

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CONSULTATION: MAIN MODIFICATIONS TO THE SUBMITTED COTSWOLD DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN 2011-2031 (February 2018)

What is this consultation about?

During the course of the examination into the submitted Cotswold District Local Plan 2011-2031 (July 2017) by an independent Planning Inspector, a series of Post-Submission Main Modifications have been prepared (“the Modifications”).

The Modifications are considered necessary to ensure that the submitted Plan is a ‘sound’ and legally-compliant document. The Modifications propose changes to the wording of certain policies and supporting text as well as adjustments to the Policies Map and some of the Inset maps.

The Modifications are now published and the Inspector is inviting representations to be submitted through this formal consultation. Representations may only be made in relation to these Modifications and not on any other parts of the Plan. The consultation is not an opportunity to promote alternative sites for development (often referred to as “omission sites”).

How long does the consultation last?

The consultation will be available for comment for 6 weeks from **Monday 19 February 2018** to **5pm on Wednesday 4 April 2018**.

Comments submitted after that time cannot be considered.

How can I respond to the consultation?

The Modifications can be viewed through an online portal at [<http://consult.cotswold.gov.uk>]. Once registered, the submission of representation(s) through the portal is convenient and straightforward.

Alternatively you can email representations, using a standard form (see below), to localplan@cotswold.gov.uk; or post completed form(s) to:

Local Plan Consultation
Forward Planning Team
Cotswold District Council
Trinity Road
Cirencester
GL7 1PX

Hard copies of the Modifications and associated papers and can be inspected at Cotswold District Council offices in Cirencester and Moreton-in-Marsh, or at libraries within Cotswold District. The representations form can also be obtained from these offices and libraries, or downloaded at [www.cotswold.gov.uk/go/forwardplanning].

Please note that the Council is required to make all comments publicly available on its website. Anonymous representations cannot be accepted.

What is the consultation document?

The consultation document comprises two schedules, which set out:

1. Changes to the submitted Local Plan’s Policies Map;
2. Main Modifications to the text of the submitted Local Plan.

Both schedules indicate Modifications in the order that they appeared in the Submission Draft Local Plan (June 2016) and include:

- a reference number;
- the relevant policy, paragraph or map number in the submitted Local Plan;
- the proposed Modification; and

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CONSULTATION: MAIN MODIFICATIONS TO THE SUBMITTED COTSWOLD DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN 2011-2031 (February 2018)

- the reason for the Modification.

Modifications are indicated as follows:

- deletions shown as a ~~striketrough~~;
- new text is shown underlined.

Can comments only be made on soundness and legal compliance?

Representations made to this Main Modifications consultation will need to explain why the Modifications would fail to meet one or more of the Government's 'tests of soundness', which are set out in paragraph 182 of the National planning Policy Framework. These are:

- **Positively prepared** – the plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development;
- **Justified** – the plan should be the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence;
- **Effective** – the plan should be deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities; and
- **Consistent with national policy** – the plan should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Representations made at this stage should, therefore, focus on whether the modifications to the Plan meet the tests listed above.

Legal requirements

When considering if the Modifications to the plan meet the legal requirements, the Inspector will consider a number of issues including:

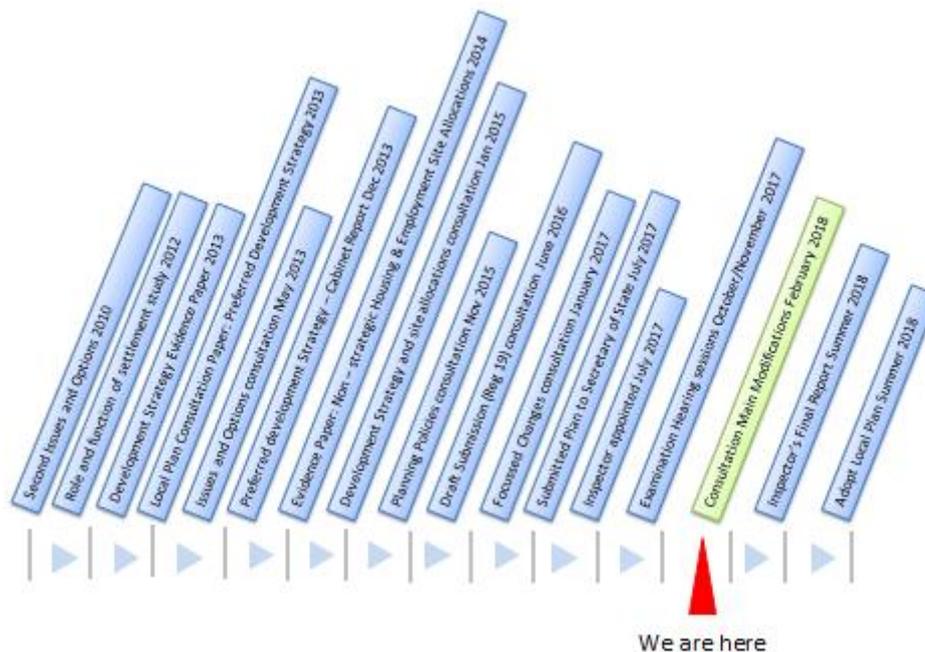
- **Local Development Scheme:** has the plan been prepared in accordance with the timetable set out in the Local Development Scheme?
- **Statement of Community Involvement and relevant regulations:** has consultation on the plan been in accordance with the Council's Statement of Consultation and have the appropriate bodies been consulted?
- **Duty to Cooperate:** has the plan been prepared in cooperation with other local planning authorities and prescribed bodies, such as the Environment Agency and the Local Enterprise Partnership, to identify and address any issues which will have a significant impact on at least two planning areas?
- **Sustainability Appraisal:** has an adequate Sustainability Appraisal been carried out?
- **Appropriate Assessment:** has an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Regulations Assessment been carried out?
- **National Policy and Legislation:** does the Plan comply with national policy and legislation, for example, the National Planning Policy Framework.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CONSULTATION: MAIN MODIFICATIONS TO THE SUBMITTED COTSWOLD DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN 2011-2031 (February 2018)

Hasn't the public already been consulted on the Local Plan?

Yes – the Council has consulted the public several times over the last few years, most recently on the Focussed Changes Addendum to the Cotswold District Local Plan Submission Draft in January and February 2017. On the Council's website you can see all the comments received on previous Local Plan consultations. The diagram below shows the Local Plan process:



What happened to my comments on the Focussed Changes Addendum to the Cotswold District Local Plan Submission Draft? Do I need to comment again?

All representations have been carefully considered by the Council and the Local Plan Inspector. Representations that have raised key points of soundness have prompted Main Modifications, which are aimed at addressing the respective issues. You should check to see if the Main Modifications have altered policies on which you previously commented.

Other valid points raised have been addressed as Additional Modifications. Unlike main Modifications, these do not make a material difference to the Plan and, hence, need do not require public consultation.

What happens when people comment on the Main Modifications consultation?

Representations received by the Council within the consultation period will be forwarded to the Inspector via Programme Officer, along with:

- a report listing all of the representations made about each of the proposed Modifications and changes to the policies map;
- a summary of the main issues raised; and
- the Council's brief response to those main issues.

The Local Plan Inspector will then consider all of the representations about the proposed Modification before finalising his report.

Normally, all issues arising from the consultation on the proposed Main Modifications should be capable of being considered through the written representations procedure.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CONSULTATION: MAIN MODIFICATIONS TO THE SUBMITTED COTSWOLD DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN 2011-2031 (February 2018)

Exceptionally, however, the Inspector may decide that it is necessary to hold a further hearing session(s) to clarify and resolve any substantive outstanding issues relating to the proposed Modifications. If this is the case, all representors will be informed and the examination website updated accordingly.

Why does CDC need a Local Plan at all?

Every Local Planning Authority must produce a Local Plan to meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The Plan should steer future development over a period of at least 15 years and meet stringent guidelines across a range of land use issues including:

- allocating land for housing;
- creation of employment opportunities;
- identifying necessary infrastructure improvements; and
- safeguarding environmental assets and heritage.

How do I make my views known?

There are different ways to send in your comments from the 19th February:

- Online at <http://consult.cotswold.gov.uk> This is the most convenient means of submitting comments and ensures that you will be kept informed of future stages of plan preparation.
- Via email or post. A representation form can be used, which is available from the District Council and libraries. The form should be sent to localplan@cotswold.gov.uk or posted to:

Local Plan Consultation,
Forward Planning Team,
Cotswold District Council,
Trinity Road,
Cirencester,
GL7 1PX

**Remember: the deadline for all comments is
5pm on Wednesday 4 April 2018**

Representations to this consultation should be made with direct reference to the Main Modifications, **stating the relevant reference number(s)**.

Please note: it is a requirement of the Local Plan process that comments can only be deemed legitimate (“duly made”) if they are received in a written format with a name and address supplied. Comments made verbally or anonymously cannot be accepted. It is also important to appreciate that the Council is obliged to make all duly-made representations available for public inspection on its website, although this will not include the address of representors.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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Are any public events being held?

Public 'drop-in' events, where you can find out more about the Local Plan, are being held at the following locations:

- Thursday 15 March 2018 from 2pm to 6.30pm at the Committee Rooms, Council Offices, Trinity Road, Cirencester; and
- Wednesday 21 March 2018 from 2pm to 6.30pm at Moreton Area Centre, High Street, Moreton-in-Marsh

A copy of the display boards will be available to view on the website.

Where can I see the documents?

As well as at the public events above, the consultation document and other relevant papers can be inspected at the following locations:

- Cotswold District Council Offices, Trinity Road, Cirencester
- Moreton Area Centre, Moreton-in-Marsh
- All public libraries in the District

The consultation document and other evidence papers can be viewed online at:

<http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/residents/planning-building/planning-policy/emerging-local-plan/local-plan-examination/>

Can I buy a copy?

Copies of the document can be purchased from Cotswold District Council as follows:

- The schedules of proposed Main Modifications and changes to the Policies Maps to the submitted Cotswold District Local Plan 2011-2031: £2.50 including postage and packaging;
- A track-changed copy of the Cotswold District Local Plan 2011-31 showing the proposed Main Modifications and the changes to the Policies Maps: £15.00 including postage and packaging; and
- A CD Rom is available upon request.