

Foreword

Preparing this Plan has proved to be a challenging process. We have consulted widely and received many representations as to the issues and options it needs to address. We have sought views on the priorities for residents and businesses and infrastructure providers.

We have asked about the factors that need to be taken into account in planning for homes that people working in Uttlesford can afford, new and existing businesses, jobs, schools, healthcare and other community facilities, opportunities for sport and recreation, cultural activities, Stansted Airport and new communities that accord with garden city principles. We call them garden communities. We are committed to ensuring that they are exemplar developments.

Equally important are conserving and enhancing Uttlesford's historic environment assets and their settings, natural environment and landscape character, and air quality. We have assessed the implications for transport and utilities at the level appropriate for plan making. All the contributions have been taken into account. We have sought to create a strategy that best resolves all the considerations, and tested it against alternative approaches.

This version of the Plan is consequently the version that the council intends to adopt. The council as a whole is satisfied that it meets the soundness tests. However, first it will need to be subject to independent examination by a Planning Inspector. To inform that examination of the Plan, the council needs now to publish it and invite representations. These should focus on whether the plan has been positively prepared, is justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

The council has followed an inclusive approach to preparing this Plan, with a cross party working group meeting in public. There have been opportunities for residents and organisations to address these meetings. This has been useful in challenging our work. It has informed the choices that needed to be made, and how we needed to strengthen the evidence that supports its development strategy, proposals and policies.

We are grateful to everyone who has contributed to the process and consequently improved the Plan.

Cllr Howard Rolfe

Cllr Alan Dean

Leader of the Council

Leader of the Liberal Democrat
Group

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