

Proposed Cabinet response to recommendations and comments arising from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 3 August 2026 relating to the Cotswold Local Plan

Recommendations and comments relating directly to the Local Plan	Response	Responsible Cabinet Member	Lead Officer
1 Recommendation Strengthen policies where tourism causes exceptional infrastructure pressure on settlements. Comment Bourton-on-the-Water and Bibury were cited as examples, but there are likely to be other settlements in the District facing similar pressures.	Please refer to appended response (1)	Cllr Juliet Layton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing & Planning	Andrew Maxted, Head of Planning Policy & Infrastructure
2 Recommendation Highlight the importance of providing the infrastructure indicated in the plan for the strategic sites in a timely way, often before development begins and, where	Please refer to appended response (2)	Cllr Juliet Layton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing & Planning	Andrew Maxted, Head of Planning Policy & Infrastructure

This form should be completed with the recommendation made at O&S and sent to the relevant officer for their response.

The completed sheet is then sent to Cabinet to agree a form of words.

The completed document with responses will be tabled at a meeting of Cabinet (or Council depending on which committee the recommendation was to)

During the meeting “unlock” the meeting agenda for edit, attach the document and then re-publish as a supplement – DO NOT repack.

In the subsequent minutes “Cabinet agreed the response to O&S” plus the hyperlink to the published document on the CDC public portal.

necessary, using Grampian conditions. Comment Infrastructure includes transport, water supply, drainage, sewage treatment, sustainable water management, healthcare, education, employment and environmental improvements, and is a fundamental aspect of building new sustainable communities.			
3 Recommendation Look again at the transport infrastructure in particular locations in the District, notably Moreton-in-Marsh and Fairford.	This can be considered in parallel to the Reg 19 consultation and where necessary, could be referenced within the Statement of Common Ground process.	Cllr Juliet Layton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing & Planning	Andrew Maxted, Head of Planning Policy & Infrastructure
4 Recommendation Ensure that the plan is accessible to all, including the provision of information to those who cannot access web-based documents and those who would struggle to attend public meetings and exhibitions.	There will be four exhibitions through the consultation period. Venues for these have been selected on the basis of maximum accessibility and inclusion for people living in the relevant catchment areas. In addition, public meetings will be held in or close to the relevant locale for residents living in strategic site areas. In line with the Council's published Statement of Community Involvement, printed	Cllr Juliet Layton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing & Planning	Matt Abbott, Head of Communications

	copies of the consultation document will be made available offline; at council offices, in libraries and with town and parish councils. Information on the Local Plan is also going to be included in the next print newsletter, which is delivered to every household in the district. Given the volume of material associated with the Local Plan, we will also endeavour to present key information in the most digestible ways, online and offline.		
5 Recommendation Ensure that communication to the public is clear on why the Plan is necessary and the risks associated with not having a Plan.	Noted. There will be supporting material available to provide an overview of the need for the Local Plan, however this matter is covered within the Local Plan introduction. The Communications team is considering other content that it can share to further reinforce this messaging.	Cllr Juliet Layton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing & Planning	Matt Abbott, Head of Communications

Recommendations and comments associated with the Local Plan	Response	Responsible Cabinet Member	Lead Officer
6 Recommendation In light of the risks associated with the provision of infrastructure, examine the potential use of multi-agency gateway agreements which developers could be required to sign up to before development commences.	This falls outside the remit of the Local Plan and a Council policy around this will need to be developed separately.	Cllr Juliet Layton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing & Planning	Geraldine LeCointe, Assistant Director – Planning Services
7 Recommendation Thames Water has failed to provide resilient water supplies and sewage treatment capacity across the Cotswold District and the Committee request that this continue to be highlighted to Government.	Noted. Engagement with infrastructure providers will continue and Statements of Common Ground will be prepared both to support the consultation and to inform plan submission.	Cllr Juliet Layton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing & Planning	Geraldine LeCointe, Assistant Director – Planning Services
8 Comment Concern that the national targets for new homes set by the Government are simply numbers based and do not reflect the real housing needs of local communities, including the types of homes required and their affordability.	The Council has a legal duty to maintain an up-to-date Local Plan that must be consistent with national policy, guidance and legislation. Failure to meet the housing need in full could be expected to render the plan to be unsound. There is considerable evidence of affordability challenges in Cotswold and the draft plan seeks to meet the identified need for affordable housing in full.	Cllr Juliet Layton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing & Planning	Geraldine LeCointe, Assistant Director – Planning Services

9 Comment The committee thanked Andrew Maxted and the Planning Policy Team for their efforts over recent months in preparing the Plan and its supporting documents.		Cllr Juliet Layton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing & Planning	Geraldine LeCointe, Assistant Director – Planning Services
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Recommendation 1: Strengthen policies where tourism causes exceptional infrastructure pressure on settlements.

Comment: Bourton-on-the-Water and Bibury were cited as examples, but there are likely to be other settlements in the District facing similar pressures.

Response: There are two main policies within the Plan that seek to manage the impacts from tourists, tourist attractions and tourist accommodation. Chapter 11 provides the policy framework for this type of development, and this is supplemented by other policies within the plan relating to transport, employment and the historic and natural environment, which all planning applications must comply with.

It is important to also highlight here that there is a Cotswold National Landscape Management Plan 2025-2030 which commits to sustainable tourism (Policy UE3: Sustainable Tourism) across the National Landscape and seeks to manage development priorities (Policy CE15: Development priorities and evidence of need) and manage Major development (Policy CE14: Major Development) in the National Landscape in line with national policy. Development proposals will also be required to demonstrate compliance with the management plan in the determination process.

In addition to the management plan, the Cotswold Tourism Destination Management Plan for Tourism Across the Cotswolds (2026) sets out the vision and key objectives for sustainable tourism across the National Landscape and the policies of the Local Plan have been prepared to contribute towards achieving the vision and objectives.

The main policies to manage tourists and tourist accommodation in the District are Core Policy 46: Development of Tourist Facilities and Visitor Attractions and Core Policy 47: Tourist and Visitor Accommodation.

Core Policy 46 seeks to manage new facilities and the expansion of existing facilities, to ensure that proposals clearly demonstrate how they will protect the natural environment, respect the qualities of the landscapes across Cotswold, contribute positively to the local economy and be accessed by sustainable modes of transport.

Core Policy 47 seeks to restrict new hotels, serviced accommodation and hostels to town and local centres, as well as restricting new holiday lets and self-catering accommodation to within the development boundaries of Main and Principal Settlements to protect settlements like Bibury from tourist accommodation.

The Gloucestershire Housing and Economic Needs Assessment and Cotswold Employment Land Review highlight the importance of tourism for the District as a sector of employment, at the Local Plan acknowledges the role that it plays in the Cotswold economy and seeks to manage the impacts from tourist related development.

There are limits to how the Local Plan can go beyond the approaches summarised here and care is necessary that changes are not made to the Plan that are not sufficiently informed by evidence and/ or engagement with relevant stakeholders. The approach does however provide a multilayer policy framework for managing tourism across the district and it is considered that this will be the most effective approach when taking into account the existing policies in place to manage tourism within Cotswold District.

Recommendation 2: Highlight the importance of providing the infrastructure indicated in the plan for the strategic sites in a timely way, often before development begins and, where necessary, using Grampian conditions.

Comment: Infrastructure includes transport, water supply, drainage, sewage treatment, sustainable water management, healthcare, education, employment and environmental improvements, and is a fundamental aspect of building new sustainable communities.

Response: The existing draft of the Local Plan does provide a strong and comprehensive framework for achieving the aim of the recommendation. The Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) sets out the future infrastructure requirements in line with local plan spatial strategy. The IDP is supported by an Infrastructure Delivery Schedule which is a live document with the most up-to-date information relating to infrastructure requirements, including costs and delivery timescales for each project.

In the Local Plan, each Area Strategy includes a Core Policy setting out the strategic services and infrastructure of which the delivery is essential to supporting sustainable growth. These are supported by the detailed policy requirements for any proposed allocations that are set out in the Site Development Frameworks (for strategic sites) and Site Development Templates (for non-strategic sites) which set out the infrastructure, and other, requirements the sites will need to provide in order to be policy compliant.

The importance of infrastructure delivery is woven through the Plan with several policies looking at specific elements such as: Core Policy 64: Water Management Infrastructure, Core Policy 70: Green and Blue Infrastructure, Core Policy 72: Social and Community Infrastructure and Core Policy 73: Telecommunications Infrastructure.

This is all underpinned by Core Policy 6: Infrastructure Delivery which explains the Council's 'infrastructure-led' ambition. This policy requires developers to demonstrate how

infrastructure needs arising from their proposals can be addressed at the earliest reasonable stage, unless evidence shows that later delivery is more appropriate.