

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Council</b>		
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> May 2026 7 pm</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Congleton Town Hall</b>
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	<b>Cathy Dean - Communities Manager</b>		
<b>AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>9.1 Congleton Neighbourhood Plan</b>		
<b>Update</b>	<p><b>PLN/10/2526</b> 4 September 2025 - Resolved to approve the Congleton Neighbourhood Plan (CNP) for regulation 15 submission. Urban Imprint submitted Regulation 15 to Cheshire East Council on 24 September 2025, with the accessible version of the document sent on 2 October 2025.</p> <p>Cheshire East Council conducted a 6-week consultation (Regulation 16). The council invited all those who commented on the Regulation 14 consultation to comment on the submission draft of CNP. The consultation period ran from 06/10/25 until 17/11/25.</p> <p>Once the Regulation 16 consultation was concluded, the draft submission was sent for independent examination.</p> <p>EXAMINER: Andrew Freeman BSc (Hons) DipTP DipEM FRTPI, conducted a site visit and reviewed the draft submission. This raised some questions, which were answered by 11th December. The examiner then sent a final report on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026.</p> <p>18 changes were proposed to ensure the NP meets the ‘basic conditions’. The vast majority of these are procedural and do not substantially affect the contents of any policy. All policies will be retained almost entirely as drafted.</p> <p>The final comment from the examiner:</p> <p>“It is evident that a considerable amount of time and effort has been devoted to the development and production of this Plan and I congratulate those who have been involved. The Plan should prove to be a useful tool for future planning and change in Congleton over the coming years”.</p> <p>The 18 amendments have now been incorporated into the plan document, which has been submitted to Cheshire East for review.</p> <p>Greg Woolridge, Strategic Planning Officer at Cheshire East, will check the document to ensure everything is in order before the process moves forward to a referendum.</p> <p>Once this review is complete, Cheshire East will prepare an Officer Decision Record recommending that the Neighbourhood Plan progresses to a local referendum. This recommendation will then be signed off by the Head of Planning.</p>		

	<p>Following this, the Elections Team will take over the process. Greg will liaise with them to confirm their current capacity and provide an indicative timeframe for the referendum.</p>
<b>Financial Implications</b>	None related to this report.
<b>Environmental Implications</b>	None related to this report.
<b>Equality and Diversity</b>	A fully accessible PDF version of the plan will be submitted to Cheshire East.
<b>Decision Requested</b>	To note the report.