



Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	CABINET (16 OCTOBER 2025)
Subject	COTSWOLD DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN REGULATION 18 PREFERRED OPTIONS CONSULTATION AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Councillor Juliet Layton Deputy Leader of Cotswold District Council and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning Email: Juliet.Layton@cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Geraldine LeCointe – Assistant Director of Planning Services Email: Geraldine.LeCointe@cotswold.gov.uk
Report author	Jo Symons, Head of Planning Policy & Infrastructure Email: Jo.Symons@cotswold.gov.uk
Summary/Purpose	To seek approval to consult on the Preferred Options for development in the Cotswold District for the Regulation 18 consultation, and further technical documents as and when necessary; and to approve the updated Local Development Scheme to progress the Plan to submission in winter 2026 and adoption in winter 2027.
Annexes	Annex A: Cotswold District Council Local Plan Review Regulation 18 Consultation Preferred Options (November 2025) Annex B: Cotswold District Local Development Scheme (October 2025)
Recommendation(s)	That Cabinet resolves to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approve the Cotswold District Council Local Plan Review Regulation 18 Consultation Preferred Options (November 2025) document and commence a six-week public consultation on this and a call for sites from 5 November 2025 to 18 December 2025.



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	<ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Delegate authority to the Director of Communities and Place, the Accountable Officer and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning to agree any minor amendments or additions to the Consultation Document prior to the Regulation 18 Consultation.3. Delegate authority to the Director of Communities and Place and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning to approve for consultation any supporting technical documents for the Regulation 18 consultation.4. Delegate authority to the Director of Communities and Place and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning to approve additional technical documents for further Regulation 18 consultation as and when necessary.5. Approve the Local Development Scheme.
Corporate priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responding to the Climate Emergency• Delivering Housing• Supporting Communities• Supporting the Economy
Key Decision	YES
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	Chief Executive; Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer; Director of Governance and Development (Monitoring Officer); Chief Accountant and Deputy Section 151 Officer; Head of Legal Services; Director – Communities and Place; Assistant Director – Planning Services; and Strategic Housing Manager.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1** This report seeks approval from Cabinet to consult on the Preferred Options for development in the Cotswold District as part of the Regulation 18 consultation which aims to gather public feedback on the proposed development strategy for the updated Local Plan. A further call for sites is also proposed to further sites to help meet the required government housing target, as well as for other types of required development and infrastructure.
- 1.2** The report also seeks approval for an updated Local Development Scheme, which outlines the timeline for progressing the Local Plan to submission in winter 2026 and adoption in winter 2027.
- 1.3** The Council has already undertaken two Regulation 18 consultations on this Plan review to date. The first was in February/March 2022 on the Partial Local Plan Update to identify 'Issues and Options'. The second was in February/March 2024, where the Council undertook consultations on both the 'Draft Policies' of the Partial Local Plan Update and 'Issues and Options' for the Development Strategy and Site Allocations Plan.
- 1.4** However, given the significant increase in the number of homes the government calculates to be needed in the district, a further Regulation 18 consultation is required. The consultation will seek views on the most appropriate locations for development and will include another Call for Sites.
- 1.5** The Consultation Document attached in Annex A outlines seven development strategy scenarios to accommodate the additional growth with a preferred option, scenario 5, that maximizes housing delivery while also delivering sustainable development. This preferred option seeks to allocate sites in Principal Settlements, Non-Principal Settlements and village clusters; supports Rural Exception Sites in rural settlements; and would create new settlement(s) and/or strategic extensions to existing settlement(s). Several evidence base documents will be published alongside the consultation that evidence the approach that has been taken.
- 1.6** Scenario 5 includes a housing land supply of 14,660 homes, equating to 79% of the district's housing target of 18,650 homes based on the government's standard methodology. However, due to historic under delivery and national planning requirements, the Council is likely to need to plan for more homes than are



technically required to ensure sufficient actual delivery. This is particularly important given that Scenario 5 depends heavily on eight large sites (each over 500 homes), which are typically complex and prone to delays. As a result, actual delivery from Scenario 5 during the Local Plan period is expected to be closer to 11,730 homes—around 20% below the planned figure.

- 1.7** Given that Scenario 5 leaves a shortfall of homes to deliver the full housing target, it will be necessary to ask neighbouring local planning authorities if they can deliver any unmet housing target.
- 1.8** Delegated authority is also sought to seek public feedback on further pieces of evidence at a later date. These pieces of evidence will further inform our development strategy and include the Housing and Economic Needs Assessment which will provide our housing types and employment requirement figure, a Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment and a Retail and Town Centre Study.
- 1.9** The report recommends that the Council progress to its Regulation 18 Consultation on its Preferred Option for the Local Plan Review. All responses from the consultation will be reviewed and, where appropriate, will inform the site selection process and the draft Local Plan.
- 1.10** The report also recommends the approval of an updated Local Development Scheme for publication in accordance with regulations.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** In July 2025 Council resolved to merge the two ongoing Local Plan projects:
 - the partial update of the adopted Cotswold District Local Plan (2011-2031); and
 - the Development Strategy and Site Allocations Plan,into a single comprehensive Full Local Plan Update (incorporating work of the Gloucestershire Transitional Spatial Strategy, where appropriate), with a view to submission in 2026 and adoption in 2027.
- 2.2** This report seeks endorsement from Cabinet to go out to consultation on the Council's Preferred Options for development for its Regulation 18 Consultation.
- 2.3** The Council has already undertaken two Regulation 18 consultations on this Plan review to date; the first February/March 2022 on the Partial Local Plan Update to



identify 'Issues and Options' that the Local Plan needed to respond to; and the second in February/March 2024 where the Council undertook consultations on both the 'Draft Policies' of the Partial Local Plan Update and 'Issues and Options' for the Development Strategy and Site Allocations Plan, the latter considering development options beyond 2031.

- 2.4** In the report to Council in July 2025, it was noted that given the significant increase to the number of homes the government calculates to be needed in the district, a further Regulation 18 consultation would be required.
- 2.5** The report also noted that a Broad Locations Study was being undertaken which would look at the constraints of the district and assess where appropriate locations may be situated for new settlements or extensions to existing settlements. It noted that a Settlement Role and Function Study was also being undertaken, and this would consult our parishes on their facilities and look at public transport to establish the sustainability of each settlement. From this Study, a settlement hierarchy would be established to help in allocating a sustainable level of development across the district whilst considering constraints. Based on these studies, it was proposed that the next Regulation 18 consultation would seek views on the most appropriate locations for development; and another Call for Sites would also be undertaken.
- 2.6** Since that time the team have made good progress on progressing evidence, and further work has been produced to inform the consultation: all of the sites have now been visited, and whilst the site assessments will not be fully complete for the Regulation 18 consultation; the team have indicative figures for housing for each proposed Principal and Non-Principal Settlement or area.
- 2.7** By front loading consultation on the preferred areas of development at this stage; the Council will minimise further issues arising at the subsequent Regulation 19 consultation stage. The team have also undertaken an Advisory Meeting with the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), where a Planning Inspector advised that it is preferable, if possible, to consult on the preferred locations for development prior to Regulation 19. This is also in accordance with advice from the Planning Advisory Service (PAS).
- 2.8** This report therefore recommends a consultation on several potential development strategy options and the Preferred Option for how development will be distributed



across the district in the future. These options are set out in the Council's Development Strategy Technical Paper, as well as the Consultation Document itself.

- 2.9** A Communications Strategy and a Communications Plan have been developed to provide a considered consultation approach in this regard and these follow the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement¹.
- 2.10** This report also sets the timetable for adoption of the Plan. The Plan is on target to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in December 2026 with adoption envisaged in 2027. An updated Local Development Scheme is attached in Annex B and Cabinet is recommended to approve this.

3. Consultation Approach

- 3.1** In December 2024, the newly elected Government produced a revised version of the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024) (the NPPF). The changes included a new, mandatory Standard Method for calculating the number of homes needed in each local planning authority area. Areas with the highest levels of unaffordable housing were given increased housebuilding targets. As a result, and due to high house prices in Cotswold District, the district received a more than 100% increase to its target, more than doubling of the previous target. The number of homes needed in the district is now calculated to be 1,036 homes a year.
- 3.2** As a result of this change, and the implications this has had for the Council's five-year supply; the Council has committed to undertaking a full review of its Local Plan with a view to adoption by December 2027.
- 3.3** As part of this review, it is necessary to undertake a further Regulation 18 consultation to show how the Council proposes to respond to the significant increase in the district's housing target. In doing so, it is proposed that the Council consults on its development strategy options with a preferred approach for development; and seeks views on this. This approach will provide indicative numbers for settlements and broad areas for proposed development. It will not, however, show specific sites, as further work is needed in this regard, but it will give consultees an indication of where the majority of development is likely to be located, including illustrating this diagrammatically on maps.

¹ [Statement of Community Involvement](#)



- 3.4** As noted in the background explanation, Officers have been advised by both the Planning Inspectorate and PAS, that it is preferable to consult on preferred areas/options for development at Regulation 18 stage; as it enables the Council to address concerns and resolve issues where possible at this stage, as opposed to leaving such decisions to be addressed by an Inspector following a Regulation 19 consultation. Thus, this approach provides greater flexibility and allows the Council to address issues of soundness at an early stage, paving the way for examination.
- 3.5** The Inspector can only address issues of soundness and legality raised by respondents at Regulation 19 stage; and it is only those who provide responses at the Regulation 19 stage who are allowed to appear at an examination hearing.

4. Consultation Document

- 4.1** The Consultation Document, as provided in Annex A, sets out the proposed plan period for 2025-2043, enabling the Local Plan to look ahead 15 years from the anticipated point when the Local Plan is adopted.
- 4.2** Consideration is given to the amount of additional development that would likely be needed for the 18-year plan period. Based on current estimations, the following provides a useful indication.
- i. 18,650 additional new homes are needed in the new local plan period.
 - ii. 6,150 homes already have planning permission, are remaining site allocations from the adopted Local Plan or are expected to be delivered as windfalls (i.e. sites not specifically identified in the Local Plan), which can contribute towards delivering the housing target.
 - iii. A supply of additional sites capable of delivering 12,500 homes is needed to fully deliver the housing target (i.e. $18,650 - 6,150 = 12,500$ homes).
- 4.3** Seven development strategy options have been identified to accommodate the additional growth:
- i. Scenario 1: Allocate sites in Principal Settlements, Non-Principal Settlements and Village Clusters and support Rural Exception Sites in Rural Settlements.
 - ii. Scenario 2: Allocate sites in Principal Settlements, Non-Principal Settlements, Village Clusters and Rural Settlements.
 - iii. Scenario 3: Main Service Centre focus.



- iv. Scenario 4: Focus growth around transport nodes.
- v. Scenario 5: Allocate sites in Principal Settlements, Non-Principal Settlements and Village Clusters. Support Rural Exception Sites in Rural Settlements. Create new settlement(s) and/or strategic extensions to existing settlement(s).
- vi. Scenario 6: Allocate sites in Principal Settlements, Non-Principal Settlements and Village Clusters. Support Rural Exception Sites in Rural Settlements. Create new settlement(s) and/or strategic extensions to existing settlement(s). Support major development within the Cotswold National Landscape
- vii. Scenario 7: Maximise growth across the district (for example, via additional new settlement(s) / strategic extensions)

4.4 Scenarios 5 is the preferred option. It is currently estimated that this option could provide a supply of housing sites of around 14,660 homes. This is the only approach that maximises housing delivery whilst also delivering sustainable development. This approach is illustrated to show the amount of housing it could deliver in Principal and Non-Principal Settlements, Rural Exception Sites for affordable housing, as well as proposed areas for strategic scale development (500 or more homes).

4.5 The total estimate of 14,660 homes from scenario 5 would provide a housing land supply that is 79% of the 18,650 housing target calculated using the government's 'standard methodology'. However, because the district has previously fallen short of its housing targets, national rules will likely require the Council to plan for more homes than are actually needed, just to make sure enough get built. This is especially so given that scenario 5 relies on the delivery of eight large sites of 500 or more homes, and that these types of sites are often delayed. This means that although 14,660 homes are planned, we realistically expect around 20% fewer homes to be built during the Local Plan period, meaning that scenario 5 would be expected to deliver around 11,730 homes.

4.6 Scenario 5 leaves a shortfall of 6,920 homes to deliver the full requirement figure. It will therefore be necessary to ask the district's neighbouring local planning authorities whether they can delivery any of unmet housing need in their areas.



- 4.7** The figures identified are intended to provide an indication of the approximate number of additional homes that can potentially be delivered in the Local Plan based on current evidence. The figures may go up or down as they will be updated to reflect future annual monitoring of development sites, evidence base documents that are currently underway (e.g. the Moreton-in-Marsh Feasibility Study), and the outcome of the Call for Sites from this Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation, which will allow landowners, developers and members of the public to put forward further sites to enable the Council to assess their potential for being allocated for development in the Local Plan.
- 4.8** The Call for Sites will have a specific focus on areas identified as having potential for further investigation in the Assessment of Broad Strategic Development Locations (the Broad Locations Study) and within and surrounding Principal and Non-Principal Settlements identified by the proposed Local Plan Development Strategy.
- 4.9** The Broad Locations study found no 'obvious' parts of the district that could be readily developed. However, it did identify areas that require further detailed assessment (in terms of mitigating constraints etc.) to determine their suitability and the level of development that could occur (if any). More information on this Call for Sites can be found in Chapter 6 of the Consultation Document.
- 4.10** The needs / requirements and land supply for other types of development and infrastructure are being further assessed and will be included within the updated development strategy. This includes, for example, the need for different types of employment development, gypsy and traveller accommodation, etc.

5. Supporting Technical Evidence

- 5.1** Although supporting technical evidence base documents do not form part of the Regulation 18 consultation, they provide important background information for consultees. Several completed evidence base documents will be published alongside the consultation.
- 5.2** Delegated authority is sought for the Director of Planning and Communities and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning to approve these documents for publication prior to the consultation.
- 5.3** A summary of the supporting technical evidence is provided below, and public feedback will be sought on these documents:



- 5.3.1 Broad Locations Study:** This report is one of the first steps in identifying suitable sites for development. It aims to identify broad locations that would be suitable for strategic development (defined in this study as developments of five hundred or more homes). These can be either large urban extensions to existing settlements or new settlements.
- 5.3.2** The assessment shows that there are no realistic opportunities for a large new town of over 10,000 houses, although (parts of) zones have been identified that potentially could accommodate a new village or small town. However, this study is a high-level assessment of potentially suitable locations for development. The full impact of development in specific locations within the Broad Zones will need to be looked at in more detail to confirm the suitability of those areas for development while considering the balance between housing and other development needs and adverse impacts.
- 5.3.3 Development Strategy Options Technical Report:** This report explores different spatial strategies for accommodating future growth. Its purpose is to assess a range of development scenarios that could deliver housing, employment, infrastructure, and other land uses over the plan period. The report outlines the planning context, including national policy requirements, housing need calculations, and land supply considerations. It then presents and evaluates multiple strategic options, each based on different principles such as settlement hierarchy, transport accessibility, and the potential for strategic-scale development. The report is intended to inform decision-making on the preferred development strategy, ensuring it is evidence-led, sustainable, and aligned with local and national planning objectives.
- 5.3.4 Non-Strategic Site Selection Methodology:** The Non-Strategic Site Allocations Selection Methodology outlines a comprehensive, multi-stage process for identifying and assessing potential housing sites for inclusion in the Cotswold District Local Plan Update (2025–2043). It begins by identifying settlements requiring allocations and drawing candidate sites from the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA). Sites are then filtered through initial screening (e.g. availability, access, size), followed by assessments of primary constraints (such as flood risk, landscape sensitivity, heritage and ecological designations) and secondary constraints (including accessibility, agricultural land quality, and environmental impact). Viability testing and a final planning balance are



applied in accordance with paragraph 11b(ii) of the National Planning Policy Framework (2024), weighing benefits such as climate resilience, biodiversity net gain, infrastructure delivery, and affordable housing against potential harms. The methodology ensures that only deliverable and developable sites aligned with the Local Plan strategy are recommended for allocation, with final decisions made by Council Members.

- 5.3.5 Landscape Assessment Methodology:** The landscape assessment methodology is a structured, multi-stage approach designed to evaluate the sensitivity of land around settlements in Cotswold District to development. It begins with a desk study that examines landscape character, designations, ecological and historic assets, and changes in built form. This is followed by site surveys to verify findings, assess constraints, and identify opportunities for mitigation. Sensitivity is defined by combining a site's susceptibility to change with its landscape value, considering factors such as visibility, enclosure, topography, proximity to heritage assets, and ecological significance. Sites are rated on a five-point scale (Low to High) and mapped to a traffic light system to guide development suitability. The methodology integrates national guidance (GLVIA, Landscape Character Assessment) and local context (e.g., National Character Areas, Conservation Areas, flood zones, biodiversity zones), with recommendations for design criteria, mitigation, and environmental improvements.
- 5.3.6 Settlement Role and Function Study:** The main purpose of the Settlement Role and Function Study is to build up a picture of the settlements in Cotswold District, and how they relate to each other – their role and function. The study presents information across the themes of population and settlement size; employment and economic activity and community facilities/services. The conclusion outlines the role and function of the district's 49 largest settlements, recommending a hierarchy of Principal Settlements, Non-Principal Settlements and Rural Settlements for the Council's Local Plan Update.
- 5.3.7 Integrated Impact Assessment:** The aim of the Integrated Impact Assessment Report, in accordance with regulatory requirements, is essentially to present an appraisal of "the plan and reasonable alternatives" and "an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with".



5.3.8 Habitats Regulation Assessment: The aim of the Habitats Regulations Assessment at Regulation 18 consultation is to ensure that the planning process is aligned with the conservation objectives of European sites. The Habitats Regulations Assessment process involves assessing the potential effects of a plan or project against the nature conservation objectives of any site designated for its nature conservation importance. This includes evaluating whether the plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. The Habitats Regulations Assessment process is based on the precautionary principle, where uncertainty about the potential effects should be assumed.

6. Communications

- 6.1** Messaging will be clear that the Council cannot control the number of houses that the Government has identified are needed in the district. Furthermore, the numbers of houses being consulted on are **indicative** at this stage and are subject to change following further assessment work and the Call for Sites, which is being undertaken alongside this consultation.
- 6.2** A two-part Communications Strategy and Plan has been developed to manage communications. This is based on the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)², which explains how and when different groups, organisations and communities can get involved with the local plan and planning documents. It provides a framework for how to maximise community engagement in the consultation.
- 6.3** Communications will focus on key themes/issues that impact different groups, showing them how the Plan impacts them. The target audiences are in line with those required to be consulted under the SCI and include statutory stakeholders; general consultation bodies (e.g. community groups, residents' associations); local residents and businesses, neighbouring authorities; Parish and Town councils; and hard-to-reach groups.
- 6.4** Communication will involve several methods including:
- A dedicated consultation platform with interactive maps and documents.

² Cotswold District Council [Statement of Community Involvement](#) (January 2024)



- Online surveys and comment forms.
- Email and postal notifications to registered stakeholders.
- Social media campaigns (Facebook, LinkedIn, X/Twitter, Nextdoor).
- Press releases and local media coverage including a hard-copy newsletter landing on doorsteps, mid-November with the Local Plan consultation very prominent within it.
- Printed materials in libraries, council offices, and parish councils.
- Face to face events and an online town and parish council forum.

7. Other Documents to be Consulted Upon in the Future

7.1 It is also proposed to seek public feedback on further Local Plan evidence base documents in the future, as and when they are completed, such as an updated Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment, a Town Centre Study, and a Housing and Economic Needs Assessment. These will identify the need for gypsy and traveller accommodation, retail and other town centre uses, employment uses, as well as the types, sizes and tenures of housing needed. Given the technical nature of these documents, delegated authority is sought to request public feedback on these evidence base documents separately to this Regulation 18 consultation. Notification would be sent to all key consultees including key stakeholders, town and parish councils and those on the local plan database. The documents would be available to view online, and feedback would be sought via a response form.

8. The Local Development Scheme

- 8.1** All local planning authorities are required by law to prepare a Local Development Scheme. The Local Development Scheme explains what planning policy documents the council already has in place and the planning policy documents it will prepare in the future. It must also include the timetable for producing these documents.
- 8.2** National policy expects councils to review and update their Local Development Scheme at least annually, although it may need updating more frequently if there are any significant changes in the timescales or the plans being prepared.
- 8.3** The Council last updated its Local Development Scheme in March 2025 following the Deputy Prime Minister requesting that all local planning authorities produce an



updated Local Development Scheme within 12 weeks of the publication of the revised NPPF in December 2024.

8.4 The updated Local Development Scheme includes the following timescales:

- Consultation: Preferred Options (Regulation 18) – autumn 2025
- Consultation: Technical documents (Regulation 18) – winter/spring 2026
- Consultation: Publication of pre-submission draft Local Plan (Regulation 19) - summer 2026
- Submission of pre-submission draft Local Plan (Regulation 22) – winter 2026
- Examination – spring 2027
- Adoption – winter 2027

8.5 The Community Infrastructure Levy will be updated alongside the Local Plan. This will include the following stages:

- Draft charging schedule consultation – summer 2026
- Submission – winter 2026
- Examination – summer 2027
- Adoption – winter 2027

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

9.1 As noted, the report to Council in July 2025 provided for a high level Regulation 18 consultation on the Broad Locations Study. The Broad Locations Study has now been completed and has shown no obvious locations for development and recommends further assessment of all potential areas for development. Given the lack of conclusions in this document, there would be nothing tangible to consult on. Further, the Council has received advice from both PAS and the Planning Inspectorate to consult on the proposed areas for development prior to the Regulation 19 stage. This is therefore the proposed strategy.

The Council is required to have an up-to-date Local Development Scheme. Following the Council's decision in July 2025 to progress a Full Local Plan Review for submission in December 2026, the Council is required to update the Local Development Scheme and publish it on its website. A legal test of soundness is that the Council has an up-to-date Local Development Scheme on submission of its Local



Plan to the Secretary of State for examination. There is therefore no alternative to this option.

10. CONCLUSIONS

1.1. This report recommends that the Council progress to its Regulation 18 Consultation on its Preferred Options for the Local Plan Review. All of the responses from the consultation will be reviewed and where appropriate inform the site selection process and in turn the draft Local Plan which will be consulted on in Summer 2026.

10.1 The report also recommends the approval of the updated Local Development Scheme for publication in accordance with regulations. These recommendations accord with the Council's decision in July 2025 to progress the Plan to submission in December 2026.

11. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The Council has set aside a local plan reserve to provide for costs arising from the Local Plan. This provides for £15,000 to fund the costs of this consultation; and will include costs for exhibition materials, refreshments, and printing.

12. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

12.1 It is a statutory requirement for the Council to produce a Local Plan and keep it up to date. Local Plans, prepared by a local planning authority in consultation with its community, set out a vision and framework for the future development of an area. Once in place, Local Plans become part of the statutory development plan. The statutory development plan for the area is the starting point for determining local planning applications.

12.2 The Government has made clear the intention to make rapid progress towards universal local plan coverage both through support and using Government's powers of intervention when needed. Within the new planning reforms, the Government introduced new powers for government intervention where progress on local plans is not being made, bringing in government officers and attributing the bill to the council in question.

12.3 The preparation of a Local Development Scheme is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). This must specify (among other matters) the development plan documents (i.e. local plans) which, when prepared,



will comprise part of the development plan for the area. The Local Development Scheme must be made available publicly and kept up-to-date. It is important that local communities and interested parties can keep track of progress. Local planning authorities should publish their Local Development Scheme on their website.

13. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 13.1** The Regulation 18 consultation may result in a large number of responses which may cause resourcing issues for the team. A growth bid has been approved to increase the resources for the Policy Team which is part of a broader restructure, and this is currently going through consultation; but these resources may take time to put in place. The Council has therefore recruited contractors to provide support and therefore mitigate this risk whilst more permanent resources are sought and put in place.
- 13.2** The Council may receive unresolvable objections from major stakeholders; early engagement will therefore be sought to resolve such issues as soon as possible.

14. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 14.1** The emerging Local Plan is supported by an Integrated Impact Assessment that considers these legal duties and requirements. An updated Integrated Impact Assessment will be available to review and comment on during the public consultation.

15. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS

- 15.1** Delivering a Local Plan that is green to the core is a corporate priority in the Council's efforts to tackle the climate change and ecological emergencies and the draft plan policies take account of this.

16. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 16.1** The following papers have been consulted for background information in preparation for this report:
- Cotswold District Council's Statement of Community Involvement [Statement of Community Involvement](#)



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- Cotswolds District Council Local Development Scheme. [Local Development Scheme January 2024](#)

16.2 These documents will be available for inspection online at www.cotswold.gov.uk or by contacting democratic services democratic@cotswold.gov.uk for a period of up to 4 years from the date of the meeting.

(END)