



Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	COUNCIL – 22 JANUARY 2024
Subject	MORETON-IN-MARSH WORKING GROUP MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Councillor Joe Harris Leader of Cotswold District Council and Portfolio Holder for Planning policy, infrastructure and the Local Plan Email: joe.harris@cotswold.gov.uk
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Summary/Purpose	To confirm membership of the Moreton-in-Marsh Working Group; and to approve an updated Working Group Terms of Reference.
Annexes	Annex A – Updated Moreton-in-Marsh Working Group: Terms of Reference Annex B – Summary of feedback from Moreton-in-Marsh Community Event Report (Planning for Real, October 2024)
Recommendation(s)	That Council resolves to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approve the membership of the Moreton-in-Marsh Working Group; and2. Approve an updated Moreton-in-Marsh Working Group Terms of Reference.
Corporate priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responding to the Climate Emergency



COTSWOLD

District Council

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delivering Housing• Supporting Communities• Supporting the Economy
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	Local Management Team



1. BACKGROUND

1.1 On 24 January 2024, Full Council approved a recommendation to undertake a Local Plan consultation, which included a proposal for around 1,500 new homes and other supporting development at Moreton-in-Marsh. At the same time, Full Council approved the formation of a Moreton-in-Marsh Working Group and its Terms of Reference.

1.2 The working group will play a vital role in helping to shape future growth in Moreton-in-Marsh by providing information for consideration and a sounding board for proposals. In so doing, it will capture ideas and feedback from stakeholders and enable positive engagement with residents, businesses and other stakeholders. The working group is also intended to enable its members to have an influence within development proposals and the decision-making process. The group will not have executive powers, but it will be able to make recommendations to Cabinet / Council. Importantly, the working group will also involve and communicate with the wider elected membership of the council and neighbouring authorities that are close to Moreton-in-Marsh.

1.3 A Moreton-in-Marsh Community Event was held on 9th October 2024, which helped to identify potential working group members, suggestions for updating the Terms of Reference, and suggestions of methods for engagement and communication that could help inform how the working group functions. A recommended update to the working group Terms of Reference is provided at Annex A and a summary of the feedback from the community event is provided at Annex B. The changes to the Terms of Reference include:

- an updated working group membership list;
- the inclusion of detail on the regularity of working group meetings, which would be up to four times per calendar year (aiming for once a quarter); and
- the terms of when working group members can be swapped.

2. MAIN POINTS

2.1 The working group needs a range of representatives that can discuss key planning issues in Moreton. It also needs to guide and enable the planning of strategic growth at Moreton-in-Marsh and to act as a sounding board for any issues emerging from



this work. The group can also ensure that the needs and aspirations of Moreton-in-Marsh and neighbouring communities are adequately considered in the Local Plan process, as well as involving and communicating with the wider elected membership of Cotswold.

- 2.2** The number of members also needs to enable effective discussion in the time available. It is thought that a wider membership pool that attracts 10-15 people to meetings will achieve this.
- 2.3** Having considered the feedback from the Moreton-in-Marsh Community Event, it is recommended that the working group Terms of Reference is updated to include the representatives identified in Annex A. This includes 20 people with all members not expected to attend every meeting. Provision is made for some roles to be deputised if the nominated person is unable to attend.
- 2.4** Annex B also provides a suite of potential engagement methods. These ideas can be incorporated into working group meetings, and can be discussed in the first working group meeting.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1** Council may choose not to approve the working group membership or the Terms of Reference. Council may also choose to revise the working group membership or the Terms of Reference.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** The working group will have limited financial implications for the council. Working group membership would be on a voluntary basis. It would require officer time to administer the group, and there may be some costs with providing refreshments, producing materials, etc. This would be funded from the Local Plan reserve, although would be an additional cost to what is already budgeted.
- 4.2** Working group meetings would aim to be at the Moreton Area Centre at High Street, Moreton-in-Marsh. This would save on venue hire costs, whilst enabling meetings to be held within Moreton.
- 4.3** The Democratic Services Team would provide officer resources to administrate and facilitate the working group. This would be additional work for the team and would need to fit around other workstreams.



4.4 The working group will have an additional staff resource requirement for the council's Communications team.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The group would not have executive powers, but it will be able to make recommendations to Cabinet / Council.

6. RISK ASSESSMENT

6.1 There are believed to be no risks involved in setting up the working group.

7. EQUALITIES IMPACT

7.1 Not applicable.

8. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS

8.1 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 consultation proposals may impact this.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

(END)