the junctions of the M11 and the A120.</p> <p>These issues are historical over a 20-year period or more from cumulative growth over that time. Development that has occurred in other areas</p>	<p>A number of DtC meetings have been held with National Highways in connection with the Strategic Road Network (SRN) and J8 and J9 of the M11; ECC, as the Highways Authority in connection with the local road network and Network Rail, since the withdrawal of the last Local Plan in 2020.</p> <p>The overall Spatial Strategy for Uttlesford now proposes a lower housing figure than the previous withdrawn Plan, but</p>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.transporeast.gov.uk/strategy/transport-strategy/>

<p>considered. (See Appendix 1 for Uttlesford's Strategic Connections).</p>	<p>outside of Uttlesford feeds onto the same Strategic Road Network exasperating the issues. Similar issues affect the rail network. These challenges will not be able to be overcome quickly or through one Local Plan period or indeed at one district council level.</p> <p>The transport modelling that Uttlesford has undertaken as part of its evidence base will consider and assess these cumulative factors.</p>	<p>nevertheless, existing impacts on the road network are still recognised and mitigation measures will be required to ensure that existing issues on the network are not made any worse and where possible improved.</p> <p>Strategic policies and Proposed Strategic Allocations will incorporate mitigation requirements to ensure that as many opportunities are provided for sustainable and active modes of travel for existing and new residents and businesses as possible. This modal shift away from the car to alternative modes of travel will have multiple benefits for people, the environment and the places in which people live and work and is vital to the success of the reduction and easement on the SRN.</p> <p>SOCG are in preparation with National Highways and Network Rail, as the time of writing, to assist in working towards these objectives and MoU with any relevant landowners and developers of</p>
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		Proposed Strategic Allocations will follow in due course.
<p>Ensure the local transport conditions in the towns and villages have been considered when locating new development to encourage a shift in behaviour to sustainable transport modes, including the prioritisation of sustainable transport choices in the strategic allocations.</p>	<p>The council has commissioned several studies and detailed transport modelling to assess the impact of the growth on the transport network in the district and how sustainable transport options in the district can be strengthened. This evidence base has informed the development of the Spatial Strategy and Site Selection Options as an iterative process.</p> <p>The transport modelling evidence (Sept 2023) highlights that there will be an increase of traffic across the network, however, impacts can be somewhat mitigated by encouraging, and facilitating, the shift to more sustainable modes of transport in existing communities and in any proposed strategic allocations.</p> <p>The council have commissioned a study to consider how sustainable transport can be improved along the A120 corridor including, improving new routes and services from the growth settlements to key destinations, such as Stansted Airport. This, with possible further modelling, will help refine the Local Plan as it progresses from Regulation 18 Draft Plan Stage to Submission.</p>	<p>Several DtC meetings have been held with ECC, National Highways as highway and transport Authorities and Stansted Airport (Manchester Airport Group - MAG) since the withdrawal of the last Local Plan in 2020.</p> <p>ECC and National Highways have been fully involved in the production of the transport modelling and have received drafts (for comment) of all modelling methodology and output reports.</p> <p>UDC and ECC have jointly commissioned the A120 corridor study, and the outputs of this study have informed the policies in the South Area Strategy.</p> <p>The Local Plan includes Strategic Transport Policies and development management policies, including for proposed strategic allocations that reflect the strategic transport</p>

		<p>needs of the district. These include consideration for cross boundary impacts on adjoining local road networks, rail and bus services. Such provisions may include junction improvements or other traffic management options.</p> <p>SOCG are in preparation with ECC, National Highways and MAG to assist in working towards these objectives. MoU with relevant landowners and developers of proposed strategic allocations will follow in due course.</p>
<p>As a large rural area, Uttlesford has a fragmented network of cycle and walking routes, which will need to be improved to provide strong local and strategic networks. The walking and cycling networks need to provide connections between existing communities and to key services. Routes such as the Fritch Way and Icknield Way Trail provide long distance connections out of the district and require enhancement. These strategic routes may cross county boundaries.</p>	<p>UDC have commissioned a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) working in close partnership with ECC, which will inform how cycling and walking infrastructure can be provided and enhanced across Uttlesford.</p> <p>Previous consultation responses and GIS data show that the network of public rights of way are not satisfactory and not well connected.</p> <p>The current 2011 Essex Local Transport Plan emphasises the delivery of active travel options and highlights the importance of the maintenance of the network. A new Local Transport Plan is currently being produced.</p> <p>The ECC Green Infrastructure Strategy 2020 and GI Standards 2022 are in line with Natural England guidance and national policy and set out a vision and key objectives for protecting; improving; creating; and connecting Green Infrastructure and increasing inclusivity;</p>	<p>Several DtC meetings have been held with ECC as the Highways Authority in connection with active modes of travel around the district, including with the Green Infrastructure Team and the Local Nature Partnership, since the withdrawal of the last Local Plan in 2020.</p> <p>The Local Plan proposes development in the top tier settlements of the district and therefore considered the most suitable settlements. These</p>

	<p>promoting health for people and working with partners on sustainability.</p> <p>Uttlesford has developed a Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy to accompany the Local Plan. This is in line with the Essex Green Infrastructure Strategy and provides a foundation on which proposed allocations can establish masterplans for the type of green and blue infrastructure that is needed and where within development sites and what might be appropriate where, as offset schemes. It also sets the evidence for a Strategic Green Infrastructure Policy and development management policies.</p>	<p>locations will encourage a shift to more sustainable transport use and provide the best opportunity for people to make better choices about how they choose to move for those shorter journey's, by walking and cycling more. In addition to providing better access by active modes to sustainable transport hubs to encourage a modal shift for longer journeys. Strategic allocations will seek to connect proposed cycle and walking routes with existing local and strategic networks, including across district and county boundaries.</p> <p>SOCG are in preparation with ECC and the LNP and MoU with developers and landowners on individual proposed strategic allocations will follow in due course, to assist in meeting these objectives.</p>
<p>Help deliver the London Stansted Airport Airspace Modernisation Strategy<sup>13</sup> and support the redevelopment of the consented plans for the</p>	<p>Stansted Airport is London's third largest airport and the UK's fourth largest and is in the south of Uttlesford. It is a major employer for the area and generates a lot of economic value locally and to the wider region. There is existing planning consent on site for various planning permissions to be undertaken and the Local Plan needs to enable these</p>	<p>DtC meetings have been held regularly with Manchester Airport Group (MAG) (owners of London Stansted Airport) since the withdrawal of the</p>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.stanstedairport.com/futureairspace/>

<p>passenger terminal<sup>14</sup> (subject to consultation in late 2023), which informs how passengers and others get to and from the airport. Although not directly a transport issue but associated, is the condition of Stansted Brook to the North of the Airport, which is reported to be in bad ecological status<sup>15</sup> and is being monitored for pollutants. Other watercourses that transverse the Airport include (Pincey Brook) and The Bourne to the North of the Airport's boundary, which also need to be considered for water quality issues associated with runoff from hardstanding areas such as the Airport runways. It is therefore recognised that care needs to be taken to ensure that runoff from the runways and the highway network does not adversely affect water and ecological quality of the local environment.</p>	<p>to continue whilst ensuring the safety and well-being of residents and the natural environment.</p> <p>The primary strategies of relevance at the airport is the sustainable development plan and surface access strategy<sup>16</sup>, which is due to be updated in late 2023. This sets out aspects that planning proposals in the Local Plan will be required to adhere to.</p>	<p>previous Local Plan in 2020. Engagement with the Environment Agency (EA) on pollution matters is also being enacted.</p> <p>The Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan includes a policy regarding noise (Core Policy 44) and Stansted Airport Countryside Protection Zone (Core Policy 12). Proposed strategic allocations are not allocated in areas that are sensitive to issues regarding the airport.</p> <p>Where possible, local plan policies and proposed strategic allocations are seeking to include sustainable and active modes of travel linkages to and from the airport to improve routes for those that work at the airport and may travel from there from the local area.</p> <p>Improvements in air and water quality from surface water runoff is hoped to be</p>
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<sup>14</sup> <https://assets.live.dxp.magnfrastructure.com/f/73114/x/f43c8f8e47/stn-sustainable-development-plan-economy-and-surface-access-2015.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/WaterBody/GB106038040090>

<sup>16</sup> <https://assets.live.dxp.magnfrastructure.com/f/73114/x/f43c8f8e47/stn-sustainable-development-plan-economy-and-surface-access-2015.pdf>

		<p>achieved through joint working to improve the quality of local watercourses and the general local environment.</p> <p>SOCG are in preparation with MAG and the EA, and MoU with landowners and developers of relevant proposed strategic allocations will follow in due course to assist in meeting these objectives.</p>
<b>Economy</b>		
<p>Help to deliver the economic objectives of the North Essex Economic Board<sup>17</sup>, which works with authorities and organisations across mid and north Essex to make the area more prosperous for all. The board helps to improve skills; support business and develop economic strategies and increase inward investment.</p>	<p>The employment evidence sets out the demographics for the area and the various sectors. It identifies Uttlesford's research and development need to be 27.7ha and industrial development need as 52.2ha for the plan period up until 2041.</p> <p>The Local Plan seeks to allocate five Strategic Employment Sites. These are in the most suitable locations in accordance with the updated Economic Needs Assessment for Uttlesford and should contribute to the North Essex Economic Board objective to increase prosperity, skills, support business and increase inward investment.</p>	<p>DtC meetings have been held with ECC, North Essex Economic Board (NEEB) and relevant landowners and developers since the withdrawal of the previous local plan in 2020.</p> <p>The Local Plan includes Strategic Employment Allocations in sustainable locations to meet the needs of the local area whilst also recognising the wider regional connections.</p> <p>A combination of proposed strategic allocations seeks to</p>

<sup>17</sup> <https://neeb.org.uk/>

		<p>provide a total of 54.3ha of strategic employment land.</p> <p>Other employment policies that promote development at existing employment sites include:</p> <p>Core Policy 45: Protection of Existing Employment Space</p> <p>Core Policy 46: Development at Allocated Employment Sites</p> <p>Core Policy 47: Ancillary Uses on Existing or Allocated Employment Sites</p> <p>Core Policy 49 Employment and Training</p> <p>SOCG have been sought with ECC and NEEB, and MoU with relevant landowners and developers will follow in due course, to assist in meeting this objective.</p>
<p>Ensure sufficient employment growth is allocated in accordance with the updated evidence and to complement proposed housing allocations.</p>	<p>The employment evidence identifies the quantum of development that is required across the district (33ha of employment land) up until 2041 and that has been informed by the Local Housing Needs Assessment for Uttlesford (March 2023). This ensures that the level of strategic employment growth is proportionate to local need. In addition, regard has been given to the regional context given Uttlesford's context with Cambridge and London, as set out by the North Essex Economic Board</p>	<p>DtC meetings have been held with our neighbouring local authorities, county councils, ECC and North Essex Economic Board (NEEB), and relevant landowners and developers since the</p>

	<p>and therefore the economic growth potential and housing demand likely to result from it.</p>	<p>withdrawal of the previous local plan in 2020.</p> <p>The Local Plan includes Strategic Employment Allocations in suitable locations to meet the needs of the local area. These include:</p> <p>Strategic Employment Allocations at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saffron Walden</li> <li>• Between Takeley and Great DunmowTakeley</li> <li>• Gaunts End</li> </ul> <p>These are consistent with the spatial strategy and proposed location of Strategic Housing Allocations and other infrastructure requirements to ensure the sustainable location and effective use of land.</p> <p>SOCG have been signed with some of our neighbouring local authorities, others are in preparation, including with ECC and NEEB. MoU with relevant landowners and developers will follow in due</p>
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		course. These will all assist in meeting these objectives.
Consider the impact of travel to work patterns, given Uttlesford's strategic geographical location in relation to the Cambridge and the London Innovation Corridor. Rail links, the road network to the Midlands and east coast ports, and the expanding and international airport mean that goods, services, and people can contribute to the local economy. Working collaboratively with organisations responsible for interconnectivity will be vital to long term prosperity and growth.	<p>Travel to work patterns are considered in the employment evidence.</p> <p>The UK Innovation Corridor includes Harlow and Essex. It includes high-tech innovation centres and is a place for health innovation, academics, researchers, consultants and clinicians for prototyping, clinical trials and testing. It includes Stansted Airport and its new terminal and Great Chesterford Research Park which is an integral part of the south Cambridgeshire Biotech Cluster, an investment ready opportunity Research and Development Centre, which hosts Astra Zeneca.</p> <p>200 international destinations are covered from London Stansted and £8 billion of cargo per year. It has planning consent to serve up to 43 million passengers a year and can support new and innovative services.</p> <p>A growing range of transport links and close proximity to the M11 and A120 as well as direct trains to Cambridge and London. (Sources: <a href="https://innovationcorridor.uk/about">https://innovationcorridor.uk/about</a> <a href="https://innovationcorridor.uk/assets/pdf/Innovation%20Core%20FINAL.pdf">https://innovationcorridor.uk/assets/pdf/Innovation%20Core%20FINAL.pdf</a> )</p>	<p>DtC meetings have been held with MAG as a key landowner at Stansted Airport and as an important transport hub in the south of the district. DtC meetings with National Highways and ECC as the Highways Authority and Network Rail have taken place too.</p> <p>The Local Plan includes Strategic Transport Policies that seek to ensure delivery of the necessary infrastructure to support the proposed development in the Plan. Such as Core Policy 26 Providing for Sustainable Transport and Connectivity and Core Policy 27 Assessing the impact of Development on Transport Infrastructure.</p> <p>SOCG are in preparation with MAG, National Highways, ECC, and Network Rail to assist in meeting these objectives.</p>
The expansion of existing employment areas; creation of major new employment areas	The employment evidence sets out the demographics for the area and the various sectors. The Local Plan seeks to allocate five Strategic Employment Sites. These are in the most appropriate locations in	DtC meetings have been held with MAG in connection with employment opportunities at



<p>and policies supporting the creation of rural business centres.</p>	<p>accordance with updated evidence and should contribute to the North Essex Economic Board objective to increase prosperity, skills, support business and increase inward investment, including the objectives of the Sustainable Development Plan and Surface Access Strategy<sup>18</sup>, for Stansted Airport, which is being updated in late 2023. This sets out aspects that planning proposals in the Local Plan will be required to adhere to.</p> <p>The needs of the rural economy are also made clear in the employment evidence and criteria-based policy is proposed to support proposals in the plan period. The Proposed Employment and Housing Strategic Allocations are located such to support their rural hinterlands.</p>	<p>Stansted Airport. Discussions with relevant landowners and developers have taken place for rural development opportunities.</p> <p>Strategic Employment Sites have been allocated at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gaunts End</li> <li>• Great Dunmow</li> <li>• Saffron Walden</li> <li>• Takeley</li> </ul> <p>SOCG are in preparation with MAG and MoU with landowners and developers with follow in due course, to assist in meeting these objectives.</p>
<b>Climate Change</b>		
<p>Ensure that developments contribute to meeting local and national Climate Change targets including those set in the council's Climate Crisis Strategy which is currently under review.<sup>19</sup>, recognising the characteristics of the district, with its dispersed settlement patterns, agrarian (cultivated</p>	<p>The Climate Crisis Strategy 2021 – 2030 lays out the key themes and priorities. Those relevant to the Local Plan include, energy use, planning and development, transport, natural environment and adapting to the climate crisis. Our priorities are to reduce energy use and limit carbon emissions; make new and existing homes and buildings energy efficient; work with others to organise transport solutions; protect the natural environment; and adapt to the climate crisis.</p>	<p>DtC meetings have been held with ECC Environment and Drainage Teams, Natural England, the Environment Agency and Essex LNP. Discussions with landowners and developers have been held to incorporate these in Proposed Strategic Allocations.</p>

<sup>18</sup> <https://assets.live.dxp.maginfrastucture.com/f/73114/x/f43c8f8e47/stn-sustainable-development-plan-economy-and-surface-access-2015.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/climate-crisis-strategy>

<p>land) uses and rural diversification, ecologically sensitive habitats and wildlife corridors, whose connectivity is important to complete and extend beyond the district's boundary.</p> <p>Adaptation and mitigation to Climate Change is essential to ensure we safeguard existing communities and new developments and seek opportunities to create new connections for wildlife and people. This can include, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ flood risk mitigation measures, including working at the river catchment scale across district boundaries. This should incorporate protection from water pollution measures from all sources, such as the airport and major highways, protected areas and landscapes</li> <li>▪ providing strategic green and blue infrastructure (ecological networks) connecting people and wildlife to place and creating</li> </ul>	<p>The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (November 2021) highlights the issues around the district from all sources of flooding. Pollution records from the Environment Agency show where there are issues on some of the district rivers. The sources of contamination may derive in part from the runways of Stansted Airport and the main transport routes such as the M11 and A120. Other land uses such as agricultural land practices is also likely.</p> <p>The Uttlesford Green Infrastructure Strategy provides a framework for the Local Plan and its spatial strategy and proposed strategic allocations for site requirement specifications. It is in line with the Essex GI Strategy and both meet the requirements of Natural England guidance and national policy, including on requirements around Biodiversity Net Gain. The</p>	<p>The Local Plan includes ambitious, but achievable policies to ensure new development meets very high standards of carbon reduction and sustainable energy use, in accordance with emerging ECC policies and guidance and the Council's own evidence.</p> <p>The Local Plan contains policies on flood mitigation and adaptation such as incorporating SuDS into developments.</p> <p>A Strategic GI Policy will ensure that developments consider strategic infrastructure upfront in all development. The proposed strategic allocations are required to utilise the GI Strategy to incorporate its principles into their masterplans. Strategic allocation policies also reflect these in site requirements.</p> <p>The Local Plan includes a policy on: Net Zero Operational carbon Development (Core Policy 22)</p>
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<p>biodiversity net gain and environmental net gains</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ supporting proposals for renewable energy installations subject to local safety and amenity considerations, and</li> <li>▪ responding to the water scarcity issues locally, particularly in the protected Chalk Stream areas.</li> </ul>	<p>council is seeking to achieve a higher 20% target than the statutory 10% minimum and the evidence for this is provided by Bio-regional.</p> <p>Renewable energy when appropriately located and installed will contribute to a sustainable supply of electricity to aid the reduction in carbon emissions and provide greater energy security. This will be set out in the proposed Uttlesford Renewable Energy Strategy.</p> <p>The Uttlesford Chalk Stream evidence 2022 states that the north-eastern part of the district is drained by two chalk streams, the River Stort and River Cam, and their tributaries. Broadly defined as a river that derives most of its flow from chalk-fed groundwater, chalk streams flow from chalk aquifers, stores of underground water that are replenished when it rains.</p> <p>Balancing the needs of people and the environment is a challenge and it is getting harder due to climate change. Population growth, particularly in the south and east of England, means that more and more water is required at a time when climate change is reducing the amount of water that is available.</p> <p>One of the evidence base 9 recommendations was to – Continue to and strengthen existing partnerships with our neighbouring authorities and other stakeholders to define coordinated policies for chalk stream protection.</p>	<p>Renewable Energy Infrastructure (Core Policy 25)  Water Supply and Protection of water Resources (Core policy 34)  Chalk Streams Protection and Enhancement (Core Policy 35)  Flood Risk (Policy 36)  Sustainable Urban Drainage (Core Policy 37)  Green and Blue Infrastructure (Core Policy 39)  Biodiversity (Core Policy 40)</p> <p>SOCG are in preparation with ECC, the EA and Essex LNP, and MoU with landowners and developers will follow in due course. These will assist in meeting these objectives.</p>
<p><b>Hatfield Forest</b></p>		
<p>Successfully mitigate any potential impacts on Hatfield Forest from the proposed growth in the district. It is noted that there are currently relatively limited opportunities to access areas of publicly accessible open space elsewhere in the</p>	<p>Communications from Natural England represent evidence regarding Hatfield Forest. The letter dated 5 April 2019 sets out the aspects local plans should consider regarding recreational pressure on Hatfield Forest.</p> <p>Hatfield Forest is both a SSSI and NNR, supporting an ancient forest mosaic of wood pasture, coppice, old grassland plains and wetlands, that collectively support grassland, woodland, wetland habitat features and notable assemblages of veteran trees, invertebrates, fungi, lichen and breeding birds. <a href="https://www.placeservices.co.uk/projects/hatfield-">https://www.placeservices.co.uk/projects/hatfield-</a></p>	<p>DtC meetings have been held with NE, National Trust (as landowner) and the neighbouring authorities within the Hatfield Forest Zone of Influence.</p> <p>The Local Plan has a policy ensuring that developments</p>

<p>district, away from Hatfield Forest.</p>	<p><a href="#">forestconservation-management-plan/</a> ). The site is owned and managed by the National Trust.</p> <p>Footprint Ecology carried out a visitor survey to understand the recreational pressures on Hatfield Forest, to better understand their activities within the Forest, and importantly where visitors originate.</p> <p>A Zone of Influence from the boundary of the SSSI/NNR has been determined at 14.6km within which future developments will be expected to financially contribute towards recreational pressure at the Forest, to ensure that a package of mitigation measures is able to be brought forward.</p>	<p>contribute a levy, should they fall within the Zone of Influence.</p> <p>UDC are also ensuring that alternative green space in accordance with NE ANGST guidance are available, including via the proposed allocation of a new Country Park(s) and enhancement of existing ones, such as the Flitch Way. All developments will have to include GI principles in line with the Uttlesford GI Strategy too.</p> <p>SOCG are in preparation with NE, the National Trust, and our neighbouring local planning authorities, some of which have been signed and MOU with landowners and developers of strategic allocations will follow in due course. These will assist in meeting these objectives.</p>
<p><b>Essex Coast RAMS</b></p>		
<p>Continue to collect development levy fees for the Essex Coast RAMS, which offset impacts from developments in Uttlesford that may increase pressure on</p>	<p>UDC adopted the Essex Coast Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), May 2020 on 9 September 2020.</p>	<p>DtC meetings have been held with the Essex Coast RAMS Group, which include NE.</p> <p>Core Policy 38 in the Local Plan ensures that developer</p>

<p>the coastline and its habitats on the east coast.</p>	<p>The RAMS SPD focuses on the mitigation that is necessary to protect the wildlife of the Essex Coast from the increased visitor pressure associated with new residential development in-combination with other plans and projects, and how this mitigation will be funded. The RAMS SPD sets out the guidance to be followed in the determination of planning applications and formalises the arrangements for securing the developer contributions for new qualifying residential development.</p> <p>The Local Plan will have an HRA to support its preparation. However, it is already assumed that the existing arrangements in place for the Essex Coast RAMS will remain and a policy included in the Local Plan to ensure future developments meet with the requirements.</p>	<p>contributions are secured for those schemes that may impact on the Essex Coast RAMS.</p> <p>SOCG are being prepared with each of our neighbouring local authorities and county councils, and Natural England that are in partnership with the Essex Coast RAMS Group, to assist in meeting these objectives.</p>
<p><b>Infrastructure</b></p>		
<p>Ensure that sufficient community infrastructure including education, health, sports, cultural and essential utilities are in place for the proposed growth across the district for the plan period. For example, sports facilities with wider patronage, new secondary school; sixth form; specialist health; learning facility; and emergency services provision.</p>	<p>Through continual engagement with ECC the main infrastructure requirements of the plan have been considered as the plan has developed over time, particularly for education and health needs in conjunction with the quantum of housing need. Individual Strategic Proposed Allocations have been discussed, as and where necessary with key stakeholders where significant infrastructure requirements such as a new school might be required to deliver the level of growth proposed. This has helped to determine the best position of the facility and who it would serve in the community or wider area, as may be relevant. This is also the case for emergency services and utility provision ensuring that the necessary infrastructure is provided in the right place to meet the requirements of existing and new residents and communities.</p> <p>In addition, the council have evidence on indoor leisure facilities and open space requirements (outdoor sports pitches will follow for submission stage).</p>	<p>DtC meetings have been held with ECC, the health board and utility companies, including Affinity Water, Thames Water and Anglian Water. Discussions with landowners and developers have also taken place.</p> <p>The Local Plan has a Core Policy 5 Providing Supporting Infrastructure and Services, but also specific policies on:</p> <p>Planning for Health – Core Policy 66, and Open space, Sport and Recreation - Core Policy 67.</p>

		<p>SOCG are in preparation with ECC, the health board, and Affinity Water, and SOCG have been signed by Anglian Water and Thames Water, at the time of writing. MoU with relevant landowners and developers will follow in due course. These will assist in meeting these objectives.</p>
<p><b>Minerals and waste planning</b></p>		
<p>Minerals and waste planning is a county council function; however, the council needs to ensure that proposed development does not impede the Essex Waste and Minerals Plan's<sup>20</sup> and ensure sufficient supply of natural resources and facilities are available to accommodate the proposed level of growth.</p>	<p>The Essex Minerals and Waste Plans provide details of where mineral safeguarding sites and recycling facilities etc., are. The spatial strategy and Proposed Strategic Allocations have taken these into consideration.</p> <p>Policies in the Local Plan will address the requirement for construction materials to be recycled and sourced from a local supplier and meet with the necessary environmental standards, as set out in the Essex Minerals and Waste Plans.</p>	<p>DtC meetings have been held with ECC Waste and Minerals Team and Hertfordshire County Council (HCC).</p> <p>Discussions have included sharing the quantum of growth proposed to ensure ECC and HCC where comfortable with the supply and demand of natural resources.</p> <p>SOCG are in preparation with ECC and Herts County Council at the time of writing and will assist in meeting these objectives.</p>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.essex.gov.uk/planning-land-and-recycling/planning-and-development/minerals-and-waste-planning-policy/waste-local>

## 7.0 Conclusion

7.1 This topic paper summarises the steps that UDC have taken in preparing the Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan for Consultation to meet the requirements of the Duty to Co-Operate. The content of the Local Plan has been informed by the plans of neighbouring authorities and other key stakeholders, where relevant, responses to previous consultations, and on-going engagement since the withdrawal of the previous local plan in 2020.

7.2 The topic paper has identified a few areas where the Local Plan content up until 2041 seeks to address cross-boundary issues. It also highlights the challenges and opportunities which the council will seek to address through joint working with our neighbours and other prescribed bodies.

7.3 Any options we have considered for individual policies discussed in this paper have been covered in more detail in other specific topic papers in greater detail, which also support the Local Plan.

7.4 The key additions or changes to the Local Plan 2021 – 2041 that address the identified cross-boundary matters are set out in Section 6. However, the highlights are listed below:

7.5 A commitment to continue to work cooperatively with:

- ECC and National Highways on important infrastructure needs to meet the development needs of the district.
- ECC on education provision across the district
- ECC and Essex LNP on the Uttlesford Green Infrastructure Strategy
- NE and all relevant neighbouring authorities on Hatfield Forest Site of Special Scientific Interest / National Nature Reserve
- NE and all relevant neighbouring authorities on the Essex Coast RAMS
- The Environment Agency on Flood Risk and other pollution and environmental issues
- MAG regarding Stansted Airport

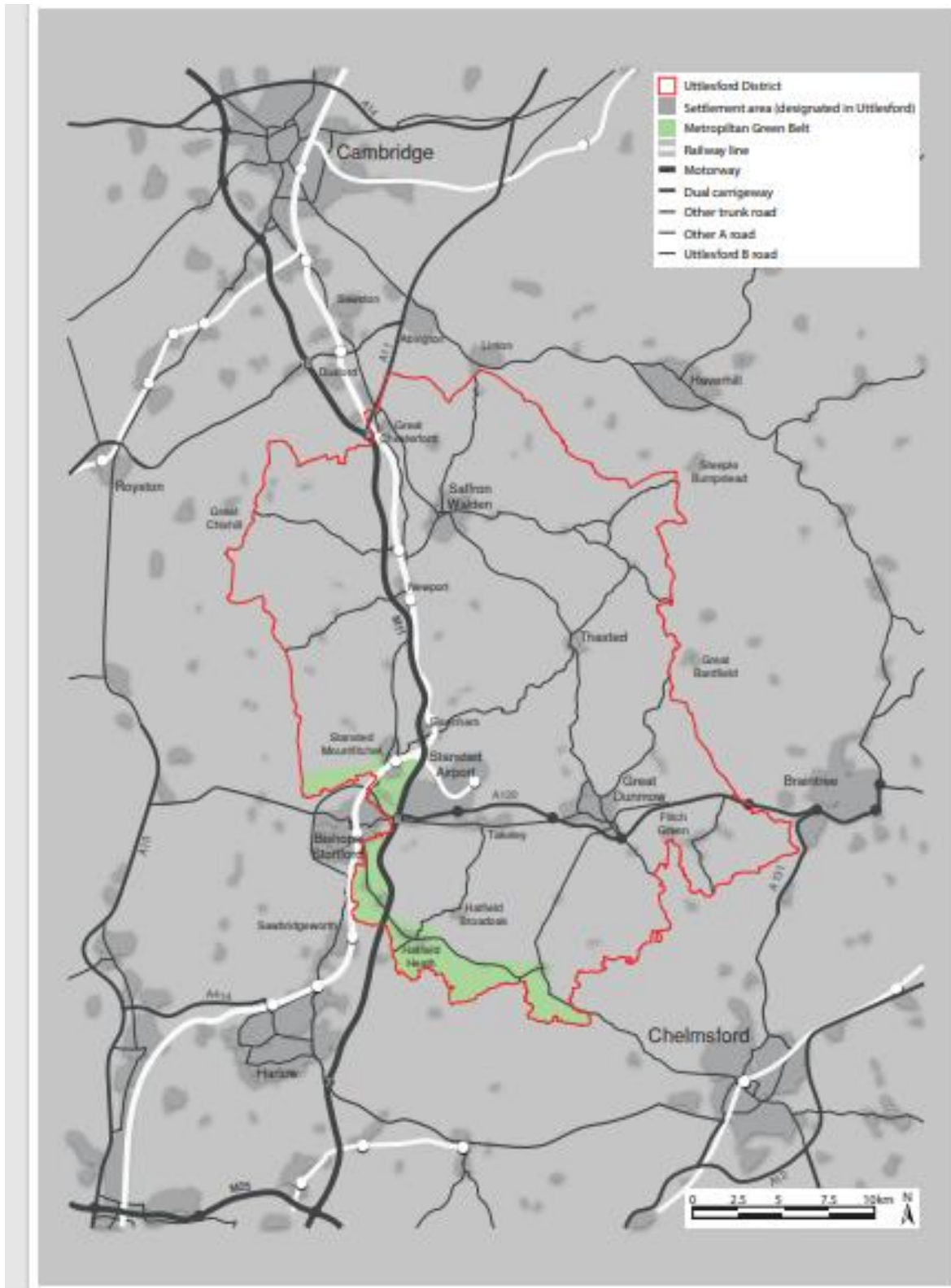
7.6 The Local Plan itself will be an important element of the council's duty to co-operate and may lead to further cross-boundary issues over the plan period.

7.7 UDC will continue to engage with its neighbouring authorities and other prescribed bodies, in a constructive and on an on-going basis to identify and address cross-boundary issues. This will assist in ensuring that liaison with these bodies will remain fully embedded within the plan-making process.

7.8 The council will continue to work with its developers and landowners on MOU to assist in demonstrating proposed strategic allocations are deliverable.

## Appendices

### Appendix 1: Uttlesford's Strategic Connections





## Appendix 2: Statement of Common Ground

The council have currently got seven signed Statements of Common Ground and these are set out below in Appendix 2 SOCG 1 to 7.

SOCG 1: UDC SOCG with Anglian Water October 2023

SOCG 2: UDC SOCG with Chelmsford City Council October 2023

SOCG 3: UDC SOCG with East Hertfordshire District Council October 2023

SOCG 4: UDC SOCG with Epping Forest District Council October 2023

SOCG 5: UDC SOCG with Historic England October 2023

SOCG 6: UDC SOCG with Sport England October 2023

SOCG 7: UDC SOCG with Thames Water October 2023

Others are in preparation and will be made available on the council's website in due course. These include UDC SOCG with:

- Affinity Water
- Braintree District Council
- Cambridge City Council
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Essex County Council
- Environment Agency
- Essex Local Nature Partnership
- Harlow District Council
- Hertfordshire County Council
- Manchester Airport Group
- National Highways
- The national Trust
- Natural England
- Network Rail
- North Essex Economic Board
- The NHS Hertfordshire and West Essex ICB
- North Hertfordshire District Council
- South Cambridge District Council



**Uttlesford  
District  
Council**

**Statement of Common  
Ground**

**With**

**Anglian Water**

**October  
2023**

## Statement of Common Ground

1. List of Parties involved
2. Signatories
3. Introduction
4. Strategic matters
5. Governance arrangements
6. Timetable for review and ongoing cooperation

### 1. List of Parties involved:

Anglian Water  
Uttlesford District Council

### 2. Signatories:

Anglian Water  
Phil Jones  
Growth Strategy Manager

Signature:   
Date: 18/10/2023

Uttlesford District Council  
Andrew Maxted  
Planning Policy Manager

  
Signature:

Date: 18/10/2023

### 3. Introduction:

Uttlesford District Council has started the process of developing a new Local Plan for the district, which will replace the existing Adopted Local Plan 2005. We are at the Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan stage, which sets out the Council's emerging preferred Spatial Strategy for consultation.

The Plan makes provision for at least 14,377 new homes to be delivered during the plan period (2021 to 2041). This reflects the Objectively Assessed Need for Housing for Uttlesford District up to 2041 as identified in the updated Local Housing Need Assessment (JG Consulting, March 2023), which is 14,377 new homes. Therefore, we are meeting the requirement in full, with extra headroom, to provide greater Plan resilience and flexibility,

and to help ensure the Plan can achieve and maintain a five-year housing land supply, as required by national policy. It means that Uttlesford do not need to ask any of its neighbouring authorities to take any of its housing requirements, as it can meet its own needs.

Over the plan period, the land requirement for office development is 21.7ha and industrial development, 52.2ha. To meet this requirement a further 21.7ha is needed for office development and 25-30ha is needed for industrial development beyond known completions and commitments (figures correct as of 11th September 2023). A total of 54.5ha of employment land is identified for future development in the local plan on proposed strategic allocations.

SOCG set out how strategic matters or issues of a common nature between a local authority and a statutory body or organisation are being addressed and progressed throughout the plan-making process to provide transparency, and wherever possible, show where parties are working towards areas of agreement.

See Appendix A for maps of the district and it in context with its neighbouring districts and county councils.

#### **4. Strategic Matters**

The strategic matter of interest to Anglian Water relates to their role as statutory sewerage undertaker within the district, taking account of the location and scale of proposed growth across the Plan period. Including how this relates to other plans and strategies they engage with as a statutory consultee including: other Local Plans, Minerals & Waste Plans and Neighbourhood Plans; and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects brought forward by third parties in our region. Anglian Water seeks to liaise with the responsible authorities to influence sustainable growth across the region including resilience to the challenges of climate change, and wider environmental opportunities identified through Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

##### **Sewerage Infrastructure Matters**

The council will look to collaborate with Anglian Water to ensure that appropriate measures are put in place to manage and mitigate any impact from new development, including the provision of new sewerage infrastructure and connections to ensure provision across the district. We will seek feedback from Anglian Water on the capacity of existing sewerage infrastructure, whilst keeping them up to date about the status of our proposed allocations. This will support the next iteration of the Anglian Water Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan and future investments to support growth, where it is needed.

No other strategic issues have been identified between Anglian Water and UDC at this stage. This has been confirmed via email (October 2023) and an agreement to draw up this SOCG to that effect. Anglian Water will be consulted on the Regulation 18 Draft Plan Consultation document and subsequent versions of the Plan where their comments will be considered and any future strategic cross boundary matters raised by Anglian Water will be reconsidered, as might be necessary.

## **5. Governance Arrangements**

Meetings have been held with Anglian Water throughout the preparation of the Local Plan up until Regulation 18 Draft Plan Consultation at an Officer, Policy Manager and Director level, as necessary. Decisions on this SOCG have been managed and agreed by email, as it was agreed there are no strategic matters at this stage that required further Duty to Cooperate meetings, but on-going co-operation would be required.

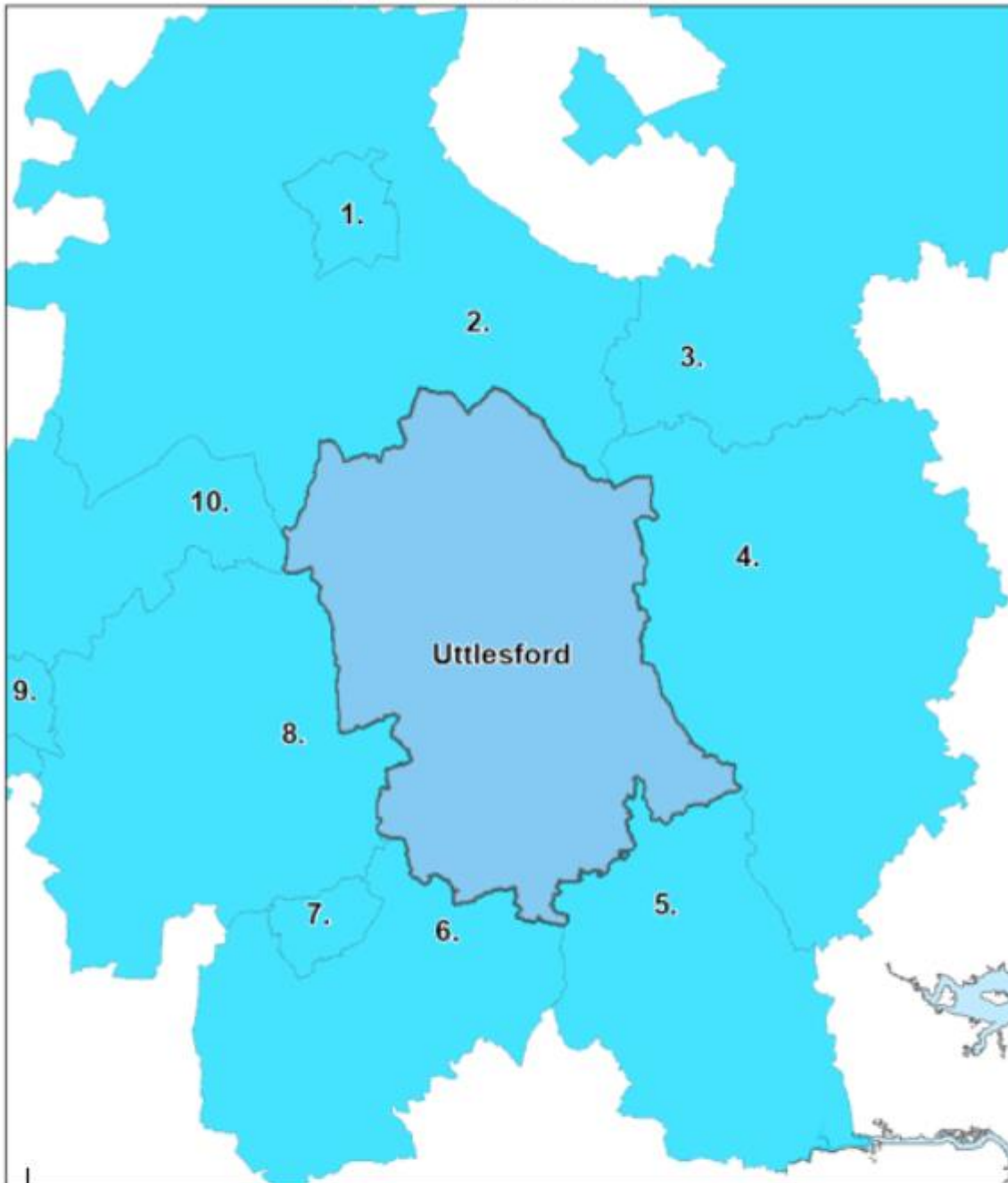
## **6. Timetable for review and ongoing cooperation**

The SOCG will be reviewed prior to Regulation 19 and the Plan Submission. The council will also keep Anglian Water up to date throughout the Examination in Public process, as may be necessary and inform them of the outcome of the Inspectors decision and the council's decision on the Adoption of the plan.

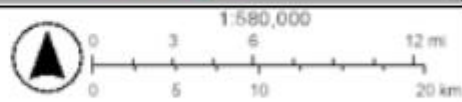
Once the Plan is adopted, we will continue regular on-going engagement with Anglian Water (at least annually) in connection with the Plan's 5-year review. That process will however commence swiftly upon the Plan's adoption and not wait until 5 years have passed.

## Appendix A: Map 1: Uttlesford and its neighbouring local authorities

### Neighbouring Authorities



Key	
1.	Cambridge City Council
2.	South Cambridgeshire District Council
3.	West Suffolk District Council
4.	Braintree District Council
5.	Chelmsford City Council
6.	Epping Forest District Council
7.	Harlow Council
8.	East Herts District Council
9.	Stevenage Borough Council
10.	North Herts District Council



Enr, CGWR, USGS, Enr UK, Enr, HERE, Garmin, Foursquare, FAO, METV  
 NASA, USGS

Uttlesford District Council

**Map 2: Uttlesford District in context with its neighbouring County Councils**





**Uttlesford  
District  
Council**

**Statement of Common  
Ground**

**With**

**Chelmsford City Council**

**October  
2023**



## Statement of Common Ground

1. List of Parties involved
2. Signatories
3. Introduction
4. Strategic matters
5. Governance arrangements
6. Timetable for review and ongoing cooperation

### 1. List of Parties involved:

Chelmsford City Council  
Uttlesford District Council

### 2. Signatories:

Chelmsford City Council  
Jeremy Potter  
Spatial Planning Services Manager

**Signature:**



**Date: 16.10.23**

Uttlesford District Council  
Andrew Maxted  
Planning Policy Manager



**Signature:**

**Date: 17/10/2023**

### 3. Introduction:

Uttlesford District Council (UDC) has started the process of developing a new Uttlesford Local Plan for the district, which will replace the existing Adopted Local Plan 2005. We are at the Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan stage, which sets out the Council's emerging preferred Spatial Strategy for consultation.

The Uttlesford Local Plan makes provision for at least 14,377 new homes to be delivered during the plan period (2021 to 2041). This reflects the Objectively Assessed Need for

Housing for Uttlesford District up to 2041 as identified in the updated Local Housing Need Assessment (JG Consulting, March 2023), which is 14,377 new homes. Therefore, we are meeting the requirement in full, with extra headroom, to provide greater Plan resilience and flexibility, and to help ensure the Plan can achieve and maintain a five-year housing land supply, as required by national policy. It means that Uttlesford does not need to ask any of its neighbouring authorities to take any of its housing requirements, as it can meet its own needs.

Over the plan period, the land requirement for office development is 21.7ha and industrial development, 52.2ha. To meet this requirement a further 21.7ha is needed for office development and 25-30ha is needed for industrial development beyond known completions and commitments (figures correct as of 11th September 2023). A total of 54.5ha of employment land is identified for future development in the Uttlesford local plan on proposed strategic allocations.

SOCG set out how strategic matters or issues of a common nature between a local authority and a statutory body or organisation are being addressed and progressed throughout the plan-making process to provide transparency, and wherever possible, show where parties are working towards areas of agreement.

See Appendix A for maps of the district and it in context with its neighbouring districts and county councils.

#### **4. Strategic Matters**

The strategic matters of interest to Chelmsford City Council are housing; employment; transport; education; Gypsy, Traveller's and Travelling Showpeople; Hatfield Forest; Essex Coast RAMS

Working collaboratively over the development of the plan making process these issues are not considered at this stage to cause any cross-boundary concerns for plan making purposes. These are discussed below.

##### **Housing**

Housing is covered in the introduction above. Uttlesford does not need to ask any of its neighbouring authorities to take any of its housing requirements in the emerging Uttlesford Local Plan, as it can meet its own needs. A review of the adopted Chelmsford Local Plan (May 2020) is underway. An Issues and Options Regulation 18 consultation was completed in 2022 and a further Regulation 18 Preferred Options consultation is planned for early 2024. Both authorities will continue to engage on housing numbers throughout the preparation of their Local Plans, and throughout the plan making process.

##### **Employment**

The scale of development proposed in the Uttlesford Local Plan is set to meet local employment needs and identified to be provided in the most sustainable accessible locations by air, road, rail and sustainable and active modes of travel in accordance with the updated evidence, including supporting the planned expansion of Chesterford Research Park.

## **Transport and education**

Transport and education wise, are matters which are largely being addressed working collaboratively with National Highways and Essex County Council (ECC) as the Highways and Education Authority. The Uttlesford Local Plan aims to ensure that appropriate measures are put in place to manage and mitigate any impact from new development on the strategic and local highway network and ensuring adequate education provision in the district.

Junction improvements, sustainable transport, promoting active modes of travel, and providing proposed schooling in the Uttlesford Local Plan will help meet the needs of proposed growth. However, it is noted that existing shortfalls may exist from under investment from previous developments over the years. Wherever possible, new infrastructure provision will attempt to close this gap.

## **Gypsy, Traveller's and Travelling Showpeople**

The council is committed to continue to work with ECC and its neighbouring authorities on a joint evidence base to establish the local need for the community. This evidence is currently not available but will inform the Regulation 19 Uttlesford Local Plan.

## **Hatfield Forest**

UDC will work with ECC and others on matters affecting Hatfield Forest, including recreational pressure and remedial measures to mitigate impacts from development in the new Uttlesford Local Plan. UDC will also be the lead council to receive financial contributions from other councils within the Hatfield Forest Zone of Influence (See Appendix B, Map 3) and be the administrator for the project.

## **Essex Coast RAMS**

UDC will continue to work with ECC and others on the Essex Coast RAMS. The new Uttlesford Local Plan has a policy covering the issue and levy required of developments affected by the designation and a process is in place for receiving payments and making transfers to Chelmsford City Council. This will continue. (See Appendix C, Map 4)

No other strategic issues have been identified between Chelmsford City Council and UDC. This has been confirmed via email in October 2023 and the agreement to draw up this SOCG to that effect. Chelmsford City Council will be given the opportunity to comment on the Regulation 18 Draft Plan Consultation document and subsequent versions of the Uttlesford Local Plan where their comments will be considered and any future strategic cross boundary matters reconsidered, as might be necessary.

## **5. Governance Arrangements**

Appropriate Duty to Co-operate engagement has taken place between Uttlesford District Council and Chelmsford City Council on their respective Local Plan making activities to date. Decisions on this SOCG have been managed and agreed by email and it was agreed there are no strategic matters at this stage that require further Duty to Cooperate meetings. But on-going co-operation would be required.

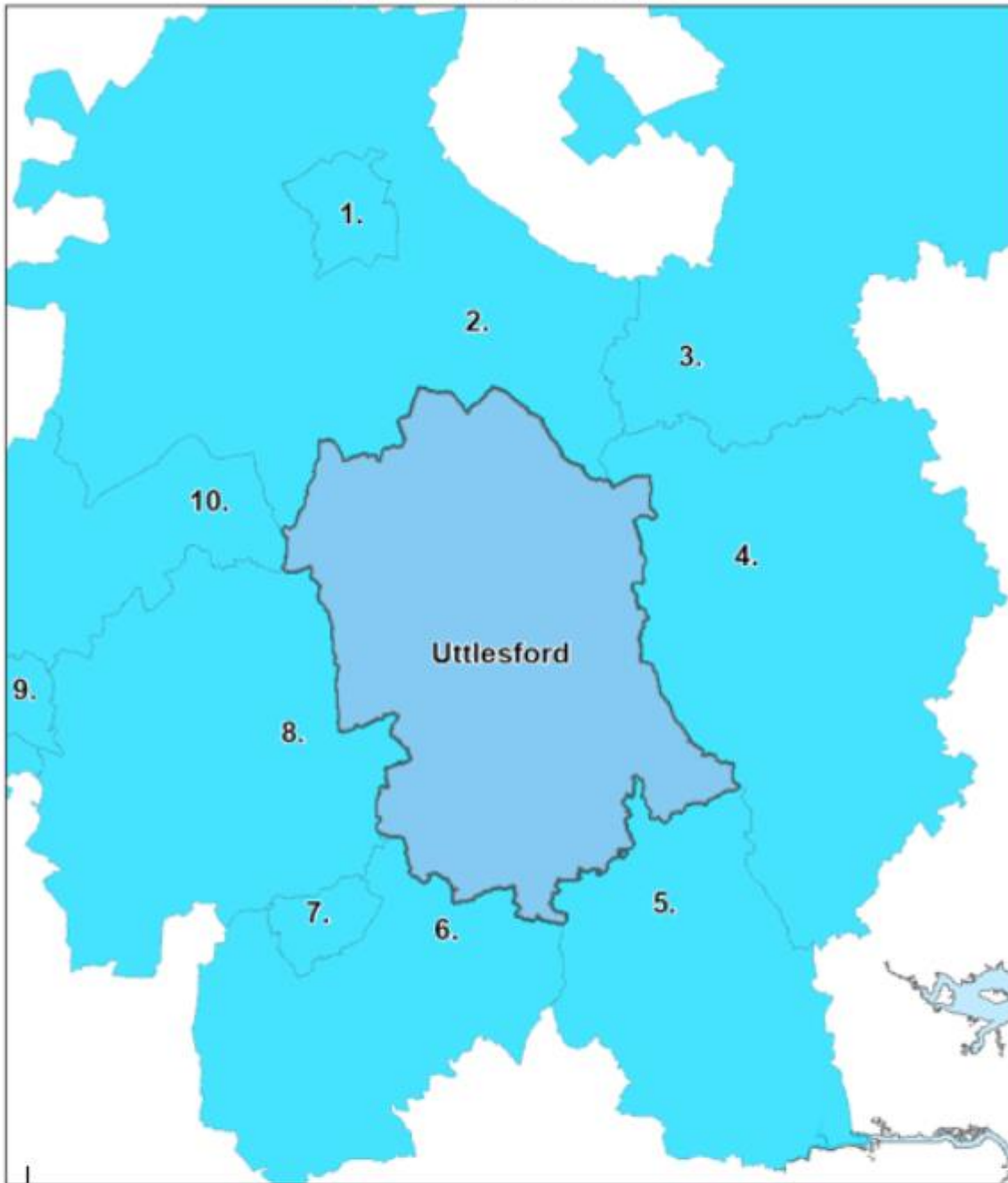
## **6. Timetable for review and ongoing cooperation**

The SOCG will be reviewed prior to Regulation 19 and the Plan Submission, where appropriate. UDC will also keep Chelmsford City Council up to date throughout the Examination in Public process, as may be necessary, and inform them of the outcome of the Inspectors decision and the council's decision on the Adoption of the Uttlesford Local Plan.

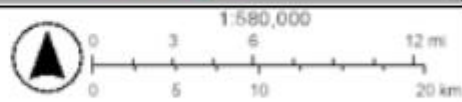
Once the Uttlesford Local Plan is adopted, we will continue regular on-going engagement with Chelmsford City Council (at least annually) in connection with the Plan's 5-year review. That process will however commence swiftly upon the Plans adoption and not wait until 5 years have passed.

**Appendix A: Map 1: Uttlesford and its neighbouring local authorities**

**Neighbouring Authorities**



Key	
1.	Cambridge City Council
2.	South Cambridgeshire District Council
3.	West Suffolk District Council
4.	Braintree District Council
5.	Chelmsford City Council
6.	Epping Forest District Council
7.	Harlow Council
8.	East Herts District Council
9.	Stevenage Borough Council
10.	North Herts District Council



Esri, DeLorme, USGS, Esri UK, Esri, HERE, Garmin, Frigoire, FAO, METI, NASA, USGS

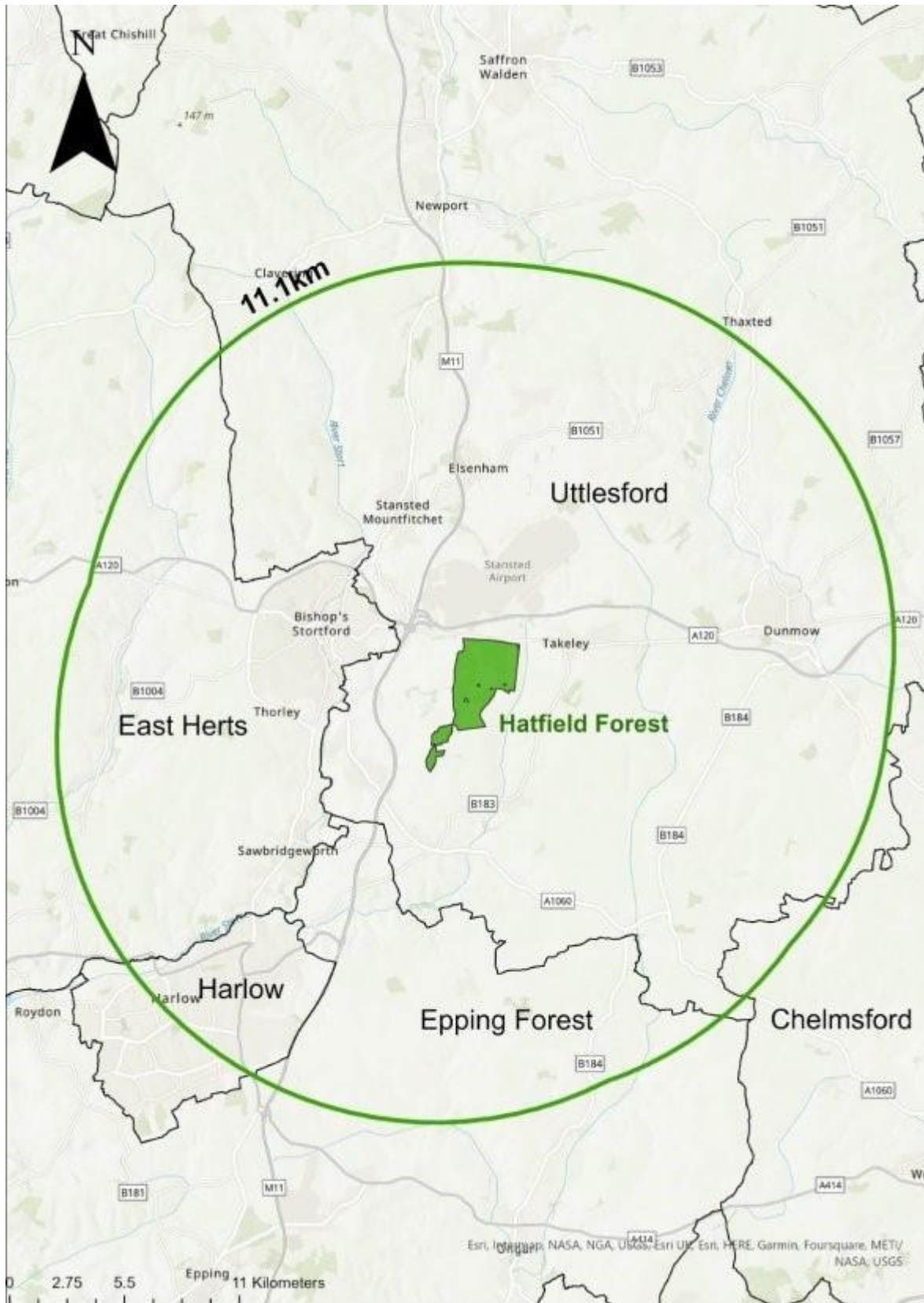
Uttlesford District Council

**Map 2: Uttlesford District in context with its neighbouring County Councils**



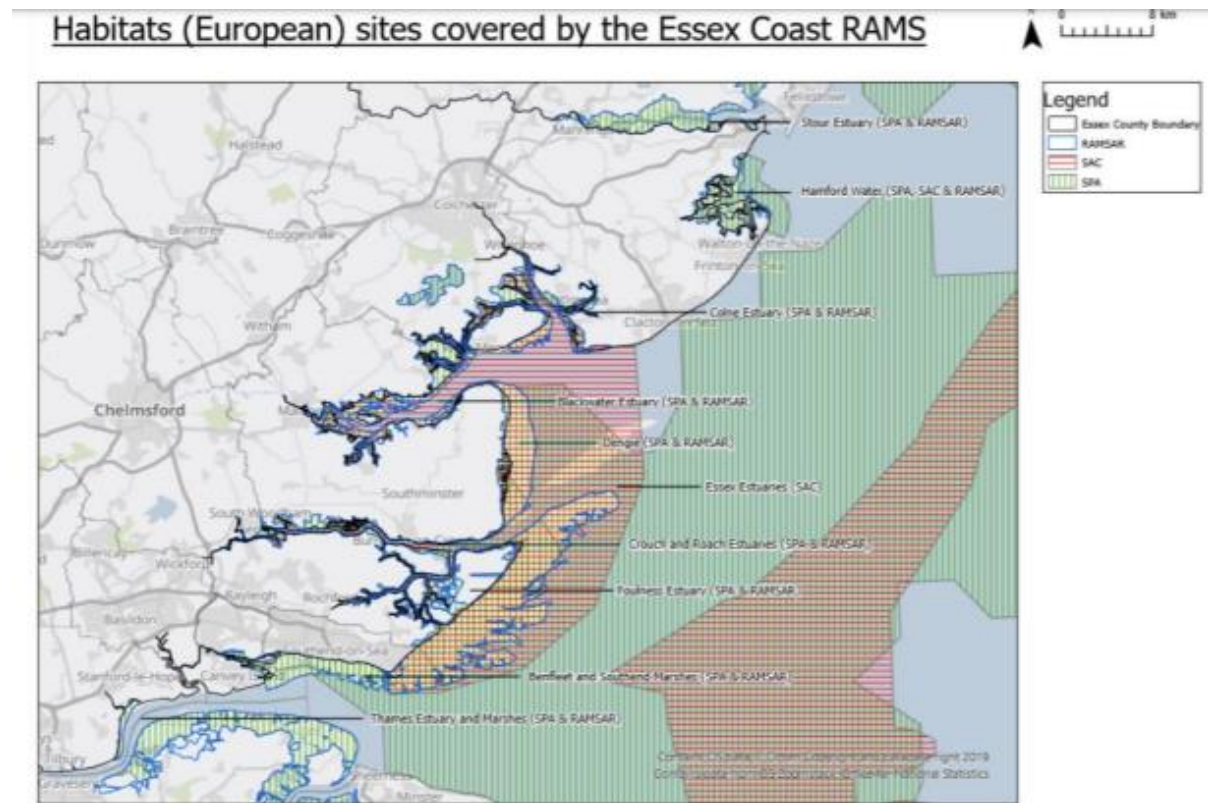
**Appendix B:**

**Map 3: Hatfield Forest Zone of Influence**



## Appendix C:

### Map 4: Habitats sites covered by the Essex Coast RAMS







**Uttlesford  
District  
Council**

**Statement of Common  
Ground**

**With**

**East Hertfordshire District  
Council**

**October  
2023**

## Statement of Common Ground

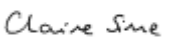
1. List of Parties involved
2. Signatories
3. Introduction
4. Strategic matters
5. Governance arrangements
6. Timetable for review and ongoing cooperation

### 1. List of Parties involved:

East Hertfordshire District Council  
Uttlesford District Council

### 2. Signatories:

East Hertfordshire District Council  
Claire Sime  
Service Manager (Planning Policy, Design & Conservation)

Signature: 

Date: 17 October 2023

Uttlesford District Council  
Andrew Maxted  
Planning Policy Manager



Signature:

Date: 18/10/2023

### 3. Introduction

Uttlesford District Council has started the process of developing a new Local Plan for the district, which will replace the existing Adopted Local Plan 2005. We are at the Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan stage, which sets out the Council's emerging preferred Spatial Strategy for consultation.

The Plan makes provision for at least 14,377 new homes to be delivered during the plan period (2021 to 2041). This reflects the Objectively Assessed Need for Housing for Uttlesford District up to 2041 as identified in the updated Local Housing Need Assessment (JG Consulting, March 2023), which is 14,377 new homes. Therefore, we are meeting the requirement in full, with extra headroom, to provide greater Plan resilience and flexibility, and to help ensure the Plan can achieve and maintain a five-year housing land supply, as

required by national policy. It means that Uttlesford do not need to ask any of its neighbouring authorities to take any of its housing requirements, as it can meet its own needs.

Over the plan period, the land requirement for office development is 21.7ha and industrial development, 52.2ha. To meet this requirement a further 21.7ha is needed for office development and 25-30ha is needed for industrial development beyond known completions and commitments (figures correct as of 11th September 2023). A total of 54.5ha of employment land is identified for future development in the local plan on proposed strategic allocations.

SOCG set out how strategic matters or issues of a common nature between a local authority and a statutory body or organisation are being addressed and progressed throughout the plan-making process to provide transparency, and wherever possible, show where parties are working towards areas of agreement.

See Appendix A for maps of the district and it in context with its neighbouring districts and county councils.

#### **4. Strategic Matters**

The strategic matters of interest to East Hertfordshire District Council are housing; employment; Stansted Airport; transport; education; Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople; and Hatfield Forest.

Working collaboratively over the development of the plan making process these issues are not considered to cause any cross-boundary concerns for plan making purposes. These are discussed below.

##### **Housing**

Housing is covered in the introduction above. Uttlesford do not need to ask any of its neighbouring authorities to take any of its housing requirements, as it can meet its own needs. Our neighbouring authorities have recently adopted plans and have not yet started the review of these.

While it is understood that an update of the East Herts Plan is due to commence in line with emerging national procedures, once these have been confirmed, the adopted East Herts District Plan will be considered in the interim. Engagement on housing numbers throughout the preparation of this Local Plan and the East Herts Plan update will continue.

##### **Employment**

The scale of development proposed in the Local Plan is set to meet local employment needs and identified to be provided in the most sustainable accessible locations by air, road, rail and sustainable and active modes of travel in accordance with the updated evidence, including supporting the planned expansion of Chesterford Research Park, which is not located in the vicinity of East Herts or expected to have any impact thereon.

##### **Stansted Airport**

London Stansted Airport is located within Uttlesford and is owned and operated by Manchester Airport Group (MAG), who manage the airport infrastructure and are also the transport authority in relation to the public highway within its boundary, the London Stansted Rail and Coach stations.

The airport has consent for a major employment site within its boundary (Northside) and has proposals for significant changes to the passenger terminal.

The strategic matters of interest to MAG are the continued airport operations at Stansted Airport, wider transport links, noise generation, air and water quality improvements, and employment generation.

We will continue to work with MAG and our neighbouring authorities on any matters of a cross boundary nature as the Plan progresses through to Adoption.

##### **Transport and education**

Transport and education wise, these are matters which are largely being addressed working collaboratively with National Highways, Essex County Council and Hertfordshire County Council as the Highways and Education Authorities, respectively, as appropriate. The Local Plan aims to ensure that appropriate measures are put in place to manage and mitigate any impact from new development on the strategic and local highway network and ensuring adequate education provision in the district.

Junction improvements, sustainable transport and the promotion of active modes of travel and the provision of proposed schooling in the Local Plan will assist in meeting the needs of proposed growth in the appropriate local authority area. However, it is noted that existing shortfalls may exist from under investment from previous developments over the years. Wherever possible and where meeting prescribed tests, new infrastructure provision will attempt to close this gap as part of delivery.

### **Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople**

The council is committed to continue to work with ECC and its neighbouring authorities on a joint evidence base to establish the local need for the community. This evidence is currently not available but will inform the Regulation 19 Plan. As any potential needs within Uttlesford and the wider Essex area have yet to be identified, it is not known what impact this may have on the supply position going forward. However, as the East Herts Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Needs Assessment (2022) has identified substantial needs and currently there are insufficient sites to meet the demand for pitches and plots in either the short or longer term, East Herts Council's position is that, while seeking to meet its own needs, it would be unable to accommodate any further need from its neighbouring authorities.

### **Hatfield Forest**

The council will work with ECC and others on matters affecting Hatfield Forest, including recreational pressure and remedial measures to mitigate impacts from development in the new Local Plan. The council will also be the lead council to receive financial contributions from other councils within the Hatfield Forest Zone of Influence (See Appendix B, Map 3) and be the administrator for the project.

No other strategic issues have been identified between East Hertfordshire District Council and UDC. This has been confirmed via email (October 2023) and an agreement to draw up this SOCG to that effect. East Hertfordshire District Council will be given the opportunity to comment on the Regulation 18 Draft Plan Consultation document and subsequent versions of the Uttlesford Local Plan where their comments will be considered and any future strategic cross boundary matters reconsidered, as might be necessary.

## **5. Governance Arrangements**

Meetings have been held with East Hertfordshire District Council throughout the preparation of the Local Plan up until Regulation 18 Draft Plan Consultation at an Officer, Policy Manager and Director level, as necessary. Decisions on this SOCG have been managed and agreed by email and it was agreed there are no strategic matters at this stage that required further Duty to Cooperate meetings. But on-going co-operation would be required.

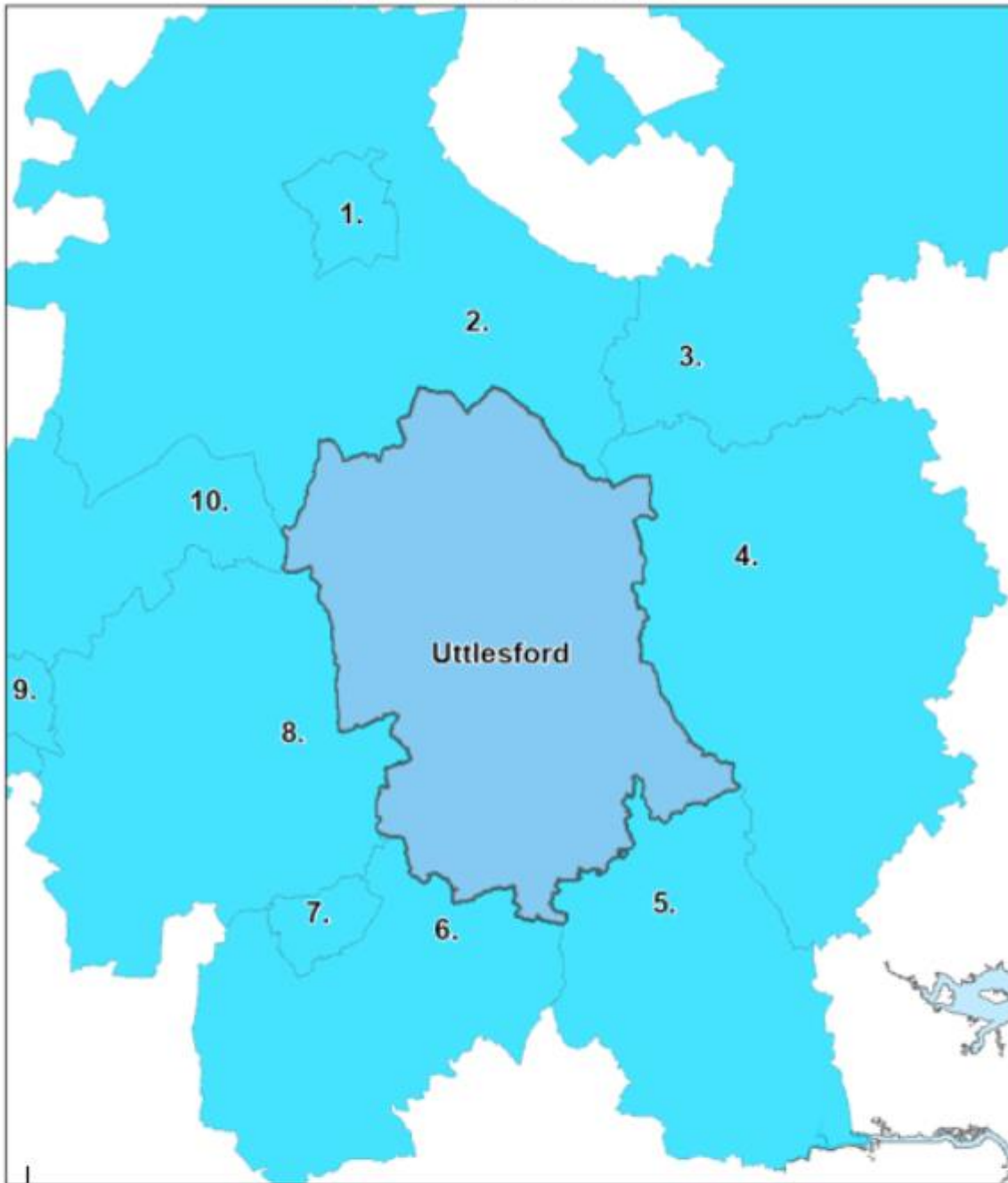
## **6. Timetable for review and ongoing cooperation**

The SOCG will be reviewed prior to Regulation 19 and the Plan Submission, where appropriate. The council will also keep East Hertfordshire District Council up to date throughout the Examination in Public process, as may be necessary, and inform them of the outcome of the Inspectors decision and the council's decision on the Adoption of the plan.

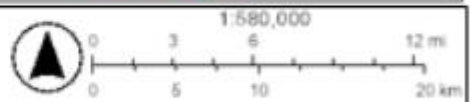
Once the Plan is adopted, we will continue regular on-going engagement with East Hertfordshire District Council (at least annually) in connection with the Plan's 5-year review. That process will however commence swiftly upon the Plans adoption and not wait until 5 years have passed.

**Appendix A: Map 1: Uttlesford and its neighbouring local authorities**

**Neighbouring Authorities**



Key	
1.	Cambridge City Council
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6.	Epping Forest District Council
7.	Harlow Council
8.	East Herts District Council
9.	Stevenage Borough Council
10.	North Herts District Council



Enr, CGWR, USGS, Enr UK, Enr, HERE, Garmin, Foursquare, FAO, METV  
NASA, USGS

Uttlesford District Council

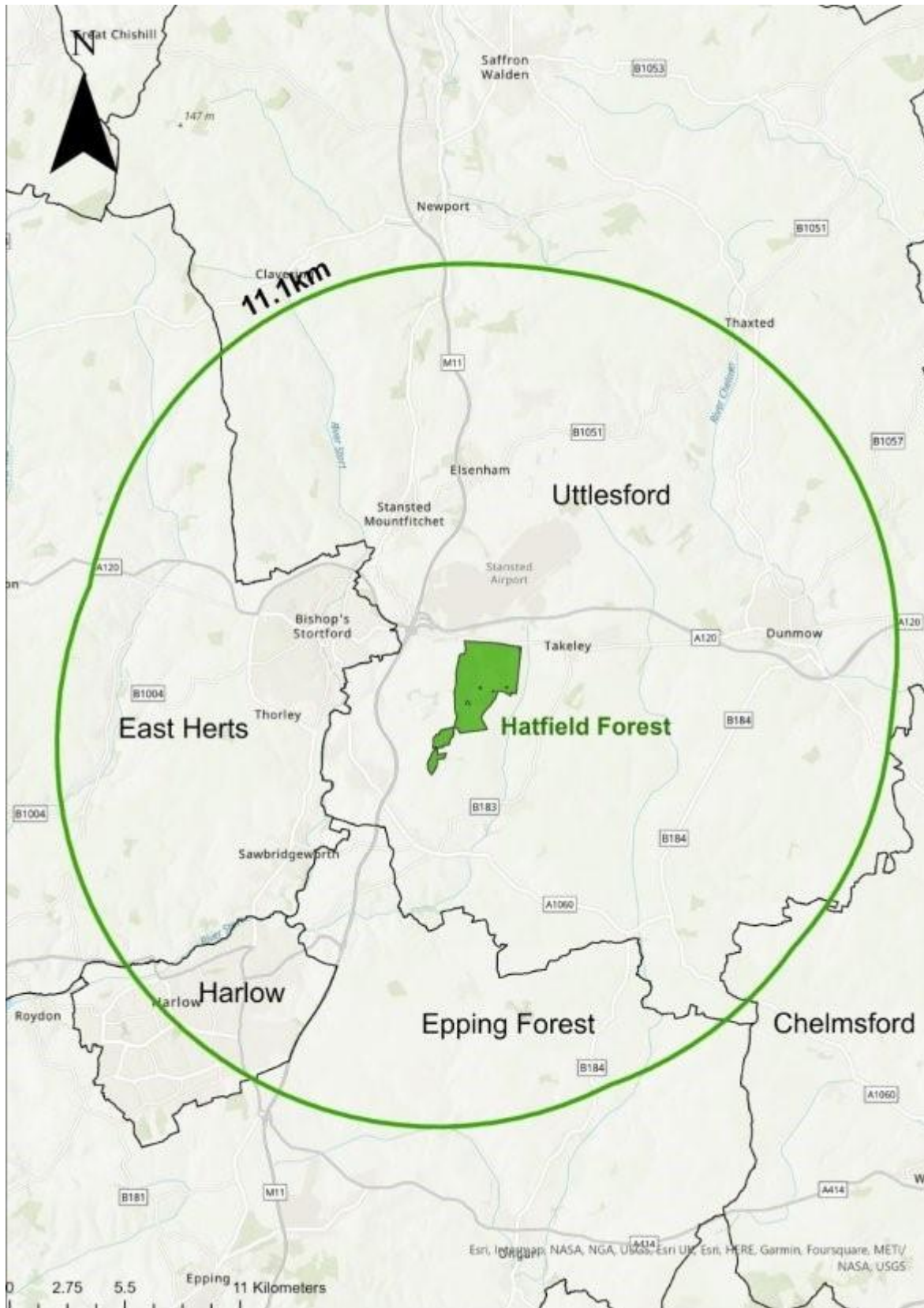
**Map 2: Uttlesford District in context with its neighbouring County Councils**





**Appendix B:**

**Map 3: Hatfield Forest Zone of Influence**



**SOCG 4: UDC SOCG with Epping Forest District Council October 2023**



**Uttlesford  
District  
Council**

**Statement of Common  
Ground**

**With**

**Epping Forest District  
Council**

**October  
2023**

## Statement of Common Ground

1. List of Parties involved
2. Signatories
3. Introduction
4. Strategic matters
5. Governance arrangements
6. Timetable for review and ongoing cooperation

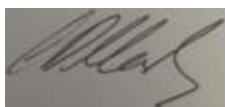
### 1. List of Parties involved

Epping Forest District Council  
Uttlesford District Council

### 2. Signatories

Epping Forest District Council  
Greg Macrdechian  
Planning Policy Manager

**Signature:**



**Date:** 10 October 2023

Uttlesford District Council  
Andrew Maxted  
Planning Policy Manager



**Signature:**

**Date:** 17/10/2023

### 3. Introduction

Uttlesford District Council has started the process of developing a new Local Plan for the district, which will replace the existing Adopted Local Plan 2005. We are at the Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan stage, which sets out the Council's emerging preferred Spatial Strategy for consultation.

The Plan makes provision for at least 14,377 new homes to be delivered during the plan period (2021 to 2041). This reflects the Objectively Assessed Need for Housing for Uttlesford District up to 2041 as identified in the updated Local Housing Need Assessment

(JG Consulting, March 2023), which is 14,377 new homes. Therefore, we are meeting the requirement in full, with extra headroom, to provide greater Plan resilience and flexibility, and to help ensure the Plan can achieve and maintain a five-year housing land supply, as required by national policy. It means that Uttlesford do not need to ask any of its neighbouring authorities to take any of its housing requirements, as it can meet its own needs.

Over the plan period, the land requirement for office development is 21.7ha and industrial development, 52.2ha. To meet this requirement a further 21.7ha is needed for office development and 25-30ha is needed for industrial development beyond known completions and commitments (figures correct as of 11th September 2023). A total of 54.5ha of employment land is identified for future development in the local plan on proposed strategic allocations.

SOCG set out how strategic matters or issues of a common nature between a local authority and a statutory body or organisation are being addressed and progressed throughout the plan-making process to provide transparency, and wherever possible, show where parties are working towards areas of agreement.

See Appendix A for maps of the district and it in context with its neighbouring districts and county councils.

#### **4. Strategic Matters**

The strategic matters of interest to Epping Forest District Council are housing; employment; transport; education; gypsy, traveller's and travelling show people; Hatfield Forest; Essex Coast RAMS

Working collaboratively over the development of the plan making process these issues are not considered to cause any cross-boundary concerns for plan making purposes. These are discussed below.

##### **Housing**

Housing is covered in the introduction above. Uttlesford do not need to ask any of its neighbouring authorities to take any of its housing requirements, as it can meet its own needs. Our neighbouring authorities have recently adopted plans and have not yet started the review of these. We will however continue to engage on housing numbers throughout the preparation of this Local Plan and as their Plans develop.

##### **Employment**

The scale of development proposed in the Local Plan is set to meet local employment needs and identified to be provided in the most sustainable accessible locations by air, road, rail and sustainable and active modes of travel in accordance with the updated evidence, including supporting the planned expansion of Chesterford Research Park.

##### **Transport and education**

Transport and education wise, these are matters which are largely being addressed working collaboratively with National Highways and Essex County Council as the Highways and Education Authority. The Local Plan aims to ensure that appropriate measures are put in place to manage and mitigate any impact from new development on the strategic and local highway network and ensuring adequate education provision in the district.

Junction improvements, sustainable transport and the promotion of active modes of travel and the provision of proposed schooling in the Local Plan will assist in meeting the needs of proposed growth. However, it is noted that existing shortfalls may exist from under investment from previous developments over the years. Wherever possible, new infrastructure provision will attempt to close this gap.

There are no Local Plan proposals for housing at Great Chesterford, or in proximity to South Cambridgeshire, apart from supporting the existing plans for continuing to expand Chesterford Research Park. It may be that longer-term opportunities exist for more development in the north of Uttlesford, closer to South Cambridgeshire, but this will be explored more in a future Plan.

#### **Gypsy, traveller's and travelling show people**

The council is committed to continue to work with ECC and its neighbouring authorities on a joint evidence base to establish the local need for the community. This evidence is currently not available but will inform the Regulation 19 Plan.

#### **Hatfield Forest**

The council will work with ECC and others on matters affecting Hatfield Forest, including recreational pressure and remedial measures to mitigate impacts from development in the new Local Plan. The council will also be the lead council to receive financial contributions from other councils within the Hatfield Forest Zone of Influence (See Appendix B, Map 3) and be the administrator for the project.

#### **Essex Coast RAMS**

The council will continue to work with ECC and others on the Essex Coast RAMS. The new Local Plan has a policy covering the issue and levy required of developments affected by the designation and a process is in place for receiving payments and making transfers to Colchester District Council. This will continue. (See Appendix C, Map 4)

No other strategic issues have been identified between Epping Forest District Council and UDC. This has been confirmed via email in October 2023 an agreement to draw up this SOCG to that effect. Epping Forest District Council will be given the opportunity to comment on the Regulation 18 Draft Plan Consultation document and subsequent versions of the Plan where their comments will be considered and any future strategic cross boundary matters reconsidered, as might be necessary.

### **5. Governance Arrangements**

Regular meetings have been held with Epping Forest District Council throughout the preparation of the Local Plan up until Regulation 18 Draft Plan Consultation at an Officer,

Policy Manager and Director level, as necessary. Decisions on this SOCG have been managed and agreed by email and it was agreed there are no strategic matters at this stage that required further Duty to Cooperate meetings. But on-going co-operation would be required.

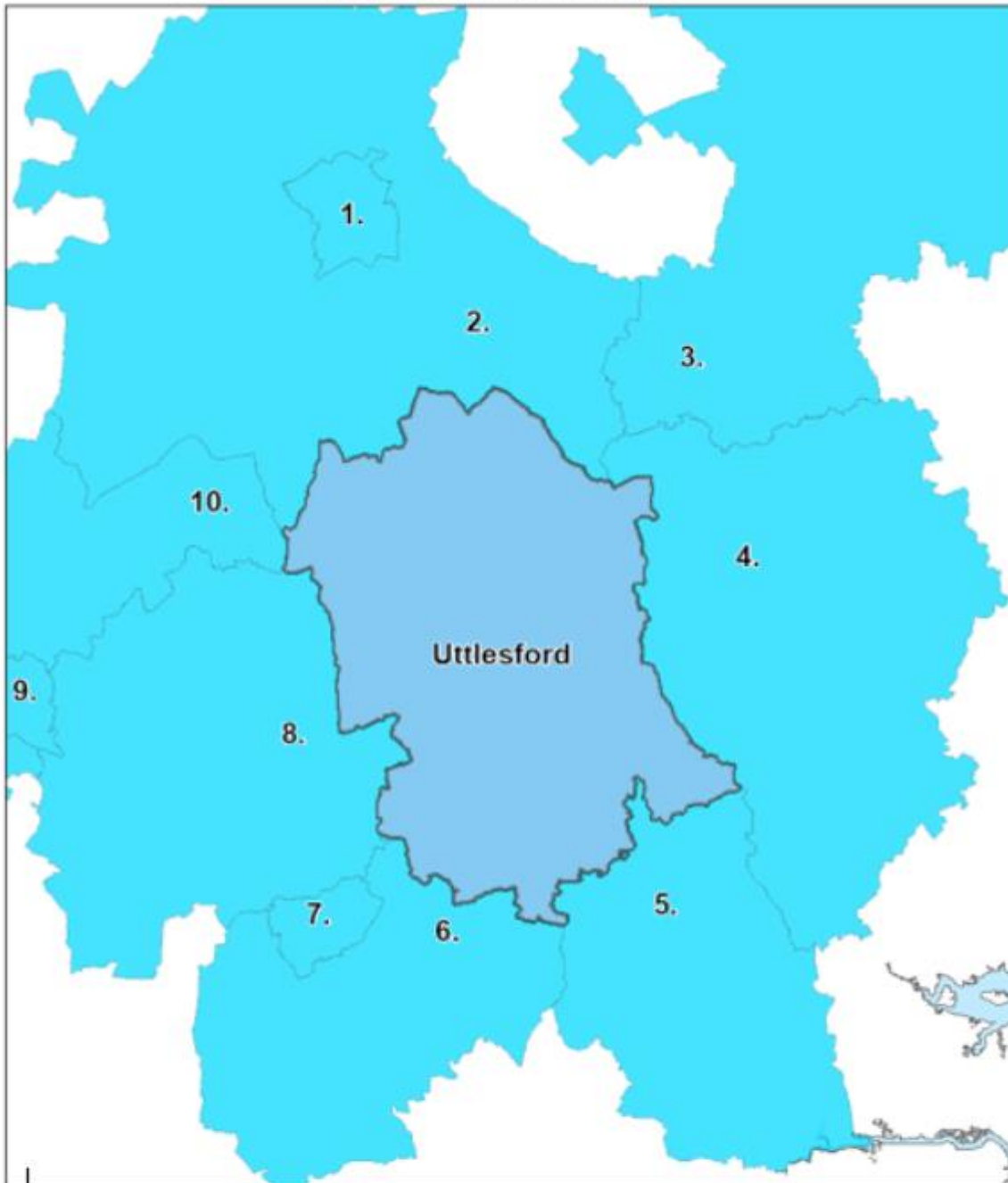
#### **6. Timetable for review and ongoing cooperation**

The SOCG will be reviewed prior to Regulation 19 and the Plan Submission, where appropriate. The council will also keep Epping Forest District Council up to date throughout the Examination in Public process, as may be necessary, and inform them of the outcome of the Inspectors decision and the council's decision on the Adoption of the plan.

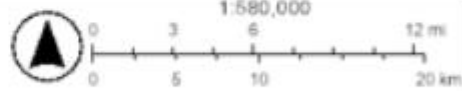
Once the Plan is adopted, we will continue regular on-going engagement with Epping Forest District Council (at least annually) in connection with the Plan's 5-year review. That process will however commence swiftly upon the Plans adoption and not wait until 5 years have passed.

## Appendix A: Map 1: Uttlesford and its neighbouring local authorities

### Neighbouring Authorities



Key	
1.	Cambridge City Council
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10.	North Herts District Council



Enr, CGWR, USGS, Enr UK, Enr, HERE, Garmin, Freemap, FAO, METV  
NASA, USGS

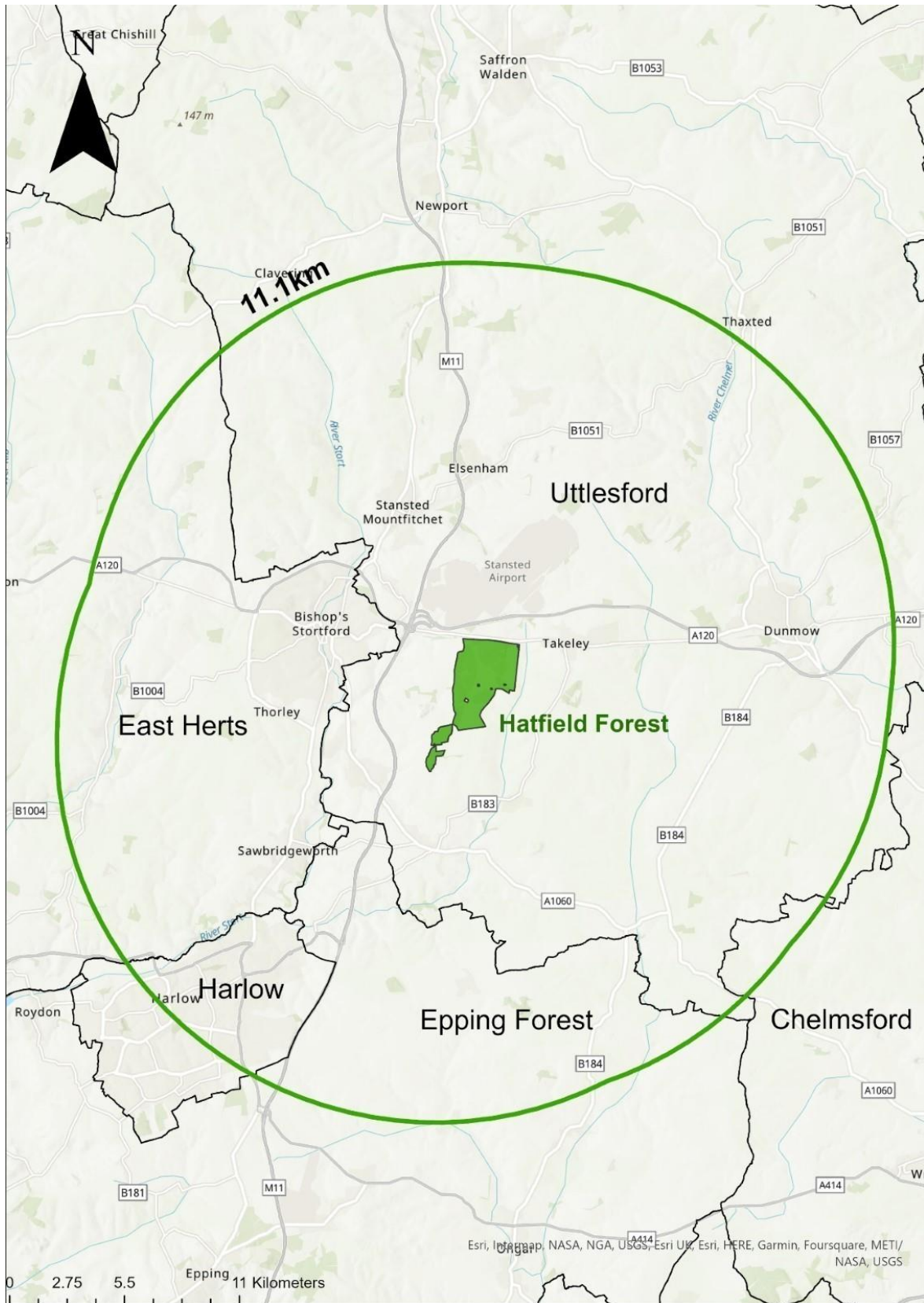
Uttlesford District Council





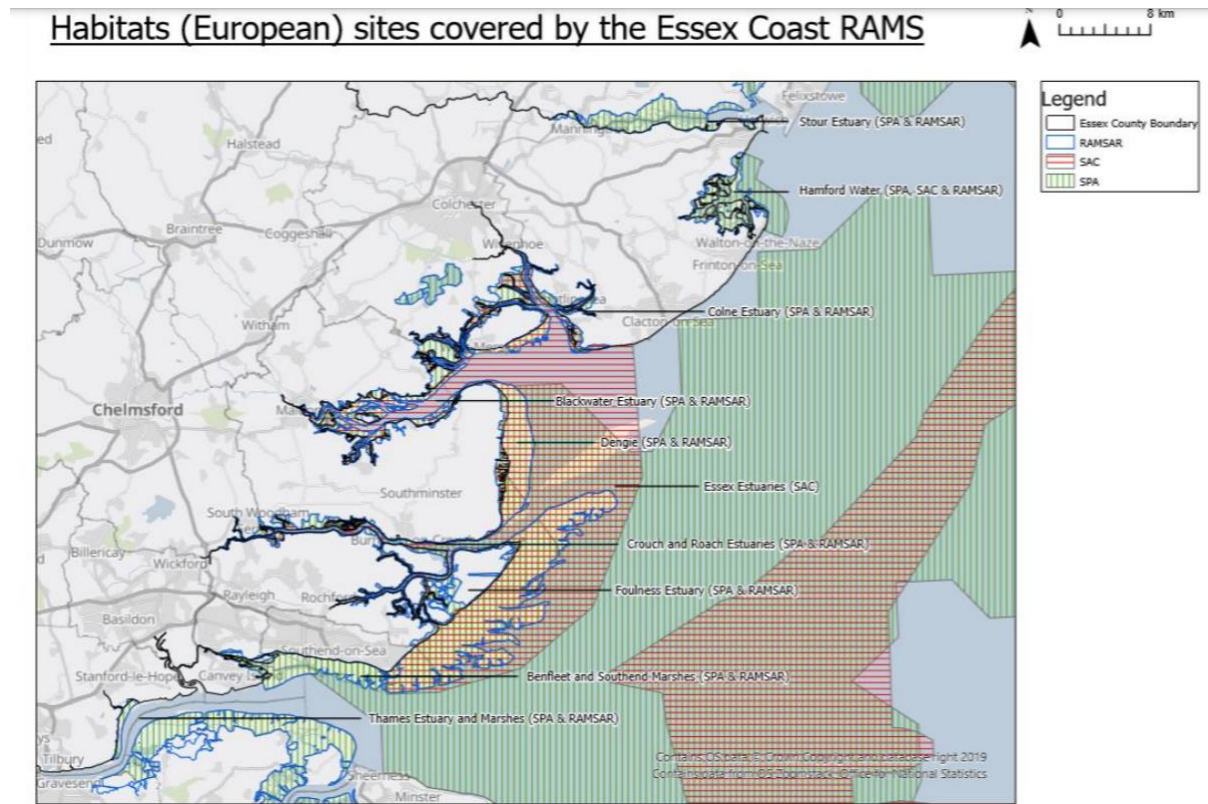
**Appendix B:**

**Map 3: Hatfield Forest Zone of Influence**



## Appendix C:

### Map 4: Habitats sites covered by the Essex Coast RAMS





**Uttlesford  
District  
Council**

**Statement of Common  
Ground**

**With**

**Historic England**

**October  
2023**

## Statement of Common Ground

1. **List of Parties involved**
2. **Signatories**
3. **Introduction**
4. **Strategic matters**
5. **Governance arrangements**
6. **Timetable for review and ongoing cooperation**

### 1. List of Parties involved:

Historic England  
Uttlesford District Council

### 2. Signatories:

Historic England  
Andrew Marsh  
Historic Environment Planning Adviser – Essex, Hertfordshire, and Suffolk

  
**Signature:**

**Date: 16 October 2023**

Uttlesford District Council  
Andrew Maxted  
Planning Policy Manager



**Signature:**

**Date: 17/10/2023**

### 3. Introduction:

Uttlesford District Council has started the process of developing a new Local Plan for the district, which will replace the existing Adopted Local Plan 2005. We are at the Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan stage, which sets out the Council's emerging preferred Spatial Strategy for consultation.

The Plan makes provision for at least 14,377 new homes to be delivered during the plan period (2021 to 2041). This reflects the Objectively Assessed Need for Housing for Uttlesford District up to 2041 as identified in the updated Local Housing Need Assessment (JG Consulting, March 2023), which is 14,377 new homes. Therefore, we are meeting the requirement in full, with extra headroom, to provide greater Plan resilience and flexibility, and to help ensure the Plan can achieve and maintain a five-year housing land supply, as required by national policy. It means that Uttlesford do not need to ask any of its

neighbouring authorities to take any of its housing requirements, as it can meet its own needs.

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SOCG set out how strategic matters or issues of a common nature between a local authority and a statutory body or organisation are being addressed and progressed throughout the plan-making process to provide transparency, and wherever possible, show where parties are working towards areas of agreement.

See Appendix A for maps of the district and it in context with its neighbouring districts and county councils.

#### **4. Strategic Matters**

The strategic matter of interest to Historic England is the protection and enhancement of the historic environment, taking account of the location and scale of proposed growth across the plan period and the potential impacts upon designated and non-designated heritage assets.

##### **Impact upon the Historic Environment**

The council will look to collaborate with Historic England to consider the level of harm, if any, the proposed allocations would engender upon any surrounding heritage assets. Further, the council will work with Historic England to consider design solutions to the proposed allocations which seek to avoid harm in the first instance and then mitigate harm as far as practically possible.

Historic England's feedback relating to the scale, layout, landscaping, retained key views etc. (as they relate to the historic environment) of the currently proposed allocations is welcomed. High level comments received from Historic England during Summer 2023 for the council to consider have already shaped the identification of the proposed allocations. This will continue throughout the plan making process.

No other strategic issues have been identified between Historic England and UDC to date. This has been confirmed via email and a meeting (October 2023) and an agreement to draw up this SOCG to that effect. Historic England will be given the opportunity to comment on the Regulation 18 Draft Plan Consultation document and subsequent versions of the Plan where their comments will be considered and any future strategic cross boundary matters reconsidered, as might be necessary.

## **5. Governance Arrangements**

Regular meetings have been held with Historic England throughout the preparation of the Local Plan up until Regulation 18 Draft Plan Consultation at an Officer, Policy Manager and Director level, as necessary. Decisions on this SOCG have been managed and agreed by email and via a meeting, and it was agreed there are no other strategic matters at this stage that required further Duty to Cooperate meetings.

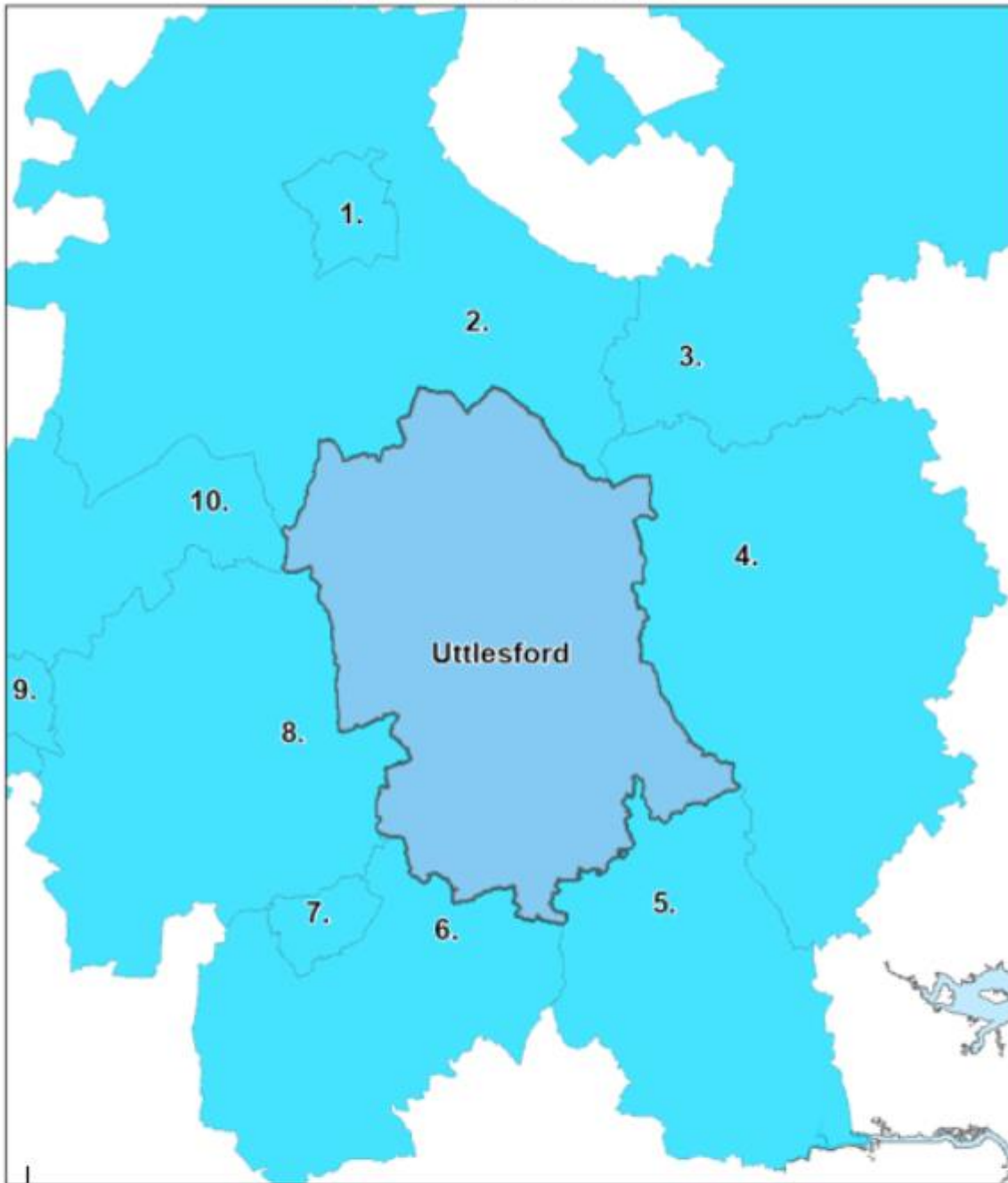
## **6. Timetable for review and ongoing cooperation**

The SOCG will be reviewed prior to Regulation 19 and the Plan Submission, where appropriate. The council will also keep Historic England up to date throughout the Examination in Public process, as may be necessary, and inform them of the outcome of the Inspectors decision and the council's decision on the Adoption of the plan.

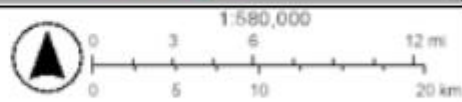
Once the Plan is adopted, we will continue regular on-going engagement with Historic England (at least annually) in connection with the Plan's 5-year review. That process will however commence swiftly upon the Plans adoption and not wait until 5 years have passed.

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7.	Harlow Council
8.	East Herts District Council
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Enr, CGWR, USGS, Enr UK, Enr, HERE, Garmin, Freemap, FAO, METV  
NASA, USGS

Uttlesford District Council

**Map 2: Uttlesford District in context with its neighbouring County Councils**







**Uttlesford  
District  
Council**

**Statement of Common  
Ground**

**With**

**Sport England**

**October  
2023**

## Statement of Common Ground

1. List of Parties involved
2. Signatories
3. Introduction
4. Strategic matters
5. Governance arrangements
6. Timetable for review and ongoing cooperation

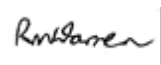
### 1. List of Parties involved:

Sport England  
Uttlesford District Council

### 2. Signatories:

Sport England  
Roy Warren  
Planning Manager

**Signature:**



**Date: 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

Uttlesford District Council  
Andrew Maxted  
Planning Policy Manager



**Signature:**

**Date: 17/10/2023**

### 3. Introduction:

Uttlesford District Council has started the process of developing a new Local Plan for the district, which will replace the existing Adopted Local Plan 2005. We are at the Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan stage, which sets out the Council's emerging preferred Spatial Strategy for consultation.

The Plan makes provision for at least 14,377 new homes to be delivered during the plan period (2021 to 2041). This reflects the Objectively Assessed Need for Housing for Uttlesford District up to 2041 as identified in the updated Local Housing Need Assessment (JG Consulting, March 2023), which is 14,377 new homes. Therefore, we are meeting the requirement in full, with extra headroom, to provide greater Plan resilience and flexibility, and to help ensure the Plan can achieve and maintain a five-year housing land supply, as

required by national policy. It means that Uttlesford do not need to ask any of its neighbouring authorities to take any of its housing requirements, as it can meet its own needs.

Over the plan period, the land requirement for office development is 21.7ha and industrial development, 52.2ha. To meet this requirement a further 21.7ha is needed for office development and 25-30ha is needed for industrial development beyond known completions and commitments (figures correct as of 11th September 2023). A total of 54.5ha of employment land is identified for future development in the local plan on proposed strategic allocations.

SOCG set out how strategic matters or issues of a common nature between a local authority and a statutory body or organisation are being addressed and progressed throughout the plan-making process to provide transparency, and wherever possible, show where parties are working towards areas of agreement.

See Appendix A for maps of the district and it in context with its neighbouring districts and county councils.

#### **4. Strategic Matters**

The strategic matters of interest to Sport England are the scale, quality and distribution of sports facilities and opportunities within the district, taking account of the proposed allocations for residential development and supporting infrastructure over the Plan period, and promoting opportunities for encouraging physical activity through planning and the design of development.

##### **Sports Facilities**

The council will look to collaborate with Sport England to ensure that appropriate sports facilities exist or are proposed to manage the increased demand resulting from new development within the district, and to ensure that opportunities for promoting physical activity in new development within the district are maximised. The council are seeking to understand Sport England's position regarding the location and quantum of new sports facilities proposed within the Plan, and will look to incorporate feedback where possible, taking account of viability and deliverability constraints.

No other strategic issues have been identified between Sport England and UDC. This has been confirmed via email (October 2023) and an agreement to draw up this SOCG to that effect. Sport England will be given the opportunity to comment on the Regulation 18 Draft Plan Consultation document and subsequent versions of the Plan where their comments will be considered and any future strategic cross boundary matters reconsidered, as might be necessary.

## **5. Governance Arrangements**

Regular meetings have been held with Sport England throughout the preparation of the Local Plan up until Regulation 18 Draft Plan Consultation at an Officer, Policy Manager and Director level, as necessary. Decisions on this SOCG have been managed and agreed by email, as it was agreed there are no strategic matters at this stage that required further Duty to Cooperate meetings.

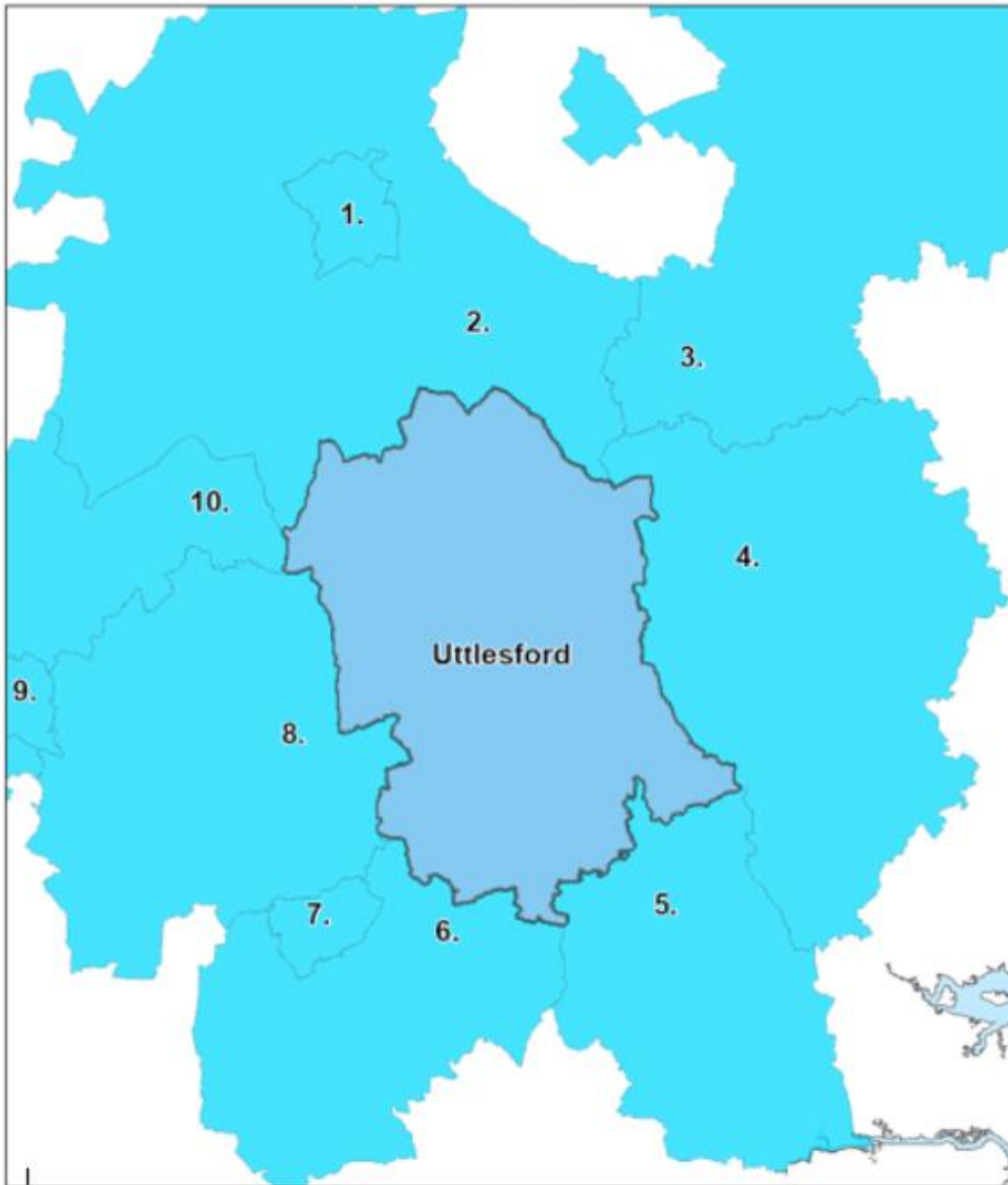
## **6. Timetable for review and ongoing cooperation**

The SOCG will be reviewed prior to Regulation 19 and the Plan Submission, where appropriate. The council will also keep Sport England up to date throughout the Examination in Public process, as may be necessary, and inform them of the outcome of the Inspectors decision and the council's decision on the Adoption of the plan.

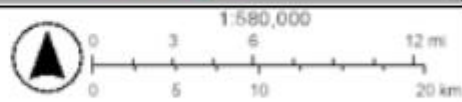
Once the Plan is adopted, we will continue regular on-going engagement with Sport England (at least annually) in connection with the Plan's 5-year review. That process will however commence swiftly upon the Plans adoption and not wait until 5 years have passed.

**Appendix A: Map 1: Uttlesford and its neighbouring local authorities**

**Neighbouring Authorities**



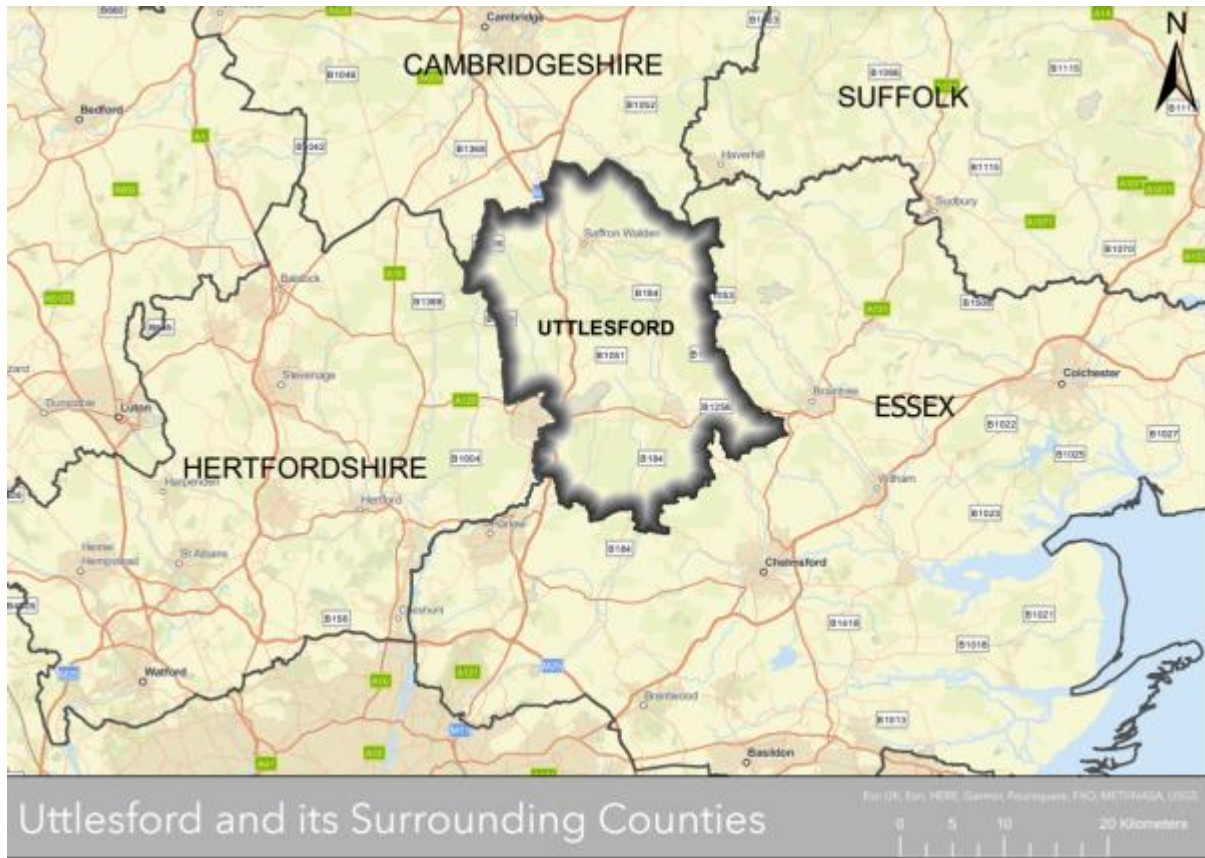
Key	
1.	Cambridge City Council
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Uttlesford District Council

**Map 2: Uttlesford District in context with its neighbouring County Councils**





**Uttlesford  
District  
Council**

**Statement of Common  
Ground**

**With**

**Thames Water**

**October  
2023**

## Statement of Common Ground

1. **List of Parties involved**
2. **Signatories**
3. **Introduction**
4. **Strategic matters**
5. **Governance arrangements**
6. **Timetable for review and ongoing cooperation**

### 1. List of Parties involved:

Thames Water  
Uttlesford District Council

### 2. Signatories:

Thames Water  
Nicky McHugh  
North London Regional Development Planning Lead

**Signature: N.McHugh**  
**Date: 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

Uttlesford District Council  
Andrew Maxted  
Planning Policy Manager



**Signature:**

**Date: 18/10/2023**

### 3. Introduction:

Uttlesford District Council has started the process of developing a new Local Plan for the district, which will replace the existing Adopted Local Plan 2005. We are at the Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan stage, which sets out the Council's emerging preferred Spatial Strategy for consultation.

The Plan makes provision for at least 14,377 new homes to be delivered during the plan period (2021 to 2041). This reflects the Objectively Assessed Need for Housing for Uttlesford District up to 2041 as identified in the updated Local Housing Need Assessment (JG Consulting, March 2023), which is 14,377 new homes. Therefore, we are meeting the requirement in full, with extra headroom, to provide greater Plan resilience and flexibility, and to help ensure the Plan can achieve and maintain a five-year housing land supply, as



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SOCG set out how strategic matters or issues of a common nature between a local authority and a statutory body or organisation are being addressed and progressed throughout the plan-making process to provide transparency, and wherever possible, show where parties are working towards areas of agreement.

See Appendix A for maps of the district and it in context with its neighbouring districts and county councils.

#### **4. Strategic Matters**

The strategic matter of interest to Thames Water relates to their ability to satisfactorily manage foul water discharge within the district, taking account of the location and scale of proposed growth across the plan period.

##### **Foul Water**

The council will look to collaborate with Thames Water to ensure that appropriate measures are put in place to manage and mitigate any impact from new development, including the provision of new sewerage infrastructure and connections to ensure provision across the district. We will seek feedback from Thames Water on the capacity of existing infrastructure, whilst keeping them up to date about the status of our proposed allocations, to support the accuracy of their Long-Term Delivery Strategy. We will work closely with Thames Water, the EA and Anglian Water to ensure that waste water infrastructure is delivered alongside growth. This may require phasing of housing and development allocations to ensure that any necessary infrastructure upgrades are in place.

Thames Water will be given the opportunity to comment on the Regulation 18 Draft Plan Consultation document and subsequent versions of the Plan where their comments will be considered and any future strategic cross boundary matters that may be potentially identified can be considered. Thames Water will work with the Council and other stakeholders throughout the Local Plan process to review impacts on infrastructure and assess requirements for upgrades and to ensure development and infrastructure are aligned.

#### **5. Governance Arrangements**

Regular meetings have been held with Thames Water throughout the preparation of the

Local Plan up until Regulation 18 Draft Plan Consultation at an Officer, Policy Manager and Director level, as necessary. Decisions on this SOCG have been managed and agreed by email, as it was agreed there are no strategic matters at this stage that required further Duty to Cooperate meetings, but on-going co-operation would be required.

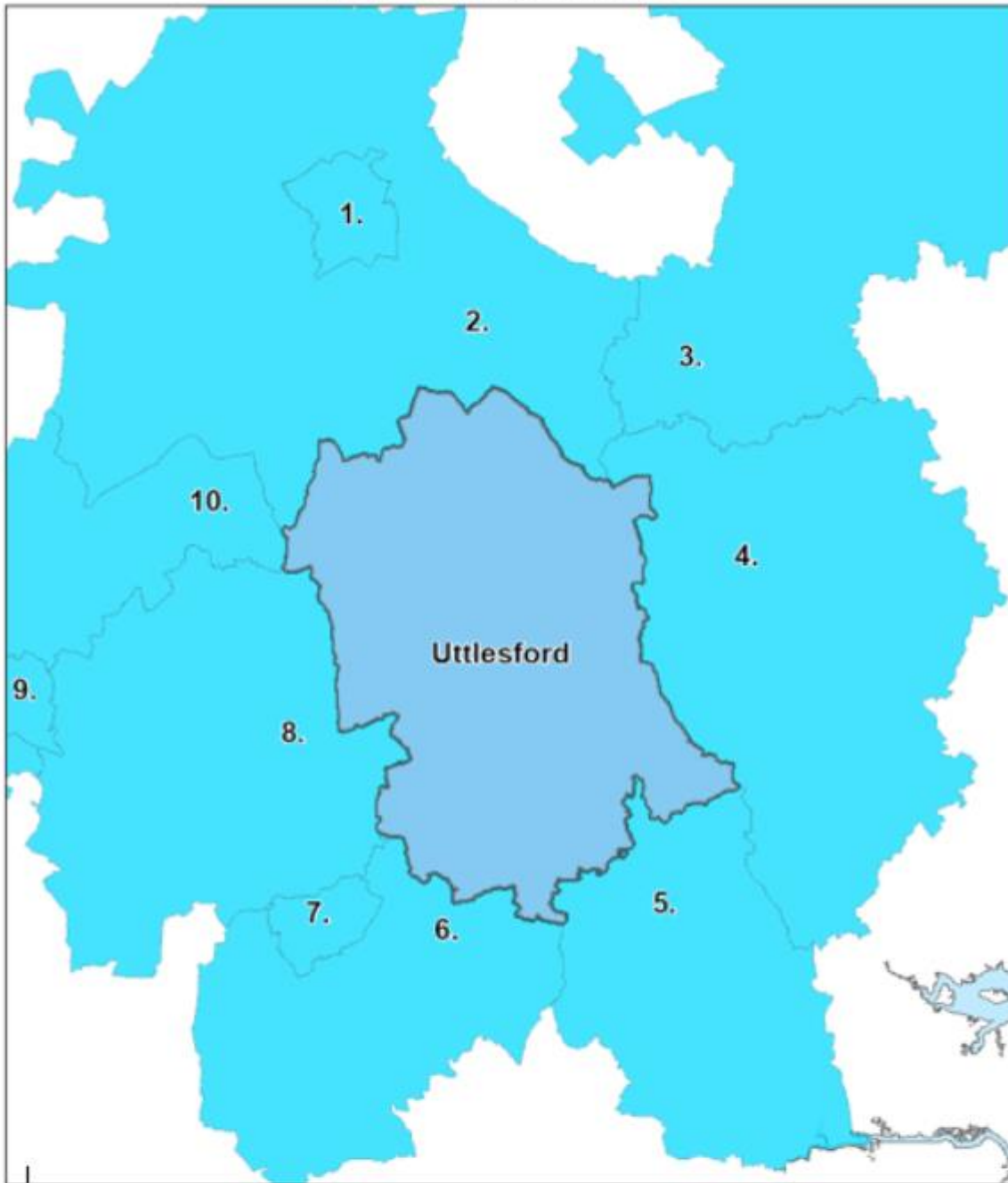
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The SOCG will be reviewed prior to Regulation 19 and the Plan Submission, where appropriate. The council will also keep Thames Water up to date throughout the Examination in Public process, as may be necessary and inform them of the outcome of the Inspectors decision and the council's decision on the Adoption of the plan.

Once the Plan is adopted, we will continue regular on-going engagement with Thames Water (at least annually) in connection with the Plan's 5-year review. That process will however commence swiftly upon the Plans adoption and not wait until 5 years have passed.

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1:580,000

0 3 6 12 mi  
0 5 10 20 km

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Uttlesford District Council

**Map 2: Uttlesford District in context with its neighbouring County Councils**

