

**Committee:** Council

**Date:**

**Title:** Leader's Report to Council

Tuesday, 4  
December 2018

**Report Author:** Councillor Howard Rolfe, Leader of the Council and Lead for Strategy, Partnerships and the Local Plan

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## Summary

1. This report summarises the Leader's activities on behalf of the Council.

## Recommendations

2. None.

## Financial Implications

3. None.

## Background Papers

4. None.

## Situation

5. Since the last Council meeting there have been a number of key events/meetings:
6. Meeting with the MP and the new Police Chief Inspector.
  - UDC updated Kemi Badenoch on current events and activities in Uttlesford.
  - The new CI Janette Rawlingson (responsible for Braintree and Uttlesford) outlined how she is creating a separate team for the two Districts and when the new officers will be deployed.
7. Support for Saffron Hall with sponsorship for a performance by the Halle orchestra.
  - UDC hosted a reception and invited local businesses to attend the concert to draw attention to the excellence of the facility and the need for financial support.
8. I met the Head Teacher at Ashdon school.
  - The school is an excellent facility but faces the challenge of falling numbers. This highlights the need for community facilities whether schools, pubs or shops.

9. There was a further meeting of the Essex Partners Board on October 23.

- I have outlined the Essex vision and the work of this group before but it is important there are outcomes that benefit all our communities. One project is to get behind the Essex and Proud strap line.

10. I visited Reynolds Court.

- This is an outstanding facility and typifies the Administration's determination to care for the elderly, the frail and those with financial challenges.

11. Local Strategic Partnership Annual Assembly, November 1

- A number of Members were in attendance to listen and take part in sessions on the role that technology can play in community care and how we must continue to work in a joined up system.

12. Sport in Saffron Walden.

- Two potential schemes have been lost but a further meeting was held on November 2 to explore options and a group was established to take this forward.

13. Locality Board, County Hall, November 5.

- ECC and UDC meet quarterly to drive common initiatives. This meeting focussed on Public Health and special needs education.

14. Visit to Eddington, November 6

- Cambridge University have built a new community on the west side of Cambridge and a group of UDC Members and officers visited on November 7. The group learned a number of important lessons with the most striking feature being that there were no wheelie bins.

15. Meeting with ECC Chief Executive, November 7

- Dawn French and I meet with Gavin Jones on a quarterly basis. This time we discussed Highways, Garden Communities, Stansted, LEP structures and Public Health.

16. Uttlesford Business breakfast, November 15

- On November 15 about 80 attendees from business and UDC attended an important networking event. The two main external speakers covered Digital and Clean Tech. The latter was a fascinating presentation from Martin Garrett, the CE of Cambridge CleanTech, outlining the opportunities that now exist.

17. Essex Health and Well Being Board, November 21

- The agenda this time included how Town and Parish Councils can best work with H&WB; Alcohol/Drugs,; STP plans.

18. TCPA Annual Conference, November 22.

- I met the Minister for Housing, Kit Malthouse, when he spoke at the conference. Amongst his comments he reconfirmed the Government's commitment to building 300,000 houses pa. There are 100 applications for Garden Communities for over half a million homes. The Minister wants more, better and faster homes and said we must change the mindset from NIMBYS to SLIMBYS – something lovely in my back yard! I have invited Kit to visit Uttlesford and the surrounding areas to discuss our Local Plan and he has accepted.

19. I will update Council on how UDC can support Thaxted and Stansted libraries after I have met with the respective PCs.