

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

**between**

**Gloucestershire County Council**  
**Stroud District Council**

**February 2023**

**1. Introduction and background**

- 1.1 A Gloucestershire Statement of Common Ground (GSoCG) covering agreements on various strategic planning matters has been prepared by the seven local authorities in Gloucestershire and GFirstLEP. The GSoCG provides for additional or supplementary Statements of Common Ground to be prepared by participating local authorities, particularly within the context of emerging local plans.
- 1.2 This additional Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) covering strategic transport and minerals and waste matters has been prepared at the submission of the Stroud District Local Plan (2020-2040), and subsequently updated for the Examination hearing sessions, and has been signed by Stroud District Council and Gloucestershire County Council at officer level referred to hereafter as ‘the parties’.

**2. Strategic matters that are agreed**

**Transport**

***Context and actions taken to date***

- 2.2 The National Planning Policy Framework requires transport issues to be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making. The planning system should actively manage patterns of growth to realise opportunities from existing and proposed transport infrastructure, to promote walking, cycling and public transport and to address impacts on transport networks and the environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure. “Significant development should be focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes (NPPF, para. 104-105).
- 2.3 Transport assessment work on the Stroud District Local Plan has been carried out at a number of key stages in the plan making process and has involved partnership working with transport and planning authorities and key stakeholders. The principal transport evidence includes:
- Strategy Options Transport Discussion Paper (July 2018)
  - Sustainable Transport Strategy (February 2021)
  - Traffic Forecasting Report (TFR) (March 2021)
  - Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) (May 2021)
- 2.4 The principal duty to co-operate issue relates to working in partnership with transport and planning authorities and National Highways (formerly Highways England) to ensure that the transport network can accommodate the required housing and employment growth levels

for Stroud District (and unmet needs arising from Gloucester City) in a sustainable manner which limits the need to travel, supports a choice of transport modes, makes the most of the existing strategic transport network and delivers mitigation where required.

- 2.5 Particular transport cross-boundary matters relate to: the transport network within the Gloucester fringe where impacts from Stroud and JCS related growth combine; the opportunities for new public transport and cycling and walking connections on the South Gloucestershire/Stroud boundary; and existing and likely future capacity issues at M5 Junction 12 (Gloucester fringe) and M5 Junction 14 (located within South Gloucestershire).
- 2.6 A Stroud District Local Plan Transport Group was set up in 2017 to progress partnership working on the Stroud District Local Plan transport matters. A core group of Stroud District, Gloucestershire County Council and National Highways met regularly during the plan making process to develop the above studies and to discuss key issues and potential mitigation measures. South Gloucestershire Council was invited periodically to input into the assessment work and to discuss key issues and potential mitigation measures, especially relating to impacts on and mitigation measures for M5 Junction 14.
- 2.7 National Highways, South Gloucestershire Council, Gloucestershire County Council and Stroud District Council have also met with a Developer Group regularly since 2017 to discuss planned growth in the vicinity of M5 Junction 14 and potential mitigation measures.
- 2.8 As part of their ongoing cooperation, Gloucestershire County Council and Stroud District Council have agreed a third party protocol to allow third parties to access the Stroud SATURN model and traffic scenarios to assist with site specific modelling for future planning applications.
- 2.9 Other transport related joint working has included: Stroud District Council inputting into the latest Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan; working with Gloucestershire County Council to deliver improvements to the strategic cycling and walking network within the District; and seeking improvements to the rail network through membership of the Gloucestershire Community Rail Partnership.
- 2.10 The parties agree that they have co-operated on developing a transport evidence base throughout the preparation of the Stroud District Local Plan.
- 2.11 The parties agree that early consideration of transport matters fed into the development of the Stroud District Local Plan development strategy.
- 2.12 The parties agree with the broad findings of the Strategy Options Transport Discussion Paper (2018) and in particular that a development strategy based upon a concentrated growth option is a more sustainable option than a dispersed growth option.
- 2.13 Gloucestershire County Council agrees that the TFR (2021) reflects all of their comments and inputs and that the report accurately presents the findings of the modelling assessment.
- 2.14 In summary, the parties agree that Stroud District Council, in preparing the Stroud District Local Plan (2020-2040), has engaged proactively and positively with Gloucestershire County Council on strategic transport matters through the Duty to Cooperate. Gloucestershire County Council's Reg.19 representations concentrate on remaining concerns they have with two specific sites rather than with the wider process.

### ***Commitments for future work and collaboration***

- 2.15 The parties agree to engaged proactively and positively on ongoing strategic transport matters relating to the Stroud District Local Plan.
- 2.16 The parties agree to work together where possible to develop any further transport analysis required to provide evidence for the Stroud District Local Plan at examination.
- 2.17 The parties agree to work together to implement the transport policies contained within the Stroud District Local Plan (2020 to 2040) when adopted.

### **Waste and Minerals**

#### ***Context and actions taken to date***

- 2.18 Gloucestershire County Council is the local Minerals and Waste Planning Authority (MWPA). A representative attends the Gloucestershire County Planning Officers Group (CPOG) regularly to discuss strategic planning matters with the local planning authorities and Stroud District Council works closely with Gloucestershire County Council as a waste collection authority.
- 2.19 In December 2018 Cheltenham Borough, Forest of Dean District, Gloucester City, Stroud District and Tewkesbury Borough councils jointly commissioned an assessment to inform the search for suitable and available strategic development land beyond the existing settlement boundaries in the study area. The methodology to undertake the study was developed through an iterative process with close ongoing liaison with Gloucestershire County Council and other statutory consultees. The assessment methodology included identifying constraints relating to waste sites and mineral resources and including such matters within the assessment framework.
- 2.20 Similarly, in the assessment of the emerging Stroud District Local Plan and in assessing potential sites for allocation in particular, the sustainability appraisal process has taken account of constraints relating to waste sites and mineral resources and including such matters within the assessment framework.
- 2.21 The Pre-Submission Stroud District Local Plan (2020-2040) recognises the importance of waste and minerals planning within the overall strategic planning context and includes two sites suitable for strategic residual recovery facilities on the Policies Map, which have been allocated in the adopted Gloucestershire Waste Core Strategy. (SDLP, para. 1.0.11)
- 2.22 Gloucestershire County Council has raised concerns in their Reg.19 representations regarding a number of policies and sites within the Stroud District Local Plan failing to reference various waste and minerals matters. Appropriate wording is recommended by them to overcome their concerns.
- 2.23 Stroud District Council acknowledges the need to make appropriate references to minerals and waste matters within the Stroud District Local Plan. As a result, the parties have agreed to recommend the attached schedule of modifications to the Inspectors at the examination into the Stroud District Local Plan during 2023. Subject to the attached modifications being

made, Gloucestershire County Council agrees to withdraw its objections, relating to waste and minerals matters, to the Local Plan.

**3. Matters that are not agreed**

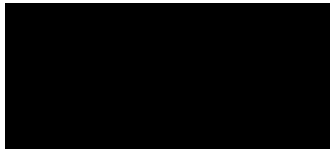
3.1 Gloucestershire County Council has significant concerns regarding the allocation of strategic sites PS36 Sharpness and G2 Land at Whaddon on the transport grounds set out within their Reg.19 representation, based on the available submitted transport evidence, and consider the Plan to be unsound on this basis.

3.2

**4. Signatories**

Signed on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council

 Team Manager, Development Management & Minerals and Waste Planning



Dated

20<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Signed on behalf of Stroud District Council

 Head of Planning Strategy and Economic Development



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Dated

15 February 2023.....

Attached: Schedule of recommended changes contained within Memorandum dated 1 February 2023