



22 December 2014

Council receives Inspector's final report into Uttlesford's Local Plan

Uttlesford District Council has received the Inspector's final report following his examination of the Local Plan. The report largely clarifies and expands on the issues outlined in his summary statement on 3 December, which focused on the suitability of Elsenham for major development and the need for a greater number of houses.

The Council notes however, that the Inspector has not determined that every aspect of the Plan is unsound. The authority will therefore be able to build on its existing evidence base and develop this as necessary, with the working group recommending revisions in preparation of a revised Plan.

This working group, with cross-party membership and meetings open to the public, will take forward Uttlesford's draft Local Plan.

Cllr Howard Rolfe, Leader of the Council, said: "We acknowledge the Inspector's report, which is both detailed and comprehensive.

"There are a number of positives we can take from his conclusions and he sets out a clear direction for the working group and the Council to follow.

"The working group will be re-structured to drive this process forward – importantly, the meetings will be held in public and there will be an opportunity for public speakers, the working group will continue to be cross-party and I hope that all political parties represented on Uttlesford District Council will accept a seat at the table."

In his final report the Inspector is supportive of the Council on a number of technical points.

He notes that the Saffron Walden allocation policy is, in strategic terms, “a sound allocation”, although the Council accepts that more explicit detail is required to determine the functionality of the link road between Thaxted Road and Radwinter Road.

The Great Dunmow allocation policies are described in the report as “generally sound”.

The Inspector also observes that the employment strategy and settlement classifications are sound.

One of the working group’s first tasks will be to assess the implications of the Inspector’s full statement in detail. A report will be prepared for the group ahead of its initial meeting in the New Year.

The revised plan will be submitted to Full Council.

To read the statement in full, visit www.uttlesford.gov.uk/localplanexamination

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NOTES

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