



Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY – 3 FEBRUARY 2025
Subject	UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PLAN FOR NORTH COTSWOLDS
Wards affected	Moreton East and Moreton West
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
Accountable officer	Adrian Harding – Interim Assistant Director of Planning Services Email: adrian.harding@cotswold.gov.uk
Report author	Matthew Britton – Interim Head of Planning Policy and Infrastructure Email: matthew.britton@cotswold.gov.uk
Summary/Purpose	To update the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on emerging strategic growth proposals at Moreton-in-Marsh
Annexes	None
Recommendation(s)	That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the update on emerging strategic growth proposals at Moreton-in-Marsh
Corporate priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responding to the Climate Emergency• Delivering Housing• Supporting Communities• Supporting the Economy
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	Assistant Director – Planning



1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1** On 8 January 2024, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered 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, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the formation of a Moreton-in-Marsh Working Group. This report updates the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on progress with the strategic growth proposals at Moreton-in-Marsh.
- 1.2** The key updates for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to meetings and actions for growth options in Moreton-in-Marsh are as follows:
- i. A Local Plan consultation was held between 1 April 2024 and 7 April 2024.¹ Two consultation events were held in Moreton-in-Marsh, which were an all-day 'Drop in Session' on 6th March 2024 and a 'Question Time' event on 2nd April 2024. The Local Plan consultation responses and a summary of the feedback received are available to view the council's website.²
 - ii. Many responses were received to the Local Plan consultation. Since the consultation closed, council officers have been refining the draft Local Plan policies to take consideration of the feedback received and additional evidence that has been gathered since. This is in preparation for the next stage of public consultation on the draft Local Plan.
 - iii. The Local Plan consultation included a 'Call for Sites' to identify potential development land. The suitability of these sites is currently being assessed in an update to the council's Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment.
 - iv. A study is underway, which is considering whether strategic growth in Moreton is feasible. This includes consideration of how and where key infrastructure will be delivered, phasing requirements, and the timing of delivery of development.
 - v. Sewage pollution in the River Evenlode was a key issue identified in the Local Plan consultation. A Sewage Summit was held on 8th July 2024, which brought

¹ [Cotswold District Local Plan Update Consultation Draft Policies: Tracked Changes](#); and [Cotswold District Local Plan Update Consultation Vision, Objectives and Development Strategy Options Topic Paper](#)

² <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/evidence-base-and-monitoring/>



together environmental activists, water companies and other agencies to delve into the underlying causes of sewage pollution and to explore effective and practical measures to stop it.

- vi. A community event was held on 9th October 2024, which was run by Planning for Real. This gained further community feedback on issues and opportunities in Moreton-in-Marsh, as well as gathering suggestions for potential members of the Moreton Working Group, suggested alterations to the Working Group Terms of Reference, and suggested methods of engagement that the Working Group could use.
- vii. A second Moreton-in-Marsh Community Event is scheduled to take place 12th February 2025. This will include feedback received from the 9th October 2024 Moreton-in-Marsh Community Event; an update on the Moreton-in-Marsh Working Group; and a presentation from Moreton-in-Marsh Town Council and GWR on the proposed Moreton-in-Marsh railway station development.
- viii. Full Council voted to approve the Moreton-in-Marsh Working Group membership and Terms of Reference were approved by Full Council on 22nd January 2025. Following this, the inaugural Moreton-in-Marsh Working Group meeting is proposed to take place on 13th March 2025.

1.3 In summary, a number of steps have been taken in terms of consultation with local residents, businesses and stakeholders for the future growth of Moreton. Most recently, Full Council approved the constitution of a Working Group that will enable people in Moreton-in-Marsh to influence the location and form of development in the coming years. As part of this process, there will also be a feedback session on the Planning for Real event on 12th February 2025, which will feed into the work of the Working Group.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

2.1 Not applicable.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 None.



4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None.

5. RISK ASSESSMENT

5.1 Not applicable.

6. EQUALITIES IMPACT

6.1 Not applicable.

7. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 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.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None