

21 September 2018

Letter of Support for Examination

This letter supports the submission of the Cheltenham Local Plan submission for independent examination as part of the Town and Country Planning Act and the supporting 5 year land supply statement.

Cheltenham Borough Council works in partnership with Gloucester City Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council in terms of strategic planning and recently adopted the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) which defines the development and supportive policies in the area to 2031
<https://jointcorestrategy.org/examination>.

Within the adopted JCS, the relationship of this strategic part of the development plan to the three local plans of Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury and their specific roles as part of the statutory development plan for the area, is explained.

The JCS on adoption, triggered an immediate review to determine the housing shortfalls of Gloucester and Tewkesbury as well as a review of the retail policy in line with the Inspectors report. This review process is now underway and progressing to the first stage of the regulatory process 18, whereby an Issues and Options paper is scheduled to be presented to the Councils in October for subsequent public consultation.

In addition to the identified shortfall, the review of the JCS will address any other delivery items and will therefore include any strategic issues relating to the 5 year supply. As noted within the relevant submission papers to the Cheltenham Plan including the 5 year supply statement, the delivery delays for Cheltenham relate directly to the strategic allocations and is therefore an issue to be dealt with via the JCS as opposed to the local plan.

The strategic allocation delivery issues and methods of resolution will be considered as part of the JCS review process. On this basis, Gloucester City Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council support the submission of the Cheltenham local plan for examination.

In terms of timing, the review as stated is underway, and is scheduled to be submitted for independent examination in 2020.

Yours faithfully



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