

UTTLESFORD LIBERAL DEMOCRAT LOCAL PARTY

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES FOR THE EMERGING LOCAL PLAN

Uttlesford Liberal Democrats: Position statement on the draft Uttlesford Local Plan

Uttlesford Liberal Democrats recognise that Uttlesford, in the main, is a sparsely populated rural area with few large settlements; that government has set house building targets to be delivered within the district as part of its national strategy to meet a serious housing shortage.

Our Overarching objective

To have a long term vision for the development in the district that provides a long term solution (over a 30 to 50 years' timescale) that minimises the impact of development on the district and maximises the benefits to the local population. We do not wish to face another round of proposals for speculative incremental development solely on the edges of existing settlements when the next version of the Local Plan is developed.

Our solution

We support the creation of one or more new settlements to minimise the threat to the rurality of the district by concentrating the bulk of development in a small number of areas.

Our key criteria for any new settlement are:

- It needs to abide by the principles of Garden Village/Towns policy started by the Conservative/Liberal Democrat coalition government;
- The choice of location must be clearly evidence based through an open, balanced and transparent process;
- A new settlement should be located on a major corridor of movement - not solely on trunk roads - but should facilitate the use and investment in more sustainable modes of transport - rail, bus, and cycleways. It should maintain good air or improve air quality in the district. The chosen location(s) should consider the future impact of any proposal and that of adjoining authorities on Junction 8 of the M11, which is approaching current capacity.
- In response to market and social demand, it should provide much needed housing for employees of businesses and research institutions e.g. The Genome Centre in the M11/Greater Cambridge Growth Corridor. There is a range of innovative companies that are creating high value jobs in the knowledge economy and businesses operating in international markets that can and do provide employment for Uttlesford residents, especially in the north of the district. These businesses will be especially important in view of the emerging threat of a "hard" Brexit with the potential loss of membership of the European Single Market.
- The council should fulfil its obligations to cooperate with neighbouring authorities in Cambridgeshire in equal measure with those in Essex and Hertfordshire to deliver new settlements, but should ensure that what is best for the Uttlesford district comes first.

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- Ensure the delivery of additional capacity in education, health and public transport to cover existing or projected needs, e.g. secondary school places in Saffron Walden, and improve the viability and productivity of existing transport infrastructure, such as by increasing passenger numbers and train capacity on the West Anglia line between Cambridge and Bishop's Stortford.
- We expect the Local Planning Authority to have robust negotiations with developers on their contributions towards infrastructure provision either through Section 106 agreements or the Community Infrastructure Levy
- We demand that a substantial proportion (circa 40%) of the housing in any new settlement should be low cost rental or purchase housing to enable young people, in particular those brought up in the area, either to get on the housing ladder or have access to social housing locally.
- Provision of community infrastructure must be delivered on time and completed by an agreed trigger point. For example, the delivery of local shopping facilities, which at Flitch Green, Felsted and Forest Hall Park, Stansted have either been excessively delayed or not been achieved. This must not recur at locations developed in the future.

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