

## **Explanatory Note: Strategic Assessment of Land Availability (SALA) Accessibility Scoring**

### **1. Background**

As part of the Strategic Assessment of Land Availability (SALA), all SALA sites were modelled by MAIDeN Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) for accessibility to a range of strategic and local facilities and services, including access to identified town/ district or local centres and key employment sites, that people may be required to access on a regular basis.

Sites were assessed in terms of accessibility to 14 such features by walking, by car and by bus (including walking journey time to the relevant bus stop). The assessment assigned a score of 1, 2 or 3 to sites for each method of transport where it was located within 15 minutes, between 15-30 minutes or over 30 minutes of each of the 14 features respectively. These scores were then added to give a total accessibility score for each site.

The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) uses the SALA total accessibility score in the appraisal of residential and mixed-use site options as an indicator for SA Objective 10: To ensure that air quality continues to improve, based on the assumption that a lower score indicates a shorter journey time and therefore lower likely emissions from traffic. Appendix 4, Tables A4.1 and A4.3 of the Sustainability Appraisal for the Pre-submission Draft Local Plan (CD3b) set out the assumptions and thresholds for the appraisal of residential and mixed-use site options for SA10 Air Quality ranging from likely significant positive (++) to significant negative (- -) effect.

### **2. Published evidence**

Accessibility modelling was carried out at each stage of the SALA and the total accessibility score published within the detailed SA matrices for all site options to inform sustainability appraisal throughout the Local Plan Review process:

- SALA 2018 total accessibility scores published in Appendix 2 of the Sustainability Appraisal findings for the Site Options (August 2018) and Appendix 5 of the Sustainability Report for the Emerging Strategy Paper (November 2018)
- SALA 2018 & SALA 2019 total accessibility scores published in Appendix 5 of the Sustainability Report for the Draft Local Plan (November 2019)
- SALA 2020 total accessibility scores published in Appendix 5 of the Sustainability Report for the Pre-submission Draft Local Plan (CD3b). This dataset provides updated total accessibility scores for **all** site options considered during the Local Plan Review process, as at November 2020.

Appendix 5, Tables A5.1 – A5.7 of the Sustainability Report for the Pre-submission Draft Local Plan (CD3b) set out a summary of the SA findings for all the reasonable site option alternatives considered for the Local Plan Review as explained in paragraphs A5.1 – A5.4 of the document.

Detailed site matrices for site allocations in the Draft Plan and the Pre-submission Draft Plan are separately collated at Appendix 7 of the Sustainability Report for the Pre-submission Draft Local Plan (CD3b) and reflect the detail of the latest 2020 SALA accessibility scoring at each stage of the SA process.

In the interests of transparency, the assumptions and datasets supporting the SALA total accessibility scores produced by MAIDeN GCC are published to accompany this note:

- Stroud SALA Transport Accessibility Assessment 2020 (November 2020)
- Stroud SALA Transport Accessibility Assessment 2019 (October 2019)
- Stroud SALA Transport Accessibility Assessment Summer 2018 (July 2018)

**August 2022**