

Stroud District Local Plan (2020-2040)
ADDENDUM STRATEGIC MATTERS STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

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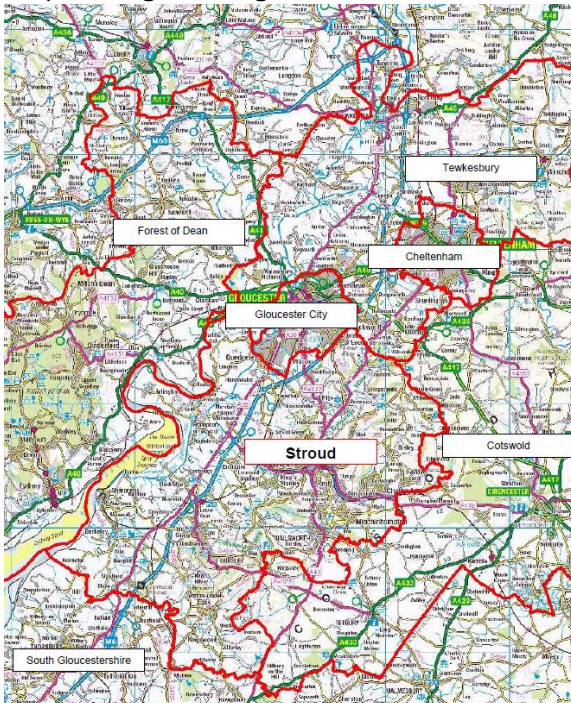
South Gloucestershire Council
Stroud District Council

December 2024

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) covering strategic planning and transport matters has been prepared and has been signed by South Gloucestershire Council and Stroud District Council, referred to hereafter as ‘the parties’.
- 1.2 The purpose of the SoCG is to set out as at December 2024 areas of agreement between the authorities in respect of how strategic cross boundary issues have been addressed through the preparation of the Stroud District Local Plan. This SoCG addendum provides an update on strategic transport matters previously covered in the SoCG dated 8th March 2023.
- 1.3 South Gloucestershire Council and Stroud District Council are adjoining local planning authorities and share an administrative boundary.

Map of Neighbouring Local Authorities



- 1.4 This additional Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) covering strategic transport matters has been prepared as Stroud District Council has been working with partners and site promoters to address soundness concerns raised by the Inspectors in their letter dated [4 August 2023](#) based on:

1. The capacity of the Strategic Road Network (SRN), specifically the capacity of M5 Junctions 12 and 14 to accommodate proposed housing growth;
2. The proposed passenger train service and bespoke Mobility as a Service transport scheme (MaaS) at Strategic Site Allocation PS36 Sharpness New settlement on the grounds of viability and deliverability.
3. The provision of the pedestrian and cycle bridge over the M5 motorway at Strategic Site Allocation PS37 Wisloe New settlement on the grounds of viability and deliverability.

Additional information and a commitment to address the Inspectors' specific viability and deliverability concerns relating to Strategic Site Allocations PS36 Sharpness new settlement and PS37 Wisloe new settlement were submitted to the Inspectors in September 2023.

- 1.5 A Joint Action Plan with National Highways (NH), Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) and South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) to address issues relating to the capacity of the SRN was submitted to the Inspectors on 30 November 2023.
- 1.6 A further letter from the Inspectors dated [5 February 2024](#), ID-015 in the Examination Library, confirmed a pause in the Examination until December 2024 to allow the work set out in the Joint Action Plan and additional work relating to PS36 and PS37 to be completed and a six week period of public consultation on the outcomes of the workstreams to be carried out.

Consultation documents

- 1.7 The outcomes of the workstreams are set out below:

[EB133a - Design and Costing M5 Junction 14 Report](#)

[EB133b - Design and Costing M5 Junctions 12 and 14 Funding Overview](#)

[EB133c - Design and Costing M5 Junction 12 Stage 2 Optioneering Report](#)

[EB134 - Housing Delivery](#)

[EB134 - Appendix 1 Housing Delivery](#)

[EB135 - M5 Junctions 12 and 14 Scenarios](#)

[EB135 - Appendix 1 M5 Junctions 12 and 14 Scenarios](#)

[EB136 - PS36 Sharpness New Settlement](#)

[EB136 Appendix 1 - TN001-M5 J14 VISSIM](#)

[EB136 Appendix 2 - TN002 Trip Gen](#)

[EB136 Appendix 3 - Sharpness Branch Line SOC](#)

[EB136 Appendix 4 - TN03 - Updated Research on Mobility-as-a-Service](#)

[EB136 Appendix 5 - TN001 - Update to Sharpness Vale DRT- Coach Services](#)

[EB136 Appendix 6 - Update to M5J14 Technical Notepost NH consultation](#)

[EB137 - PS37 Wisloe New Settlement](#)

- 1.8 The Inspectors stated that only parties who submitted duly made representations at the Regulation 19 consultation stage of the Plan are invited and eligible to respond. The consultation closing date was the **23 October 2024**. This addendum SOCG is a consequence of just the technical evidence consultation and has been signed by Stroud District Council and South Gloucestershire Council at officer level referred to hereafter as ‘the parties’.

2. Governance arrangements

- 2.1 Stroud District Council has established formal governance arrangements with the other local planning authorities within Gloucestershire. South Gloucestershire Council has arrangements with neighbouring authorities to the south.
- 2.2 South Gloucestershire Council and Stroud District Council have relied on liaison through regular meetings of senior corporate officers and planning officers in the plan-making process as the agreed Joint Action Plan was progressed. South Gloucestershire have kept a watching brief on the works and have input comments and information as they have sought necessary.

3. Key strategic transport matters that are agreed

- 3.1 Stroud District Council has continued to involve South Gloucestershire Council in the preparation of its new Local Plan on cross boundary matters of strategic importance, which includes the infrastructure required to support the Stroud District Council Local Plan’s spatial strategy and housing requirement.
- 3.2 South Gloucestershire Council is satisfied that Stroud District Council have fully complied with the Duty to Co-operate and the requirement to work constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis with South Gloucestershire Council on cross boundary matters. South Gloucestershire Council would like to formally acknowledge the continued commitment Stroud District Council have made to undertake the further technical work through the preparation and delivery of the Joint Action Plan and supporting meeting forums, during the period of time their Local Plan Examination has been paused.
- 3.3 South Gloucestershire Council do not offer comments on J12 and the Wisloe (PS37) development foot and cycle bridge as this is outside of the administrative boundary of South Gloucestershire.
- 3.4 Taking the above as context, it is common ground between both Stroud District Council and South Gloucestershire Council that:

(1) The planned growth in the Draft Stroud District Council Local Plan is not seeking to commit development in South Gloucestershire Council to help fund the strategic delivery of J14 as set out in reports EB133a and EB133b.

(2) That the South Gloucestershire Council's emerging Local Plan which is anticipated to progress to Regulation 19 consultation in early 2025, is not reliant on delivering a new junction and therefore does not require a new junction solution to be brought forward within the plan period.

(3) Stroud District Council is not requesting that any of the development proposed by South Gloucestershire Council in its emerging Local Plan should contribute to the 15% local contribution for any future junction replacement costs as required by the Stroud District Council Local Plan.

(4) That an interim solution led approach between developer parties and National Highways (NH) to enable the NH holding objections on the planning applications at Charfield have been agreed and the holding objections were lifted on 20th August 2024. These developments help to meet the housing needs of South Gloucestershire and ensure that the Council can continue to have a 5 year housing land supply.

(5) That South Gloucestershire Council Local Plan emerging preferred spatial strategy as set out in the Local Plan Phase 3 consultation: Towards a Preferred Strategy that completed its Regulation 18 consultation in February 2024 has the spatial objective to manage down the need to extend commuting travel distances from more peripheral locations and any dependency on 'big ticket' infrastructure items to deliver housing led proposals.

(6) That should the new junction come forward South Gloucestershire Council would be informed and engaged as necessary to enable it to fully exercise its role as connecting Highway Authority with regard to any impacts on the non-strategic highway network, and in particular on the road(s) over the M5 and proposed works on the B4509 and its junction with the A38.

3.5 In summary, the parties agree that Stroud District Council, in preparing the Stroud District Local Plan (2020-2040), has engaged proactively and positively with South Gloucestershire Council on strategic transport matters on M5 (J14) through the Duty to Cooperate.

Commitments for future work and collaboration

3.6 South Gloucestershire Council would ask that the statement at para 4.2.8 of document EB133B is re-worded to reflect the agreed matters above, and that points 1 to 6 above form the basis of an addendum (set out here) to the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) between Stroud District Council and South Gloucestershire Council of 8th March 2023. This SOCG demonstrates implementation of this request.

3.7 South Gloucestershire Council raises no further in principle objections to the Stroud District Council Local Plan and considers Stroud District Council have appropriately addressed and resolved the issues raised in representations South Gloucestershire Council made to the Reg 19 Stroud District Council Local Plan.

3.8 The parties agree on the efforts made to bring forward the emerging Stroud District Local Plan. The benefits of doing so, would from the parties' perspective, clearly outweigh the delay, additional costs, and uncertainty which would be created should it be concluded that the Plan could not be progressed to adoption.

4. Matters that are not agreed

4.1 South Gloucestershire Council, and Stroud District Council have continued to work together and there are no outstanding issues to be resolved at the current time.

5. Summary

5.1 All parties agree that the EiP should recommence allowing the Stroud District Local Plan to progress towards adoption.

6. Signatories

Signed on behalf of South Gloucestershire Council



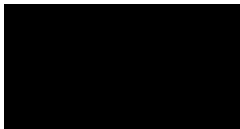
Dated

02/12.24

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Signed on behalf of Stroud District Council

Head of Planning Strategy and Economic Development



Dated

29.11.24

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