

Stroud District Local Plan
Statement of Common Ground
Between Stroud District Council and Network Rail

13 February 2023

Stroud District Council (SDC) and Network Rail (NR) have co-operated with each other on various matters during the preparation of the Stroud District Local Plan (SDLP).

SDC and NR have worked together on the preparation of a Strategic Outline Business Case for a new station at Stonehouse on the Bristol-Birmingham Line. This included attending monthly meetings of a Project Team and a Steering Group during the preparation of the SOBC between December 2021 and September 2022. NR was also commissioned by SDC to prepare a Capacity Analysis Report to inform the SOBC. Land at Bristol Road, Stonehouse is subject to a safeguarding policy in both the adopted Local Plan and the emerging SDLP (Delivery Policy EI14).

SDC and NR have worked together on bringing plans forward for improvements to Stroud Station and the regeneration of Cheapside, as part of a Levelling Up bid to Government during 2021-2023. NR attended regular meetings of a Levelling Up Task Force and is now working with SDC and partners, including London and Continental Railways (LCR) on master planning Cheapside. Cheapside is draft allocation PS10 in the SDLP.

Other joint working since 2017 has included exploring the opportunities for a rail crossing of the Severn Estuary and working with site promoters to investigate the potential for re-opening passenger services on the Sharpness branch line as part of the Sharpness new settlement proposal, which forms a strategic allocation PS36 in the SDLP.

At the Regulation 19 stage in 2021 NR raised concerns relating to the proximity of a number of strategic allocations in the SDLP to railway level crossings. As a result, NR and SDC have agreed to recommend some modifications to the SDLP examination. These are set out overleaf. NR agrees that if these changes are made to the SDLP all concerns with the SDLP will be resolved.

Signed on behalf of Stroud District Council

 Head of Planning Strategy and Economic Development



Signed on behalf of Network Rail



17 February 2023

Changes agreed by SDC and NR and recommended to the Stroud Local Plan examination

For strategic site allocations PS24 Cam North West, PS37 Wisloe and G2 Land at Whaddon, where footpath level crossings are nearby, we agree to recommend adding the following clause to each of the site allocation policies:

“Safety improvements to, or the closure of, footpath level crossings where development may result in a material increase in usage, in consultation with Network Rail.”

For strategic site allocation PS19a Stonehouse North West, where there is proximity to both vehicular and footpath crossings, we agree to recommend adding the following clause to the site allocation policy:

“Safety improvements to Old Ends Lane level crossing and/or improvements to, or the closure of, footpath level crossings where development may result in a material increase in usage, in consultation with Network Rail.”