



Meeting	Full Council
Date	28 September 2022
Report Title	Chippenham Neighbourhood Plan Update
Author	Andy Conroy, Head of Planning

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks to update Councillors on the progress of Chippenham Neighbourhood Plan since the previous update report in June 2022.

2.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 Councillors will recall a previous report providing an update on the Neighbourhood Plan, which was presented to Full Council on 22 June 2022. The report provided headline results from the Regulation 14 Consultation on the Pre-Submission Draft Plan. It also explained that the Steering Group had started to review and agree responses to the Regulation 14 comments received in line with their agreed Protocol for Sharing, Processing and Responding to Regulation 14 Consultation Comments, and that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) would be carried out by AECOM for the Draft Plan.

3.0 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

3.1 At the July Steering Group Meeting, the Group reviewed and agreed responses to the comments received on its Sustainability and Climate Change Chapter, and the Neighbourhood Plan was modified accordingly in response to these comments. The August Steering Group Meeting was cancelled due to the holiday period. At the September Steering Group Meeting the Group reviewed and agreed responses to the comments received on its Green and Blue Infrastructure Chapter, and the Neighbourhood Plan was modified accordingly in response to these comments. At the next Steering Group Meeting, to be held in early October, the Group will continue to agree draft responses and amendments to the Plan, focusing on the Town Centre Chapter.

3.2 AECOM produced a Scoping Report for the SEA in August 2022, which was subsequently modified to take on board comments from the Head of Planning and Chair of the Steering Group. The Scoping Report is currently out for consultation with the three statutory bodies - Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency. The consultation period is for five weeks and will end on 14 September 2002. A copy of the Report has also been sent to the Local Planning Authority (LPA).

3.3 The next stages in the SEA process will be (in the following order): 1) to assess the effects of the Neighbourhood Plan and formulate alternative options; 2) to prepare an

Environmental Report; and 3) to repeat (albeit ‘light touch’) the Regulation 14 Consultation with the Environmental Report.

3.4 Given that over 1000 individual comments were received from the Regulation 14 Consultation and that each comment has to be responded to (and the Plan modified or not), the Planning Consultant does not currently have capacity to assist in the review/response of these comments, and the need to carry out an SEA and repeat Regulation 14, it is anticipated that this will add approximately a six month delay to the Plan timeline, which is attached in **APPENDIX A**. Based on current estimates the Plan will likely be ‘made’, or adopted, in Autumn 2023.

4.0 CONTRIBUTION TO CORPORATE PLAN PRIORITIES

4.1 The development of a Neighbourhood Plan will contribute to the following corporate priorities:

- Play an active role in the future development of the town through collaboration with partners, stakeholders, and our community.
- Maintain and create opportunities to enhance our green spaces and provide a clean and safe environment.
- Help to create a future that is carbon neutral, environmentally sustainable and resilient to the impact of climate change.
- Provide and develop facilities and services that are accessible, inclusive and promote health and well-being.
- Provide and develop facilities and services that promote Chippenham as an attractive and vibrant market town and celebrate its rich history, heritage, and culture.

5.0 STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Steering Group continues to be supported by the Head of Planning, Planning Consultant(s) (external support), Administrative Officers, the Council’s Communications & Customer Services Manager and Corporate Management Team.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 For the financial year 2022/23, in addition to payroll costs, there is a Capital/EMF budget of £34,000 to cover print/design, consultant and professional fees, to be charged against Community Infrastructure Levy income, and an additional Income & Expenditure budget of £3,000 to cover other items such as website and postage.

6.2 To date this financial year, £733 has been spent on fees for the Planning Consultant, and £120 on an SSL Certificate for the Neighbourhood Plan website.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

7.1 That Full Council notes the content of this Report, which is for information purposes only.