

Gloucester City Plan – Opening Statement

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Good morning, my name is Adam Gooch and I'm the Planning Policy Manager at Gloucester City Council. I would like to welcome everyone here today to start our virtual hearing into the Gloucester City Plan. I'd also like to take the opportunity to thank the Inspector, Programme Officer, IT colleagues and my own team who have worked hard to ensure that virtual examination can take place.

I will be leading the team representing the City Council over the course of the examination, along with my colleagues Claire Haslam and David Ingleby from the Planning Policy Team. We will be joined throughout the proceedings by Mr Rob Jameson, a specialist Town and County Planning Solicitor with particular experience in Local Plan examinations. Additionally, other colleagues and consultants will appear to support the City Council as necessary.

Gloucester City Council is delighted to have submitted the Gloucester City Plan for examination, following extensive work with Members of the Council to achieve policies and proposals that reflect the needs of the City. The City Plan has been subject to extensive consultation and engagement throughout its development which has culminated in the Plan that is before us today.

As a Part 2 Plan, it sits underneath the Adopted Joint Core Strategy between Gloucester City, Cheltenham Borough and Tewkesbury Borough Councils, which was adopted in December 2017. It delivers the JCS locally, whilst addressing issues and opportunities for Gloucester City and, along with the Minerals and Waste Local Plans, will form a part of the Development Plan for Gloucester, once adopted.

The City Plan provides a range of policies and site allocations that seek to deliver high quality new homes that meet the needs of Gloucester's communities, employment land to support the growth of our economy, and support the delivery of key regeneration sites such as Kings Quarter. It also addresses the impacts of climate change and the need to protect and enhance our nationally important historic and natural environment.

The adoption of the City Plan will provide certainty to residents, businesses, and the wider development community and confirm the City Council's commitment to good planning. The submitted plan is considered sound as it has been positively prepared, is justified, effective and in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.

If, however, during the course of the examination the Inspector considers that main modifications are required in order to make the Plan sound or legally compliant, a formal request has been made for the Inspector to make recommendations to the Council.

In conclusion, the Gloucester City Plan provides sound, positive and progressive policies to complement those in the adopted Joint Core Strategy and we look forward to discussing these further as the examination progresses.

Thank you.