

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 4ER
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Sir Harvey McGrath
Chair
LSCC Growth Commission

4 March 2016

Your ref:

Our ref:

Please ask for Andrew Taylor on 01799 510601
email: ataylor@uttlesford.gov.uk

Dear Sir Harvey,

LSCC Growth Commission – Uttlesford District Council submission

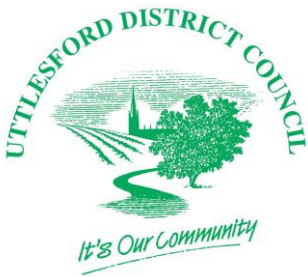
Uttlesford lies within the centre of the LSCC and enjoys strong positive attributes. Uttlesford is a mainly rural environment, productive farmland and historic small towns and villages, good access to London's job opportunities, cultural and sporting attractions and shopping, and to Cambridge with the further range of job opportunities and leisure activities this university city provides. Uttlesford has excellent schools and good access to health care, a high level of economic activity and very low unemployment, and a low crime rate. It is a relatively affluent area. It has a growing network of domestic and international air services through Stansted Airport, which is a major employment site in its own right. These factors have led to Uttlesford being described as the district offering the best quality of life out of 376 local authority areas in England and Wales.

The Council seeks to maintain and improve on Uttlesford's positive attributes. It aims to preserve the quality of life in the towns and villages and protect the district's environment from inappropriate development. The Council is committed to ensuring that good, affordable housing is available to all residents, especially young people and low paid workers from the District and to help local companies to grow within appropriate development constraints, creating more jobs locally.

The Council is a committed member of the LSCC and is keen to work together to exploit the inter-dependence coming from a common transport infrastructure, shared labour markets and precious green spaces. Different places within this corridor have distinctive priorities and strengths. There are clear growth centres, providing the jobs and homes for a growing economy. Other parts provide the green and rural environments that support the area's high quality of living – this is where Uttlesford comes in.

Towns and villages are a key part of the 'liveability' mix. They are central to the community, and house many of the facilities that make the LSCC such a fine place to live. The Corridor boasts a range of vibrant town centres offering shopping, leisure, and cultural facilities. Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow for example are both attractive small towns with thriving markets complementing an interesting mix of independent and mainstream shops, cafes and restaurants and provide the centre for the wider community of Uttlesford.

The Council recognises that the District is one of contrasts with the network of rural towns and villages described above overlain by two major trunk roads and an international airport.



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The council is committed to working with its neighbouring Council partners of Epping Forest, East Herts and Harlow to deliver the identified housing and jobs needs.

There are key infrastructure challenges which need to be unblocked to deliver this growth. These centre on Junction 7, 7A and 8 of the M11 as well as dualling of the A120 from Braintree to Colchester.

Uttlesford is committed to delivering the housing and jobs which are needed for its area but is equally committed to protecting the high quality built and natural environment which makes this area special.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Howard Rolfe
Leader of the Council

Cc Glenn Athey, Programme Manager glenn@lscggrowthcommission.org.uk