



Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	Cabinet Member for Development Management and Licensing Decision Meeting – 30th November, 2022
Report Number	AGENDA ITEM I
Subject	NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING: REPRESENTATION TO THE REGULATION 16 CONSULTATION ON THE FAIRFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN
Wards affected	Fairford North, Lechlade, Kempsford and Fairford South
Accountable member	Cllr Juliet Layton Email: juliet.layton@cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Joseph Walker, Community Partnerships Officer Email: joseph.walker@cotswold.gov.uk
Summary/Purpose	To agree a representation from the Council to the Regulation 16 consultation on the Fairford Neighbourhood Development Plan.
Annexes	Annex A Fairford Neighbourhood Plan A1: Fairford Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16 Draft A2: Appendices A3: Basic Conditions Statement A4: Consultation Statement A5: Strategic Environmental Assessment A6: Habitat Regulations Assessment Annex B: Cotswold District Council Draft representation
Recommendation(s)	<i>a) That the Cabinet member considers the draft representation, and subject to any amendments, agrees it for submission to inform the review by the Independent Examiner.</i>

Corporate priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Responding to the challenges presented by the climate crisis ● Providing good quality social rented homes ● Presenting a local plan that's green to the core ● Helping residents and communities access the support they need for good health and wellbeing ● Supporting businesses to grow in a green, sustainable manner, and to provide high value jobs <p>Neighbourhood Plans are prepared by or on behalf of parish councils, and express their priorities, albeit that they need to be in general conformity with the policies of the Local Plan. In this instance, the ambitions of Fairford Town Council align well with the Council's Corporate Priorities, as the Plan contains planning policies seeking to deliver housing, address climate change, promote residents' health and wellbeing and support local businesses.</p>
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	<p>The plan has been consulted on by the Parish Council, and is currently subject to a consultation carried out by this Council. Local residents, businesses and a range of statutory and non-statutory organisations have been informed of the consultation. It should be noted that the consultation does not present an opportunity to add to or alter the plan directly – but is instead an opportunity for consultees to raise concerns with the examiner to inform the decision on whether the submitted plan meets the Basic Conditions – the legal requirements for a Neighbourhood Development Plan to proceed to referendum.</p>

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Fairford Town Council (FTC) applied to this Council in late 2013 to designate a Neighbourhood Area. The area applied for, and subsequently approved, was the then-future boundaries of the parish which came into effect in 2015. An earlier version of the Fairford Neighbourhood Development Plan (FNDP) was submitted in 2017. This Plan failed independent examination, so since that date, FTC has been addressing the concerns raised, and responding to changing circumstances. The amended Plan was duly consulted upon in autumn 2020 – a consultation to which this Council responded – and representations have been considered in preparing a submission draft, recently received by this Council. Following the submission of this draft to the Council, ‘the Regulation 16’ consultation was launched on 1 November 2022, closing on 13 December 2022.

2. MAIN POINTS

- 2.1 This consultation gives Cotswold District Council a further opportunity to seek to influence the content of the plan. Should a neighbourhood plan proceed through examination, and subsequent referendum, and be made by this Council, it will become part of the Local Development Framework through which planning applications are determined. As the Local Planning Authority making those determinations, it is in the Council’s interests to ensure that so far as possible, neighbourhood plans meet the necessary legal standards and provide a useful framework for decision-making.
- 2.2 The representation attached at Annex B has been prepared and reviewed by a number of officers who have an involvement within Development Management, Planning Policy and Neighbourhood Planning. Through informal discussions with members of the FNDP steering group, and through the Council’s representation to the Regulation 14 consultation in 2020, the Council has had earlier opportunity to share its perspective on the policies proposed by the FNDP. This consultation provides an opportunity to share that perspective with the independent examiner, to inform their judgement on whether the plan should proceed to referendum, and if so, with what modifications.

3. CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1 The draft representation at Annex B provides what is in officers’ view, a reasonable commentary on the FNDP. Subject to the examiner’s review and opinion, some minor amendments as suggested could improve the application of the proposed plan, without undermining the ambitions of FTC in promoting this document.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None – this decision purely concerns the response to the current consultation.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None – this decision purely concerns the response to the current consultation, and informs the independent examiner’s review of the submitted FNDP.

7. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 7.1** This is a low risk decision, but mitigates the risk of the FNDP being examined without the Council's concerns being taken into account.

8. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.1** Not required for this decision.

9. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1** None directly for this decision, as it is purely a consultation response. The FNDP encourages energy efficiency and renewable energy measures, and promotes active travel, as well as supporting nature conservation, and has striven to develop local planning policies that will work in tandem with the updated Local Plan, and its ambition to be Green to the Core.

10. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 10.1** None.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1** None.

(END)