



Council name	<b>COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>
Name and date of Committee	<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND REGULATORY SERVICES DECISION MEETING – 9 MAY 2024</b>
Subject	<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING: REPRESENTATION TO THE CHIPPING CAMPDEN REGULATION 14 DRAFT CONSULTATION</b>
Wards affected	Campden Vale
Accountable member	Cllr Juliet Layton, Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulatory Services Email: <a href="mailto:juliet.layton@cotswold.gov.uk">juliet.layton@cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Accountable officer	Charlie Jackson, Assistant Director, Planning and Sustainability Email: <a href="mailto:Democratic@Cotswold.gov.uk">Democratic@Cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Report Author	Joseph Walker, Community Partnerships Officer Email: <a href="mailto:joseph.walker@cotswold.gov.uk">joseph.walker@cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Summary/Purpose	To ensure the Council takes the opportunity to influence the content of the Chipping Campden Neighbourhood Plan.
Annexes	Annex A: A1: Chipping Campden Neighbourhood Plan A2: Chipping Campden Design Guide Annex B: Draft Cotswold District Council Representation
Recommendation(s)	That the Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulatory Services: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>I. Considers the draft representation presented at Annex B, and subject to any amendments, agrees this for submission to Chipping Campden Town Council</li></ol>

Corporate priorities	<p>Supporting Communities  Delivering Housing  Responding to the Climate Emergency  Supporting the Economy</p> <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 the Chipping Campden Neighbourhood Plan complement the Council's Corporate Priorities, as the Plan contains planning policies seeking to address climate change, enhance biodiversity and support local businesses.</p>
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	<p>This report seeks agreement for a consultation response from this Council. It has been prepared with input from a number of officers with an interest in Neighbourhood Planning. Chipping Campden Town Council, as the body responsible for this plan, are legally bound to consult with defined statutory bodies and others whose interests are affected.</p>

## **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to explain the purpose of submitting a representation to the Chipping Campden Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 Consultation.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1. Chipping Campden Town Council (CCTC) requested designation of the area of the parish as a neighbourhood area, for the purposes of developing a neighbourhood plan, in 2013. CCTC launched a consultation on this Regulation 14 draft of their Neighbourhood Plan ('the Plan') on 8 April, closing on 22 May 2024.

## **3. MAIN POINTS**

- 3.1. The Council designated the full extent of the Chipping Campden parish boundary as a neighbourhood area in 2013. This boundary encompasses the town of Chipping Campden, and the nearby village of Broad Campden, and a rural hinterland wrapping around the two settlements. Since then, residents and professional planning consultancy support have been developing the evidence base and draft policies for this Plan.
- 3.2. This Pre-submission Consultation presents an opportunity for Council to comment formally on the Plan. The Plan has been circulated to officers from across the different Development Management disciplines.
- 3.3. The points raised in the draft representation attached at Annex 2 reflect officers' views on how the Plan fits with national and local planning policy and guidance, and their views on whether its policies will be usable. Officers have also commented where evidence might be lacking or subject to challenge, and where text is unclear, or where there are grammatical or typographical errors.

## **4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1. The Council could choose not to respond, but in so doing would lose the opportunity to influence the content of the Plan at a formative stage. This would increase the risk of inappropriate policy direction achieving legal status, and moreover would fail to provide CCTC with constructive criticism and direction to help them present a Plan that both meets legal requirements and responds to local ambition.

## **5. CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1. The attached representation provides constructive criticism and direction to CCTC, which will help them progress their neighbourhood plan. In that sense, it supports local communities. By helping to refine emerging planning policy, the response contributes towards the effective operation of the Council's Planning Service.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1.** None direct. Later stages in the development of the Plan require direct financial commitment from the Council. Under recent arrangements, this has reimbursed by a grant from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, although this is not confirmed for future years.

## **7.LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1.** The Localism Act 2011 establishes that the Council has a duty to support Neighbourhood Planning activity. This is generally interpreted as a requirement to engage constructively with Neighbourhood Planning groups throughout the Plan process, rather than limited to statutory processes.

## **8. RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 8.1.** Should the Council not respond at this stage, it misses a critical opportunity to influence the content of the emerging Plan. The risk here is twofold: should the Plan proceed with minimal changes through Regulation 16 and examination, there would be a greater risk of planning policies which are difficult to implement or interpret, creating challenges for Development Management. There would also be a greater risk that the Plan would either fail examination, or be subject to significant modifications, disappointing the Plan's supporters and at risk to the Council's reputation in carrying out its duty to support.

## **9. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 9.1.** Not directly applicable to this decision. However, the Plan will need to meet the 'Basic Conditions' laid out in the Localism Act 2011 to proceed to referendum. This should ensure it recognises equalities practice in the English planning system.

## **10 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1** Not directly applicable to this decision.

## **11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 11.1** None