

Timing. The CNP work is scheduled to finish by November 2024 (subject to a successful Public Examination and Referendum). Uncertainty on Local Plan (LP) timing has meant we have had to slow our work to avoid running far ahead of this plan. We liaise periodically with CDC to ensure alignment. A project plan is available for review.

Public Engagement. We plan to run two public events in early 2023.

1. Chichester Community Collaboration Day. A key principle of the CNP work is to reach underrepresented groups (e.g., disability groups, different age groups, different interest groups.) To reach these groups a “Chichester Community Collaboration Day” is planned to include a wide variety of groups who’ve not been involved in the CNP so far to provide input to the work. We plan that this will be facilitated by Feria Urbanism, our external advisor on the CNP. Incidentally, Feria has been shortlisted for Small Planning Consultancy of the Year in the National Royal Town Planning Institute Awards for Planning Excellence 2022.
2. PLACE Workshops. Workshops to a small number of residents who’ve been involved or interested in the PLACE assessments. These will share some of the initial observations from the CNP work and get feedback. This material will be organised by Chichester Ward, and we anticipate working with the local Councillors to facilitate these meetings.

We have asked Feria Urbanism to provide an estimate of the cost of support to these events for consideration by the council.

These events are planned to happen prior to the “pre-election period of sensitivity” starting in March 2023.

We plan to run a much broader engagement later in 2023 when we have a more settled view to test with the public.

We are evaluating whether to run a series of surveys to get additional input and feedback.

Qualifying Body Interface. The CNP governance specifies a formal Qualifying Body Interface (QBI) provided by the City Council to liaise between the CNP Steering Group and the Council. Councillor Plowman, our current QBI, has advised that he is stepping down from the CNP Steering Group with immediate effect. According to our governance, the City Council’s Planning and Conservation Committee (P&C) needs to provide a qualified replacement in this capacity.

Volunteers. The CNP is a significant volunteer-led, multi-year, undertaking. We have an established core team, but we require volunteers. Some of the skills needed are quite specific (e.g., Event Planning; Social-Media—TikTok, Instagram, etc.; survey development, data analysis). These are practical roles. Recommendations on possible volunteer sources are appreciated.

Findings. We are working through the initial results of the PLACE assessments—key themes, draft table of contents for discussion. The Steering Group is also preparing a draft summary of findings. It’s vital that the CNP work does not pre-decide what the results will be, or decide too early based on incomplete information or insufficient public input. We need demonstrate to the public examiner that we’ve gone through an empirical and open process before reaching our final CNP conclusions. Our conclusions and thus our policy recommendations will need to come quite late in the process.

Requests of the City Council

1. Designation of new Qualified Body Interface.
2. Funding support for Chichester Community Day and Ward level briefings as advised.