



What is a Local Plan?

A Local Plan is an important document that guides decisions on whether planning permission can be granted. It sets out what sort of development will be allowed and where. This ranges from extensions to buildings and changes of use of buildings, to new neighbourhoods and large-scale housing or employment allocations. Having a Local Plan helps to ensure that planning decisions are rational and consistent and provides certainty for communities. There is a requirement for Local Plans to be kept up to date and correctly reflect national policy.

Why are we producing a New Local Plan?

The Council's current Local Plan was adopted in 2005 and is undoubtedly out-of-date. It has been almost 20 years since the last Plan was adopted, since then national policy has changed many times. In the absence of an up-to-date Local Plan, the Council is restricted in its ability to control planning decisions, and it is more difficult to deliver the infrastructure that residents need.

The new Uttlesford Local Plan gives us an opportunity to plan positively for the future of the District, including delivering an appropriate number of jobs and homes that meet its identified needs. It is equally important we plan for sustainable development that helps to address the climate change emergency, enhances biodiversity and protects the environment, whilst ensuring new and existing residents can afford somewhere to live and have a job. Moreover, the Local Plan allows the Council to better accommodate supporting infrastructure (services and facilities), such as for schools, healthcare and leisure alongside new development.

Once adopted, the Local Plan will provide the framework for development across the District up to 2041.

