



Press Release

Chiltern District Council
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PR 550

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For Immediate Release

Chiltern local plan

At tonight's full Council meeting Chiltern members unanimously gave the go-ahead to submit its local plan (Delivery Development Plan Document) to the Planning Inspectorate for Examination in Public.

Leader of the Council, Councillor Isobel Darby, said: "Later this year we are seeking the Government's approval of our planning policies, namely the Delivery Development Plan Document. Failure to secure this approval will put us in an extremely vulnerable position with our ability to control development in the district severely weakened.

We know there is a shortage of suitable land for housing nationally and we are required, along with other local authorities, to prepare a new plan to cover our housing requirement up to 2036. As part of this plan we are required to consider whether parts of the Green Belt should be released for future development plans. We need to protect our district from developers being able to build anywhere they like - a careful and sensible review of the Green Belt now, which involves our residents, will enable us to do this.

Whilst protection of the Green Belt remains a priority for this Council, we accept the need for a review which we believe must be undertaken on our terms. If we do not undertake this review now we run the risk of unwelcome changes being enforced upon us."

"We look forward to the Examination in Public of our local plan later this year." added Cllr Darby.

NOTES TO EDITORS

All local authorities have a duty to co-operate with a number of organisations, including adjacent local planning authorities on strategic planning matters, including how to meet housing needs. Given Chiltern is a highly-constrained area, with for example, extensive areas of Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Council will also be exploring opportunities to meet part of the district's development needs within adjacent local authority areas. To do this, the Council must ensure it is maximising its development opportunities, which could mean development on parts of current green belt land which may no longer fulfil green belt purpose and/or can be justified by exceptional circumstances.

For further information please contact:

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