

3. Spatial Vision and Strategic Objectives



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Spatial Vision

- 3.1 Our **Spatial Vision** describes the future we are seeking to create for Uttlesford by 2041. It provides a clear vision for the district's future and is both ambitious, yet achievable to help us deliver good growth, support sustainable development, address the challenge of climate change, protect the environment, respect the district's heritage, whilst also supporting local communities and businesses.
- 3.2 The **Spatial Vision** has been influenced by many factors including the issues and needs of our places, evidence we have gathered, and what our local communities, stakeholders and businesses have told us.

Our Spatial Vision for Uttlesford in 2041

Uttlesford will be 'the best place to live, work and play'. The district will continue to be known for its beautiful rolling countryside, its market towns and villages with a rich heritage, and a strong cultural offer. Uttlesford residents will continue to enjoy a high quality of life with a range of well-designed settlements that provide high quality services to residents and visitors. Uttlesford will thrive as a well-connected rural district that benefits from the economic opportunities it presents, while also protecting the rich natural and cultural environment that gives the district its distinct character.

Environmental

Uttlesford will embrace the changes required to be net zero carbon, enabling us to live, work and play within the limits of the environment. This will include new build to be net zero ready by 2030. Development will be managed to ensure climate change is addressed and sustainable development is achieved. Development will be located in ways to optimise opportunities for delivery of new infrastructure and use of public and active transport. New development will link homes with jobs, be of high-quality design and focus on sustainable construction and materials.

There will be greater biodiversity and increased woodland. The rivers and streams of Uttlesford will be protected and enhanced, and together with green infrastructure, contribute to a network of blue and green corridors for the benefit of wildlife and people. Hatfield Forest will be part of this network, however it will also be protected from overuse.

Economic

Uttlesford will have a thriving, diverse, resilient economy that operates at a local, national, and international scale. As the East of England's largest employment site, Stansted Airport will be supported but with great emphasis on ensuring its environmental impacts are managed and mitigated where they cannot be avoided. The north of the district will benefit from appropriate improved links into the high-skilled 'Cambridge phenomenon', supporting economic growth at Chesterford Research Park and elsewhere.

Social

The housing needs of local people will be met and the people of the district will be healthier, happier and able to meet most of their day-to-day needs locally within a community that is good for their health and wellbeing. High quality design will help protect and enhance the intrinsic character and built heritage of Uttlesford's towns, villages, and the wider environment.

Strategic objectives

- 3.3 To achieve our **Spatial Vision**, we have established a series of **Strategic Objectives** grouped under the ‘environmental’, ‘economic’ and ‘community/social’ headings that run throughout the Plan. These central themes are consistent with the Government’s objectives for the planning system to achieve sustainable development.
- 3.4 The **Strategic Objectives** are shown by Table 3.1.

Table 3.1: Strategic Objectives informing the Uttlesford Local Plan 2041

Theme	Strategic Objectives
Environmental	<p>Minimise the environmental impact of development.</p> <p>SO1: To Plan for the climate and ecological emergency, mitigate the impacts from development, including reducing energy usage of new builds.</p> <p>SO2: Protect high-quality and locally defined valued landscapes by ensuring new development conserves and enhances landscape assets and achieves high quality design standards.</p> <p>SO3: Protect and preserve the natural environment. Protect and maximise opportunities for biodiversity net gain and the enhancement of Uttlesford’s natural capital assets, such as soils, woodlands, hedges and ponds to capture and store carbon as well as providing for appropriate access for health and recreational value with effective multifunctional Green Infrastructure. Restore the natural ecology of the district’s chalk streams and rivers.</p> <p>SO4: Protect water resources. Deliver developments that efficiently use local resources, particularly water by prioritizing water resilience and sustainable consumption, that minimise and are resilient to the impacts of climate change, including extreme weather events such as flooding, drought and heatwaves.</p> <p>SO5: Protect the highest quality agricultural land whilst being mindful of needs for rural employment and diversification.</p> <p>SO6: Protect and enhance the historic environment, including protecting and enhancing heritage assets and archaeology.</p>

Theme	Strategic Objectives
Economic	<p>Allocate sufficient land to accommodate development needs.</p> <p>SO7: Recognise the influential role of the District's employment offer, including Stansted Airport/ Northside and Chesterford Research Park, by embracing the planned expansion, whilst seeking to maximise their sustainability and the needs for infrastructure.</p> <p>SO8: Maintain economic development opportunities. To promote a strong, diverse, resilient, sustainable, and competitive economy and range of employment and learning opportunities and a multiskilled workforce across a range of sectors including tourism, high-tech, biotech, research and development, aviation, agricultural diversification and rural business.</p>
Community/ Social	<p>SO9: Help sustain existing and deliver new local community facilities and services through development to promote healthy, sustainable and safe communities.</p> <p>SO10: Meet the identified housing needs and an appropriate contribution of affordable housing.</p> <p>SO11: Prioritise increased opportunities for safe travel by public transport and active travel in new development.</p>