



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

Peter Holt  
Chief Executive Officer  
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**Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP**  
*Minister of State for Housing*

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7<sup>th</sup> February 2022

*Dear Mr Holt,*

### **DESIGNATION UNDER S62A OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990**

Thank you for your letter of 22 October 2021, and for the corrections that you have supplied to the data on performance for Uttlesford District Council, for the two years up to the end of March 2020 and subsequent appeals decisions to the end of December 2020. Despite these corrections, Uttlesford District Council's performance over that period remains below the threshold for designation set out in the published criteria document. This is in relation to the quality of determining applications for major development.

You have cited exceptional circumstances on a number of grounds and have committed to introduce measures to improve the performance of the Council. I have considered your arguments carefully and on balance have concluded that the evidence presented does not adequately justify exceptional circumstances as set out in the published criteria document. exceptional circumstances do not apply. I have therefore concluded that it is appropriate to designate Uttlesford District Council under the powers conferred by section 62A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. A formal notice is attached, which will have effect from 8 February 2022.

You are required to prepare an improvement plan identifying actions that address the areas of weakness that led to the authority being designated. We will work closely you in developing this plan and ensure that you have the support you need to improve so that the designation can be lifted as quickly as possible.

The consequence of designation is that applications for major development can be made directly to the Planning Inspectorate, although applicants will have the option of continuing to apply to your authority in the usual way, should they wish. The Planning Inspectorate are ready to receive and determine applications should that be required.

Officials from this Department and the Planning Inspectorate will be in touch over the next few days to discuss the next steps with you. Should you have any questions about this letter, please contact Stephen Gee on 0303 444 0013 ([Stephen.gee@levellingup.gov.uk](mailto:Stephen.gee@levellingup.gov.uk)).

I am copying this letter to Kemi Badenoch MP.

*Yours Sincerely,*

**RT HON CHRISTOPHER PINCHER MP**

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