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Sustainability Appraisal Report for the Stroud District Local Plan Review – Pre-submission Draft Local Plan

Non-Technical Summary

Prepared by LUC
May 2021

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Introduction

- 1 This Sustainability Appraisal Report: Non-Technical Summary relates to the Stroud District Local Plan Review – Pre-submission Draft Local Plan (May 2021), which is being prepared by Stroud District Council. The Local Plan will set out the long-term spatial vision and objectives for Stroud District as well as the policies that are required to deliver that vision over the period up to 2040.
- 2 Plans and strategies such as the Stroud District Local Plan are subject to a process called Sustainability Appraisal (SA), which assesses the likely effects of a plan on social, economic, and environmental issues. Stroud District Council has commissioned independent consultants (LUC) to carry out SA of the Local Plan on its behalf. This Non-Technical Summary relates to the full SA Report for the Stroud District Pre-submission Draft Local Plan which is being published for consultation between 26th May and 7th July 2021.

Sustainability Appraisal

- 3 Stroud District Council is required by law to carry out Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Local Plan, and it has appointed LUC to undertake this work on its behalf. The Government recommends that these two legal requirements are met through one integrated process, referred to as Sustainability Appraisal (or SA).
- 4 The purpose of SA is to promote sustainable development through the better integration of sustainability considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans. It should be viewed as an integral part of good plan making, involving ongoing iterations to identify and report on the likely social, economic and environmental effects of the Plan and the extent to which sustainable development is expected to be achieved through its implementation.
- 5 This Non-Technical Summary relates to the full SA Report for the Pre-submission Draft Local Plan (May 2021). The SA is being undertaken in stages alongside the preparation of the Local Plan in order to provide sustainability guidance as the Plan is developed. Details of previous versions of the SA Report that accompanied earlier Local Plan consultation stages can be found on the Stroud District Council website.
- 6 SA must be carried out in accordance with Government guidance and (as an integrated SA and SEA process is being undertaken) must meet the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations¹. The approach that has been taken to the SA of the Stroud District Local Plan is described below.

Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on scope

- 7 The SA process began in April 2018 with the production of a Scoping Report for the Local Plan Review. The SA Scoping Report was prepared by LUC on behalf of Stroud District Council. The Scoping Report determined what the SA should cover by reviewing a wide range of relevant policy documents (including international, national and local policies) and by examining baseline evidence to help identify what the key sustainability issues are in Stroud District as well as likely future trends. This was used to establish a set of SA objectives against which options and subsequently policies would be appraised, known as the 'SA framework'. The SA framework provides a way in which the sustainability impacts of implementing a plan can be described, analysed and compared. It comprises a series of sustainability objectives and associated sub-questions that can be used to 'interrogate' options and draft policies during the plan-making process.

¹ The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/1633), as amended by The Environmental Assessments and Miscellaneous Planning (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/1232).

- 8 **Table 2** further ahead in this Non-Technical Summary presents the SA framework for the Stroud District Local Plan which is made up of 17 headline SA objectives along with their associated sub-questions.
- 9 The SA Scoping Report was published between April and June 2018 for a five week consultation period with the three statutory consultees (Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England) and the general public. Appendix 1 in the full SA report lists the comments that were received during the consultation and describes how each one has been addressed in the SA work undertaken since then.

Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing their effects

- 10 Developing options for a plan is an iterative process which usually involves a number of consultations with stakeholders and the public. The SA process can help to identify where there may be other 'reasonable alternatives' to the options being considered for the policies and site allocations to be included in a plan. The reasonable alternative options that have been considered for the Stroud District Local Plan have included alternative policy approaches as well as potential sites for new housing, employment and mixed use development, as described below.

Identification and appraisal of policy options

- 11 High level options for the policies to be included in the Local Plan were identified by the Council officers preparing the Plan and were published in the Local Plan Review Issues and Options Paper for consultation in October 2017. Reasonable alternative options for various policy topics were drawn from the most up-to-date evidence and guided by the national level policy set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 12 The initial policy options were subject to SA by LUC during summer 2018 and the findings were presented to the Council officers preparing the Plan in a summary note in August 2018, so that the SA findings could inform the Council's decision making about which policy options to take forward in the Emerging Strategy Paper. This summary note was a working document which was intended to inform the preparation of the Local Plan and it was not made publicly available at the time. The SA findings for the policy options are now presented in Appendix 3 of the full SA Report.
- 13 The Emerging Strategy Paper (November 2018) developed the policy options into a set of Key Issues and Needs for the District, a Vision, Strategic Objectives, Emerging Growth Strategy, Settlement Boundaries, 'Mini-Visions' for the Parish clusters and potential site allocations. These were all subject to SA by LUC and the findings were presented in the November 2018 SA Report which accompanied the Emerging Strategy Paper, along with a description of the likely cumulative effects if the Emerging Strategy was implemented. The likely sustainability effects identified for the Emerging Strategy Paper are summarised in Appendix 6 of the full SA Report.
- 14 The Draft Local Plan (November 2019) reflected the consultation responses and SA findings from the Emerging Strategy consultation and revised the Key Issues, Needs for the District, Vision and Strategic Objectives, and set out six Core Policies, draft visions for the parish clusters and draft site allocations with policy requirements, along with a number of Delivery Policies covering Homes and Communities, Economy and Infrastructure and Environment and Surroundings. These elements of the Draft Local Plan were subject to SA in the November 2019 SA Report, and the findings are now summarised in Appendix 6 of the full SA Report.
- 15 Following the Draft Local Plan stage, in August 2020 the Government published its proposed changes to the way the minimum housing requirement for each local authority area in the country is calculated. In response to this, the Council undertook a further focussed consultation on an Additional Housing Options paper between October and December 2020. The Government's changes would have resulted in an increase in the housing requirement for Stroud District from the level set out in the 2019 Draft Local Plan of 638 homes per annum, to 786 homes per annum. The Additional Housing Options paper consulted on the best strategy for identifying where additional housing should be accommodated, whether and where a reserve housing supply should be identified, and the specific sites assessed to have potential to meet the additional housing need. Consultation at this stage was focussed only on the spatial and site options set out in the document and a short SA Report was prepared to appraise the options considered. The SA

findings for the additional growth strategy options (i.e. how growth should be distributed in the District) are now summarised in Appendix 8 of the full SA Report.

- 16 The Council has made use of the consultation responses and SA findings at earlier stages to update the draft policies and draft site allocations included in the Draft Local Plan and prepare the current Pre-submission Draft Local Plan. The policies and site allocations included in the Pre-submission Draft Local Plan have been appraised in Chapters 4 and 5 and Appendix 7 of the full SA Report and the SA findings are summarised further ahead in this Non-Technical Summary.

Identification and appraisal of site options

- 17 The Council identified potentially available and suitable reasonable alternative site options from various sources, including the Council's Strategic Assessment of Land Availability (SALA)², the Brownfield Register and sites that were promoted during the Issues and Options and Emerging Strategy consultations.
- 18 The latest assessment undertaken as part of the SALA update has been carried out in accordance with the Council's detailed methodology statement published in February 2016, taking account of guidance which is set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance for undertaking a combined assessment of land available for housing and economic development. All sites located within or adjacent to the most sustainable settlements have been assessed as part of this process. A study threshold of sites capable of delivering five or more dwellings, or economic development, other residential development, retail or community uses on sites of 0.25 ha (or 500m² of floor space) and above was set at the outset of the assessment process to make the most efficient use of resources.
- 19 At each stage in the Local Plan Review, once the Council had identified the reasonable alternative site options, they were subject to SA by LUC. As with the policy options, the first round of SA findings were presented to the Council officers preparing the Local Plan in a summary note in August 2018, so that the SA findings could inform decision making about which site options to take forward in the Local Plan Review. This summary note was a working document which was intended to inform the preparation of the Local Plan Review and it was not made publicly available at the time. A summary table showing the likely SA effects and the detailed SA matrices for all of the reasonable alternative site options considered to date can now be found in Appendix 5 of the full SA Report.
- 20 The sites that were included as proposed site allocations in the Draft Plan (November 2019) and those that have now been taken forward in the Pre-submission Draft Local Plan (May 2021) have been subject to further SA by LUC. This appraisal work takes into account the information set out for each draft site allocation (in Chapter 3 of the Draft Plan) and/or site allocation policy (in Chapter 3 of the Pre-submission Draft Local Plan). The detailed SA matrices for the draft site allocations included in the Draft Plan (November 2019) and the site allocation policies included in the Pre-submission Draft Local Plan (May 2021) are presented in Appendix 7 of the full SA Report. These detailed matrices show which sites have been included in either the Draft Plan or the Pre-submission Draft Local Plan. The SA findings for the site allocation policies that have now been taken forward in the Pre-submission Draft Local Plan are presented further ahead in this Non-Technical Summary.
- 21 Appendix 9 in the full SA Report presents an audit trail of the reasonable alternative site options considered and the Council's reasons for including them or not at each stage of plan preparation, i.e. in the Emerging Strategy Paper, the Draft Plan and the Pre-submission Draft Local Plan. It also includes the use proposed (i.e. residential, employment, open space or mixed use) for each site option.

SA Stage C: Preparing the SA Report

- 22 The full SA Report and this Non-Technical Summary describe the process that has been undertaken to date in carrying out the SA of the Stroud District Local Plan. They set out the findings of the appraisal of options and policies, highlighting any likely significant effects (both positive and negative, and taking into account the likely secondary, cumulative, synergistic,

² Stroud District Council (October 2018) *Strategic Assessment of Land Availability (SALA) (2019 update published as part of Draft Plan consultation evidence base)*

short, medium and long-term and permanent and temporary effects). The reasons for selecting or rejecting options during the preparation of the Local Plan are also described.

SA Stage D: Consultation on the Local Plan and the SA Report

- 23 Stroud District Council is inviting comments on the Pre-Submission Draft version of the Local Plan and the full SA Report which this Non-Technical Summary relates to. Both documents are being published on the Council's website for consultation between 26th May and 7th July 2021.

Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan

- 24 Proposals for monitoring the sustainability effects of the Local Plan are set out Chapter 7 of the full SA Report and are described further ahead in this Non-Technical Summary.

Policy context

- 25 The Local Plan must conform to environmental protection legislation and the sustainability objectives established at an international, national and regional level. In line with the requirements of the SEA Regulations, relevant international, national, regional, sub-regional and local plans have been reviewed in detail in relation to their objectives, targets and indicators and their implications for the Local Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal. The full review can be seen in Chapter 4 of the full SA Report.
- 26 It should be noted that the policy context within which the Stroud District Local Plan Review and its SA are being prepared is inherently uncertain given key issues such as Brexit, the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and the recently published Planning for the Future White Paper which sets out proposals for the reform of the planning system in England.
- 27 There are a large number of plans and programmes that could be relevant to the preparation of the Stroud District Local Plan. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2018 (as updated in February 2019), which is supported by the online Planning Practice Guidance (PPG), provides particularly important context for the production of the Local Plan and the SA. The Stroud District Local Plan must be consistent with the requirements of the NPPF, which sets out information about the purposes of local plan-making. The NPPF states that:
- "Succinct and up-to-date plans should provide a positive vision for the future of each area; a framework for addressing housing needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities; and a platform for local people to shape their surroundings."*
- 28 The NPPF sets out information about the purposes of local plan-making, stating that plans should:
- *"Be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development;*
 - *Be prepared positively, in a way that is aspirational but deliverable;*
 - *Be shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement between plan-makers and communities, local organisations, businesses, infrastructure providers and operators and statutory consultees;*
 - *Contain policies that are clearly written and unambiguous, so it is evident how a decision maker should react to development proposals;*
 - *Be accessible through the use of digital tools to assist public involvement and policy presentation; and*
 - *Serve a clear purpose, avoiding unnecessary duplication of policies that apply to a particular area".*
- 29 The NPPF also requires Local Plans to be 'aspirational but realistic'. This means that opportunities for appropriate development should be identified in order to achieve net gains in terms of sustainable social, environmental and economic development; however significant adverse impacts in any of those areas should not be allowed to occur.

- 30 The NPPF requires local planning authorities to set out the strategic priorities for the area in the Local Plan. This should include strategic policies to deliver:
- *“Housing (including affordable housing), employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development;*
 - *Infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, security, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);*
 - *Community facilities (such as health, education and cultural infrastructure); and.*
 - *Conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.”*
- 31 The NPPF also promotes well-designed places and development, and plans should “at the most appropriate level, set out a clear design vision and expectations.”
- 32 Non-strategic policies should be used by local planning authorities and communities to set out more detailed policies for specific areas, neighbourhoods or types of development, including qualitative aspects such as design of places, landscapes, and development.

Baseline information and key sustainability issues

- 33 In line with the requirements of the SEA Regulations, consideration has been given to the current state of the environment in Stroud District. Detailed baseline information for the District is presented in Appendix 2 of the full SA Report. As well as environmental issues, the baseline information includes a description of social and economic issues in the District and it has been updated throughout the SA process.
- 34 The baseline information contributed to the identification of a set of key sustainability issues for Stroud District, which in turn helped to develop a locally appropriate SA framework (i.e. a set of SA objectives) that would be used for appraising the emerging Local Plan policies. The key sustainability issues for the District are set out in Table 3.1 of the full SA Report. In line with the requirements of the SEA Regulations, this table also sets out the likely evolution of each issue if the Local Plan were not to be implemented. The key sustainability issues identified for the District are:
- **Climate change** is likely to affect biodiversity, increase hazards from fluvial flooding and also affect the social and economic aspects of life. The rural character and dispersed nature of development in Stroud means that there are likely to be difficulties with regards the delivery of reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.
 - New development in the District will mean there will be increasing demands for **energy provision** in the future. A significant proportion (30%) of existing homes in the District require energy efficiency improvements and the District is located within the region which has the highest regional percentage of fuel poverty in England. It is noted that the percentage of homes suffering from fuel poverty in the District is slightly less than the regional percentage, however.
 - Stroud District contains many areas of **high ecological value** including sites of international, national and local importance. These are under threat from urbanising pressures, including disturbance and damage from recreational use. As well as the need to avoid damage at these sites, it will be necessary to restore and enhance them where possible.
 - The **countryside** is under pressure from urbanising influences which are driven by a need for new housing provision and economic growth and infrastructure improvements to support new growth in Stroud.
 - The District has significant areas of **landscape** importance, most notably to the east within the boundaries of the Cotswolds AONB.

- The large area of Grade 3 Agricultural Land is a significant asset to the District; however pressures from development and climate change threatened the viability and productivity of such **soils**.
- The River Severn and its tributaries pass through the District and these have the potential to cause serious **flooding**.
- Much of the western portion of the District falls within Surface Water NVZs and/or Ground Water NVZs which indicates that different water bodies which pass through Stroud are exposed to significant levels of nitrates with a potential adverse impact on local **water quality**. Areas of the District also fall within SPZs.
- The **age** structure of the population shows that currently there is a higher proportion of older people in the South West than nationally. There is expected to be an increasingly disproportionate number of older people in the area. This will have implications for the economy, service provision, accommodation and health.
- Stroud generally displays higher levels of public health than the national average however there is a requirement to address **health inequalities** as well as specific health problems such as obesity in the District.
- **House prices** have increased by the highest percentage within the South West when compared to the other regions of England.
- Much of the **housing stock** in the District is quite old and the worst housing conditions are most evident in the private rented sector.
- Stroud on average is one of the least deprived districts/unitary authorities in the country. However, there are **pockets of deprivation** particularly in relation to housing and service provision.
- **Economic productivity** in the District in terms of the GVA per hour worked indices is slightly lower than the national figure. There is a requirement to make appropriate use of the District's strong strategic transport links along the M5 corridor to facilitate future economic growth. Furthermore, there is a net flow of commuters out of the District.
- The **town centres** of the District face evolving pressures in terms of outside retail offers of the surrounding areas and the continued importance of e-retailing and provision of services online. Service uses and to a lesser extent comparison and convenience uses have seen a decline at many of the town centres while there has been a growth in leisure uses in recent years up to the end of 2016. There is a requirement to protect and enhance the role of town centres as economic drivers and employment supporters in a sustainable manner which is responsive to the evolving situation in Stroud.
- While a high proportion of residents in the District make use of alternative modes of transport such as cycling to commute, **car ownership** in the area is high, and there are serious congestion problems in key locations. The re-establishment of the Cotswold Canals presents opportunities for the promotion of **alternative modes of transport** however there is a need to handle this sensitively.
- The Industrial Heritage Conservation Area (IHCA) which covers 23km of the Cotswold Canals is currently one of several **heritage assets** which are included on Historic England's Heritage at Risk list. Within the District areas of significant built historic importance and aesthetic quality are under pressure due to new development in the District and there is a requirement for them to be preserved and enhanced.
- The District needs to capitalise further on the **tourism industry** so that this sector continues to contribute fully to economic growth. There is also a need to consider how links to the wider Cotswolds area can be made most use of profitably and how these links can be promoted. There may be opportunities to grow the tourism market at the District's town centres particularly where there are existing links to the Cotswolds AONB and Cotswolds Way. Recent years have seen a rise in the number of leisure uses at town centre locations and identified strengths at the various centres include independent cafes and shops, traditional markets and the attractive landscape setting.

- The **transport infrastructure** is strong in the west along the M5 and A38 from north to south, although there are signs of peak congestion. The existing transport network is weaker to the east with areas of congestion prevalent. Access from east to west in the District is also limited relative to the connectivity provided from north to south.

35 In general, without the implementation of the Local Plan Review, policies are present in the adopted Local Plan (2015) to help address the key sustainability issues identified. The trends identified for the Plan area including the effects of climate change, the older local age profile, the demand for housing and employment opportunities, increasing pressures on the countryside, biodiversity assets and heritage and landscape features could be addressed to some degree in this manner. However, the Local Plan Review presents the opportunity to update these policies to better meet the current circumstances of the District and expected future evolution of the key sustainability issues. This might be achieved by directing new development to more sustainable locations and through the inclusion of policies which require design measures and site improvements which will address the needs of the District.

Method and Sustainability Appraisal framework

36 The key sustainability issues listed above fed into the identification of a set of SA objectives which are used in the SA for assessing the likely effects of the options and draft policies in the Local Plan. The SA framework for the Stroud District Local Plan is presented in **Table 2** overleaf.

Use of the SA framework

37 Within the assessment matrices showing the potential sustainability effects of the Local Plan policies and sites, symbols and colour-coding have been used against each SA objective to show whether an effect is likely to be positive or negative, minor or significant, or uncertain as follows:

Table 1: Key to symbols and colour coding used in the SA of the Stroud District Local Plan

++	The option or policy is likely to have a significant positive effect on the SA objective(s).
++/-	The option or policy is likely to have a mixture of significant positive and minor negative effects on the SA objective(s).
+	The option or policy is likely to have a positive effect on the SA objective(s).
0	The option or policy is likely to have a negligible or no effect on the SA objective(s).
-	The option or policy is likely to have a negative effect on the SA objective(s).
-/+	The option or policy is likely to have a mixture of significant negative and minor positive effects on the SA objective(s).
--	The option or policy is likely to have a significant negative effect on the SA objective(s).
?	It is uncertain what effect the option or policy will have on the SA objective(s), due to a lack of data.
+/- or +/-	The option or policy is likely to have an equal mixture of both minor or both significant positive and negative effects on the SA objective(s).

Table 2: SA framework for the Stroud District Local Plan

SA Objective	Sub-Objective
Social	
SA 1: To provide affordable, sustainable and decent housing to meet local needs.	SA 1.1: Does the Plan deliver the range of types, tenures and affordable homes the District needs over the Plan Period? SA 1.2: Does the Plan increase the supply of affordable homes in urban and rural areas? SA 1.3: Does the Plan reduce the percentage of unfit/ non-decent homes?
SA 2: To maintain and improve the community's health with accessible healthcare for residents, including increasing levels of physical activity, especially among the young.	SA 2.1: Does the Plan improve access to doctors' surgeries and health care facilities? SA 2.2: Does the Plan encourage healthy lifestyles and provide opportunities for sport and recreation, including through the provision of green infrastructure and public open space? SA 2.3: Does the Plan contribute to narrowing health inequalities?
SA 3: To encourage social inclusion, equity, the promotion of equality and a respect for diversity and meet the challenge of a growing and ageing population	SA 3.1: Does the Plan promote equality of access and opportunity and social inclusion through adequate provision and distribution of local community services? SA 3.2: Does the Plan meet the challenge of a growing and ageing population? SA 3.3: Does the Plan help to limit the potential for fuel poverty in the District?
SA 4: To reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and disorder and the fear of crime.	SA 4.1: Does the Plan promote principles of good urban design to reduce the potential for crime in the District? SA 4.2: Does the Plan assist in reducing the fear of crime?
SA 5: To create and sustain vibrant communities.	SA 5.1: Does the Plan help to improve residential amenity (including potential to reduce light, smell and noise pollution) and sense of place? SA 5.2: Does the Plan help to improve the satisfaction of people with their neighbourhoods as places to live and encourage ownership? SA 5.3: Does the Plan safeguard and enhance the identity of the District's existing communities and settlements? SA 5.4: Does the Plan promote regeneration in the District? SA 5.5: Does the Plan provide, protect or enhance locations for cultural activities, including the arts?
SA 6: To maintain and improve access to all services and facilities.	SA 6.1: Does the Plan promote compact, mixed-use development? SA 6.2: Does the Plan promote the provision of new and the protection of existing services and facilities at sustainable locations? SA 6.3: Does the Plan encourage the protection of existing town centres including their vitality and viability?
Environmental	
SA 7: To create, protect, enhance, restore and connect habitats, species and/or sites of biodiversity or geological interest.	SA 7.1: Does the Plan avoid adverse effects on designated and undesignated biodiversity and geodiversity assets within and outside the District, including the net loss and fragmentation of green infrastructure and damage to ecological networks? SA 7.2: Does the Plan outline opportunities for improvements to the conservation, connection and enhancement of ecological assets, particularly at risk assets? SA 7.3: Does the Plan provide and manage opportunities for people to come into contact with resilient wildlife places whilst encouraging respect for and raising awareness of the sensitivity of such locations?
SA 8: To conserve and enhance	SA 8.1: Does the Plan protect and enhance the District's sensitive and special landscapes (including the Cotswolds AONB), and

SA Objective	Sub-Objective
the local character and distinctiveness of landscapes and townscapes and provide sustainable access to countryside in the District.	townscapes? SA 8.2: Does the Plan prohibit inappropriate development that will have an adverse effect on the character of the District's countryside and settlements? SA 8.3: Does the Plan promote the accessibility of the District's countryside in a sustainable and well-managed manner? SA 8.4: Does the Plan prevent coalescence between settlements? SA 8.5: Does the Plan protect and enhance the District's natural environment assets (including parks and green spaces, common land, woodland and forest reserves) public realm?
SA 9: To conserve and/or enhance the significant qualities, fabric, setting and accessibility of the District's historic environment.	SA 9.1: Does the Plan avoid adverse effects on the District's designated and undesignated heritage assets (e.g. Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed buildings, Historic Parks and Gardens and Conservation Areas), including their setting and their contribution to wider local character and distinctiveness? SA 9.2: Does the Plan outline opportunities for improvements to the conservation, management and enhancement of the District's heritage assets, particularly at risk assets? SA 9.3: Does the Plan promote sustainable and appropriately managed access to as well as enjoyment and understanding of the local historic environment for the District's residents and visitors? SA 9.4: Does the Plan help to preserve and record archaeological features?
SA 10: To ensure that air quality continues to improve.	SA 10.1: Does the Plan avoid, minimise and mitigate the effects of poor air quality? SA 10.2: Does the Plan promote more sustainable transport patterns and reduce the need to travel, particularly in areas of high congestion, including public transport, walking and cycling? SA 10.3: Does the Plan promote more sustainable transport patterns in rural areas? SA 10.4: Does the Plan facilitate the continued restoration, management and promotion the canal towpaths as part of the transport infrastructure
SA 11: To maintain and enhance the quality of ground and surface waters and to achieve sustainable water resources management in the District.	SA 11.1: Does the Plan seek to avoid deterioration and where possible improve the water quality of the district's rivers and inland water? SA 11.2: Does the Plan enable the use of recycled water and generally reduce the need to make use of water resources? SA 11.3: Does the Plan minimise inappropriate development in Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, Drinking Water Safeguard Zones and Source Protection Zones?
SA 12: To manage and reduce the risk of flooding and resulting detriment to public wellbeing, the economy and the environment.	SA 12.1: Does the Plan reduce the risk of flooding from all sources including rivers, watercourses and sewer flooding to people and property? SA 12.2: Does the Plan minimise development in areas prone to flood risk and areas prone to increasing flood risk elsewhere, taking into account the impacts of climate change? SA 12.3: Does the Plan increase the provision of sustainable drainage at new developments? SA 12.4: Does the Plan promote flood risk reduction and improvement to the flood regime?
SA 13: To improve efficiency in land use and protection of soil quality through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings and encouraging urban renaissance.	SA 13.1: Does the Plan encourage the appropriate provision of housing development on previously developed land as opposed to greenfield sites? SA 13.2: Does the Plan maximise the provision of employment development on previously developed land as opposed to greenfield sites? SA 13.3: Does the Plan encourage housing densities which would make efficient use of land? SA 13.4: Does the Plan ensure land is remediated where appropriate? SA 13.5: Does the Plan reduce the loss of soil and high grade agricultural land to development?

SA Objective	Sub-Objective
<p>SA 14: To implement strategies that help mitigate global warming by actively reducing greenhouse gases and adapt to unavoidable climate change within the District.</p>	<p>SA 14.1: Does the Plan promote energy efficiency and the generation of clean, low carbon, decentralised and renewable electricity and heat?</p> <p>SA14.2. Does the Plan promote the incorporation of small-scale renewable in developments?</p> <p>SA 14.3: Does the Plan promote and facilitate the use of electric cars and sustainable modes of transport?</p> <p>SA 14.4: Does the Plan encourage the use of designs and materials which will promote energy efficiency at new development in the District?</p> <p>SA 14.5: Does the Plan promote the use of locally and sustainably sourced, and recycling of materials in construction and renovation?</p>
<p>SA 15: To minimise the amount of waste produced, maximise the amount that is reused or recycled, and seek to recover energy from the largest proportion of the residual material, and achieve the sustainable management of waste.</p>	<p>SA 15.1: Does the Plan seek to promote the handling of waste in line with the waste hierarchy?</p> <p>SA 15.2: Does the Plan reduce the production of hazardous waste?</p>
Economic	
<p>SA 16: To deliver, maintain and enhance sustainable and diverse employment opportunities, to meet both current and future needs.</p>	<p>SA 16.1: Does the Plan allow for an adequate supply of land and the delivery of infrastructure to meet the District's employment needs?</p> <p>SA 16.2: Does the Plan provide for accessible employment opportunities?</p> <p>SA 16.3: Does the Plan support the prosperity and diversification of the District's rural economy?</p> <p>SA 16.4: Does the Plan support equality of opportunity for young people and job seekers and opportunity for the expansion and diversification of business?</p>
<p>SA 17: To allow for sustainable economic growth within environmental limits and innovation, an educated/ skilled workforce and support the long term competitiveness of the District.</p>	<p>SA 17.1: Does the Plan seek to promote business development and enhance productivity?</p> <p>SA 17.2: Does the Plan maintain and enhance the economic vitality and vibrancy of the District's town centres and tourist attractions?</p> <p>SA17.3: Does the Plan promote the image of the District as an area for investment and will it encourage inward investment?</p> <p>SA17.4: Does the Plan promote access to education facilities for residents?</p> <p>SA17.5: Does the Plan help to support increased economic activity throughout the District?</p>

Likely sustainability effects of the Policy Options considered for the Local Plan

Issues and Options consultation paper

- 38 This section presents the SA findings for the policy options that have been considered for the Local Plan. Options were initially set out in the Issues and Options consultation paper (October 2017), although some additional work was undertaken by the Council to develop some of those options.
- 39 The appraisal findings summarised below are presented in the same order that the options appeared in the Issues and Options consultation paper.
- 40 The SA findings were originally presented to Stroud District Council officers in early August 2018, so that the findings could inform the policy approaches included within the Emerging Strategy Paper, and further policy development which took place in the subsequent stage of the Local Plan Review in 2019. The SA findings for these options are included in Appendix 3 of the full SA Report for the Pre-submission Draft Local Plan.

Chapter 1: Key issues

- 41 The first chapter of the Issues and Options consultation paper set out the key issues facing Stroud District, in relation to economy, affordable housing, environment, health and wellbeing and delivery.
- 42 Alternative options were not included in this chapter; therefore no appraisal work in relation to the key issues was undertaken. However, a review of the key issues was undertaken following preparation of the SA Scoping Report (April 2018) in order to ensure that there were no inconsistencies and that an appropriate range of key issues is identified in the Local Plan. This review did not result in the SA team recommending that any changes should be made to the key issues in the Local Plan.

Chapter 2: Needs

Local economy and jobs

- 43 This section of the Local Plan set out a number of alternative options in relation to the need for economic growth and job creation in the District. While some of the questions posed in the consultation were open ended and did not comprise alternative options that could be appraised, a number of distinct options were identified. The sections below provide a commentary on their likely significant sustainability effects.

Question 2.1c

- Option 1: Locating growth adjacent to M5 junctions.
- Option 2: Continuing expansion of employment land at existing settlements/sites.

- 44 The specific nature of these options means that negligible effects would be likely in relation to many of the SA objectives. However, locating more employment development adjacent to the M5 junctions could have minor negative effects on SA objectives 10: **air quality** and 14: **climate change** as this approach may result in higher levels of car use for employees commuting to and from the sites, as well as potentially attracting less sustainable, transport-based commercial activities such as logistics. Development adjacent to the M5 junctions would be some distance from the main settlements in the District including Stroud and Cam and Dursley. There may also be minor negative effects on SA objective 16: **employment** as employment opportunities adjacent to the M5 junctions may not be easily accessible for people without access to a car. A minor negative effect on SA objective 2: **health** could also result from there being more limited opportunities for people to walk or cycle to work.
- 45 Conversely, continuing to expand employment land at existing settlements and sites could have minor positive effects on the SA objectives described above, as more people may be able to make

use of existing sustainable transport links to access work opportunities without relying on private cars.

- 46 The effects of both options on the environmental objectives, including SA objectives 7: **biodiversity**, 8: **landscape**, 9: **historic environment** and 12: **flood risk**, would depend on the specific location of employment land allocations under either option, and so cannot be determined at this high level.

Question 2.1d

- Option 1: Increased flexibility to allow other job generating uses on all employment sites.
- Option 2: Increased flexibility allowed on some sites only.
- Option 3: Identify a percentage threshold for non B class employment uses.

- 47 Allowing for increased flexibility in terms of the uses permitted at employment sites (Options 1 and 2) could have a positive effect on SA objective 6: **access to services** for employees at those sites, as they would be able to make use of facilities such as retail outlets during breaks and after work. Depending on nature of the other uses, there could also be positive effects on SA objective 2: **health**, i.e. if gyms were located within employment sites alongside Class B uses. Although such effects would be particularly positive under Option 1, which would allow flexibility on all employment sites and not just some (as with Option 2), the positive effects are not likely to be significant under either option as they only relate to employees at the sites concerned, rather than a large number of residents across the District. The likely effects of Option 3 would depend on the percentage threshold for non B class employment uses that is eventually applied, with the potential positive effects on the above SA objectives being greater if the percentage threshold is higher.

- 48 However, under all options there is a potential for minor negative effects on SA objective 16: **employment** if allowing a greater mix of employment uses were to result in an overall lower number of jobs being created. Some of the non B class uses that could be located within employment sites, such as retail units and gyms, are not likely to generate significant numbers of well-paid jobs in comparison to other potential B class uses. However, the potential negative effects of this nature are uncertain for all three options depending on the other uses that may eventually come forward and the number of associated jobs. As previously, the potential for negative effects is greater under Option 1 which would allow flexibility for other job generating uses on all, rather than just some, sites.

Question 2.1e

- Option 1: Promote further home working, encourage development of live-work units and co-working facilities.

- 49 The option for the Local Plan Review to promote more home working and to encourage the development of live-work units and co-working facilities is likely to have minor positive effects on SA objectives 10: **air quality** and 14: **climate change** as it may lead to lower levels of car use for commuting. There is also likely to be a minor positive effect on SA objective 16: **employment** as this approach should mean that a wider range of job opportunities are available to more people, including those without cars or with restricted working hours. The creation of co-working facilities in particular may also have a minor positive effect on SA objective 17: **economic growth** as it would support business development.

- 50 The specific nature of this option means that negligible effects on the other SA objectives are expected.

Question 2.1f

- Option 1: Promote further farm diversification.
- Option 2: Control pattern of rural development more closely.

- 51 Promoting further farm diversification under Option 1 could have a minor positive effect on SA objectives 16: **employment** and 17: **economic growth** as this approach could offer local employment opportunities and allow farming businesses to respond flexibly to changes in agriculture to ensure that their businesses remain viable. Depending on the nature of

diversification that takes place, there may also be minor positive effects on SA objectives 3: **health** and 6: **access to services and facilities** if the businesses provide opportunities for physical activity, or add to the range of community services and facilities available in the area. Conversely, Option 2 would involve more close control over rural development, which could have minor negative effects on those SA objectives.

- 52 However, Option 1 could have negative effects on some of the environmental SA objectives, in particular SA objective 8: **landscape**, although this is uncertain depending on the nature and location of diversification activities. Controlling rural development more closely under Option 2 could have a positive effect on that objective.

Our town centres

- 53 This section of the Issues and Options consultation document set out a number of 'mix and match' options for improving the town centres of Stroud, Nailsworth, Dursley, Wotton-under-Edge and Stonehouse. As these options were generally aspirational, broadly positive effects on the SA objectives are expected to occur.

- 54 In general, improving the District's town centres will have positive effects on SA objectives 5: **vibrant communities** and 6: **access to services**. There are also likely to be positive effects on SA objectives 10: **air quality** and 14: **climate change** as improvements to the town centres may encourage more people to shop and spend time in those areas, which are generally more accessible via sustainable transport compared to out of town retail parks or other larger centres. Significant positive effects on SA objective 17: **economic growth** would also be expected as the overall purpose of the options are to maintain and enhance the vitality and viability of the District's town centres. Several of the options for the town centres are associated with marketing the tourism potential of the towns, i.e. promoting the proximity of Stroud and Dursley and so would have positive effects on SA objective 17: **economic growth** for that reason as well.

- 55 Considering the specific options set out in the Issues and Options document, there is, however, potential for some of the options to have a negative effect on SA objectives 10: **air quality** and 14: **climate change** where they could be seen to encourage car use. For example, one of the options that is included for both Stroud and Dursley is to improve signage to car parking for motorists – while this could benefit the street scene and reduce congestion, it could indirectly encourage car use. The other approach proposed for Dursley, to enhance signage in the town for pedestrians and cyclists, would have more positive effects on those SA objectives. Similarly, one of the options for Wotton-under-Edge is to find a solution for the lack of car and coach parking, including allocating a site – this could again have a negative effect on SA objectives 10: **air quality** and 14: **climate change**, as could the option for Stroud to relax parking restrictions in the evening and two of the options for Stonehouse that refer to promoting the town's links with the strategic road network.

- 56 One of the proposals for Nailsworth, improving the town square, would have a positive effect on SA objective 8: **landscape and townscape**.

- 57 The option for Stroud to support new housing in the town centre for young professionals could have a minor positive effect on SA objective 1: **housing**.

A local need for housing

- 58 This section of the Issues and Options consultation document posed a number of open ended consultation questions in relation to the need for housing development in the District, but did not identify alternative options that could be subject to SA. Therefore, no appraisal work was undertaken in relation to this section. Any potential development sites that have been put forward in response to question 2.3c were subject to SA along with other site options.

Local green spaces and community facilities

- 59 This section of the Issues and Options consultation document posed a number of open ended consultation questions in relation to the need for local green spaces and community facilities in the District, but did not identify alternative options that can be subject to SA. Therefore, no appraisal work has been undertaken in relation to this section. A small number of potential open space site options were subject to SA separately.

Chapter 3: Future growth strategy

Future growth strategy

- 60 In summary, the four strategic growth options initially considered for the Stroud Local Plan Review comprised:
- Option 1: Concentrated development.
 - Option 2: Wider distribution.
 - Option 3: Dispersal.
 - Option 4: New Growth Point.
- 61 The Council's paper "Local Plan Review: Developing a preferred strategy (revised March 2018)" described the options in more detail (including how much housing would be delivered in the broad locations making up the option) and was taken into account during the appraisal, along with four maps prepared by the Council illustrating the broad locations for growth under each option. A fifth hybrid of the four options was appraised through the SA as part of work undertaken for the Council's Additional Housing Options consultation in October 2020 which is discussed below. The appraisal of all five options is presented as part of this discussion.

Gloucester's fringe

- 62 This section of the Issues and Options consultation document identified a number of broad locations for growth on the fringe of Gloucester. These locations have been subject to SA along with the other site options.

South of the District

- 63 This section of the Issues and Options consultation document considered whether there were broad locations that could be considered for growth in the South of the District. Potential development locations in that area have been subject to SA along with the other site options.

Settlement hierarchy

- 64 This section of the Issues and Options consultation document presented the settlement hierarchy as it is set out in the adopted Local Plan and asks for comment on that. No alternative options were set out and therefore no appraisal work has been undertaken in relation to the settlement hierarchy.

Settlement boundaries

- 65 This section of the Issues and Options consultation document identified three alternative approaches to managing development proposals on the edges of towns and villages:

Question 3.5a

- Option 1: Continue with existing settlement development limits, amended as necessary.
- Option 2: Assess proposals on a case by case basis using broader criteria (e.g. landscape impact; form of settlement, proximity to services, etc.).
- Option 3: Continue with settlement development limits but expand the types of development that are allowed beyond them in the countryside.

- 66 A fourth option also asked consultees whether there are any other approaches that should be considered, which cannot be appraised as no other approaches were identified.
- 67 The appraisal of these options has been informed by the discussion paper that was prepared by Council officers for the Planning Review Panel, entitled 'Review of Settlement Development Limits'.
- 68 Continuing with the current approach of defining stringent settlement development limits (Option 1) is likely to have broadly positive effects on the environmental SA objectives as development outside of settlement limits is strictly controlled. The protection resulting from this approach

would have minor positive effects on SA objectives 7: **biodiversity**, 8: **landscape** and 13: **land use and soils**. There may also be minor positive effects on SA objective 10: **air quality** as focussing development within existing settlement limits, as opposed to permitting more dispersed development, could result in lower levels of car use. In addition, there could be a minor positive effect in relation to SA objective 6: **access to services**. However, the lack of flexibility associated with this approach could have minor negative effects on SA objectives 1: **housing** and 16: **economy** if proposals for development outside of settlement limits that would otherwise benefit these SA objectives are prevented from coming forward. It is possible that this less flexible approach could result in development proposals being refused in locations where there would not actually be adverse impacts on the environment, but the opportunity to consider and assess this on a case-by-case basis is lost.

- 69 Option 2 (assessing proposals on a case by case basis using criteria) would allow for more flexibility, which may benefit SA objectives 1: **housing** and 16: **economy** if residential and commercial developments are able to come forward in wider locations where it can be established that there would not be harm as a result. This more flexible approach would not necessarily result in adverse effects in relation to the environmental SA objectives, as there would be criteria that proposals would still be required to meet; however there may be an increased chance of negative effects on SA objectives 7: **biodiversity** and 8: **landscape** in particular if there is less stringent protection compared to Option 1. Effects would depend largely on the criteria that are applied and how stringently they are enforced, as well as whether the Council has available the evidence needed to thoroughly assess proposals, such as Conservation Area appraisals and up to date landscape sensitivity assessments. There may also be minor negative effects on SA objective 6: **access to services** and SA objective 10: **air quality** if this approach were to result in more dispersed development which is likely to be associated with higher levels of car use.
- 70 The third option would involve continuing with the current settlement development limits but expanding the types of development that are allowed beyond them in the countryside. This approach would provide the environmental protection of option 1, although not as strongly because certain types of development would not be as tightly controlled in terms of their location and may therefore be more likely to have adverse impacts. As with option 2 however, there could be benefits for SA objectives 1: **housing** and 16: **economy** assuming that the types of developments that might be allowed would be things like live work units and exemplar carbon neutral schemes. There may also be minor negative effects on SA objective 10: **air quality** if more dispersed development under this option were to result in higher levels of car use. In addition, dispersed development could have a negative effect in relation to SA objective 6: **access to services**.
- 71 A number of hybrid options were also identified in the discussion paper referred to above and the effects of these would be a mixture of the positives and negatives described above for the three options in the Issues and Options document. For example, one hybrid option could be a combination of Options 1 and 2 – removing settlement development limits for large settlements but retaining them for small villages with few facilities in sensitive locations. This approach would have some of the more positive social and economic effects described above for Option 2, while still providing some of the environmental protection associated with Option 1.

Broad locations and potential sites

- 72 Reasonable alternative locations for development have been subject to SA and the findings are presented separately. This included the site options set out in the Issues and Options consultation document as well as other reasonable alternative options that were considered previously by the Council or that have come forward since the Issues and Options consultation. The findings for all reasonable alternative site options are presented in Appendix 5 of full SA Report.

Chapter 4: Background studies

- 73 This final section of the Issues and Options consultation document described the background studies that are being prepared to inform the Local Plan Review and asked consultees whether any others are considered necessary. No alternative options suitable for appraisal were included in this section.

Summary of initial growth options appraised

74 As described above, four potential growth options were set out in the Issues and Options consultation paper (October 2017), which covered a concentrated development approach, wider distribution, dispersal and a new growth point:

- Option 1: Concentrated development - 5,550 dwellings and 30ha B class employment.
- Option 2: Wider distribution - 5,520 dwellings and 30ha B class employment.
- Option 3: Dispersal - 5,695 dwellings and 40ha B class employment.
- Option 4: Growth Point - 6,010 dwellings and 40ha B class employment.

The SA findings for these four options were presented to the Council in an internal summary note in August 2018 and were considered by the Council when making decisions on what options to take forward in the Preferred Options ("Emerging Strategy") version of the Local Plan (November 2018). The SA findings were later presented in the SA Report (November 2018) which was published alongside that version of the Local Plan.

75 This SA work recommended that the Council consider a hybrid option of the options put forward at that time which would most resemble a 'concentrated development' approach (Option 1) but also including growth at one or two growth points and/or one or two of the smaller towns and larger villages as well. The hybrid option taken forward by the Council was subsequently appraised in the November 2019 SA Report (through the appraisal of Policy CP2) which was published for consultation alongside the Draft Local Plan (November 2019).

76 The hybrid option is as follows:

- Option 5: Draft Local Plan hybrid option - 8,725 dwellings and 61ha B class employment.

77 The level of housing development set out by the Council through the initial strategic growth options and the hybrid option differs for two main reasons. Firstly, Option 5 considered a higher level of housing to reflect the Government's changes to the housing requirement methodology and indicative housing figures for each district. The Council has since worked with adjoining authorities in Gloucestershire to prepare a Local Housing Needs Assessment³, which identified the amount and types of housing that are likely to be needed during the Plan and confirmed the Government's updated requirement to provide for at least 638 new homes per annum (or 12,800 dwellings for the 20 year period). Secondly, the plan period was updated from 2016-2036 to 2019-2040. This has implications for the total commitments which were considered when determining the residual housing requirement over the plan period

78 It should be noted that all strategic growth options were assumed to provide the required number of homes to meet local needs over the relevant plan period. The SA findings for the hybrid option consider the higher numbers of homes to be provided at the settlements identified above, however, the findings for all options are considered to be comparable given that the distribution of development is what has the most bearing on the effects identified.

79 For completeness, and to ensure that the SA Report has appraised all reasonable alternative growth strategy options consistently and in the same level of detail, the SA work for the Additional Housing Options Paper (October 2020) also included the appraisal of the hybrid option presented in the Draft Local Plan (2019) without consideration for mitigation which might result from any of the policy requirements set out in the Draft Local Plan.

Summary of SA findings for the initial spatial options (including hybrid option)

80 **Table 3** below summarises the sustainability effects identified for the four future growth strategy options initially considered for the Stroud Local Plan as well as the effects of the hybrid option, as initially reported in the SA work for the Additional Housing Options Paper. The SA findings are described in detail in the full SA report. The detailed justification for the sustainability effects identified is provided in the detailed SA matrix in Appendix 4 of the SA work for the Additional Housing Options Paper.

Table 3 Summary of sustainability effects for the initial Future Growth Strategy Options for the Stroud Local Plan (including the hybrid option)

SA Objective	Option 1: Concentrated development	Option 2: Wider distribution	Option 3: Dispersal	Option 4: Focus on a single growth point	Option 5: Hybrid approach
SA 1: Housing	++	++/-	++/-	++	++
SA 2: Health	++/-	+/-	+/--	++/--?	++/--?
SA 3: Social inclusion	++/-	+/-	+/--	++/--?	+/--?
SA 4: Crime	0	0	0	0	0
SA 5: Vibrant communities	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-
SA 6: Services and facilities	++/-	++/-	+/--	++/-	++/-
SA 7: Biodiversity and geodiversity	-?	--?	--?	--?	--?
SA 8: Landscapes and townscapes	-?	--?	--?	--?	--?
SA 9: Historic environment	+?/--?	+?/--?	+?/--?	+/-?	+?/--?
SA 10: Air quality	+	+/-	-	+/-	+/-
SA 11: Water quality	-	--	--	0	-
SA 12: Flooding	+/-	-	--	-	+/--
SA 13: Efficient land use	+/--	--	--	--	+/--
SA 14: Climate change	+	+/-?	-	+/-?	+/-
SA 15: Waste	+?	0	0	+?	+?
SA 16: Employment	++/-	++/-	+/--	+++/-	+++/-
SA 17: Economic growth	+/-	+/-	+/-	+++/-	+++/-

Additional strategic growth options considered

- 81 Following the Draft Local Plan consultation, as part of the Additional Housing Options consultation in October 2020, the Council considered additional options for the growth strategy to be included in the Pre-submission Local Plan document. The new options built on the hybrid option presented in the Draft Local Plan (2019) and consider options for meeting the increased housing requirement over the plan period. There was potential for the housing need for the District to increase from 638 homes per annum as set out in the Draft Local Plan, to 786 homes per annum. The options considered also reflected the potential need to identify additional reserve sites, to ensure a suitable portfolio of sites is identified, thereby guaranteeing the delivery of housing at the rates required up to 2040.
- 82 The four additional strategic growth options set out by the Council in the Additional Housing Options consultation paper (October 2020) considered how the increased housing requirement of 786 dwellings per annum (or 15,720 dwellings for the 20 year period) might be met. The potential requirement for the District to accommodate a higher number of homes over the plan period followed proposed changes to the way the Government calculates the minimum housing requirement for each local authority area in the country. Following consultation on the potential

changes, the Government decided to retain the standard method in its current form, meaning the housing requirement for Stroud District will not increase and there is no need to pursue any of the additional strategic growth options.

- 83 The detailed appraisal of these four additional options was presented in Appendix 1 of the SA work for the for Additional Housing Options consultation. As part of the consultation of the Additional Housing Options, the Council considered additional sites which might be allocated to meet the potential increased housing requirement. The detailed appraisal of all additional sites considered as part of this consultation is presented in Appendix 5 of the full SA Report.

Emerging Strategy Paper

- 84 Alternative development site options and policy approaches relating to the key issues and needs of the District were also appraised as part of the SA for the Emerging Strategy Paper (November 2018). The summary of the likely total effects of the Emerging Strategy Paper in relation to each of the SA objectives is re-presented in **Table 4** below. The detailed findings for all sites appraised as part of the Emerging Strategy (alongside all other site options appraised at the later Draft Plan and Additional Housing Options consultation stages of the SA) are presented in Appendix 5 of the full SA Report for the Pre-submission Draft Local Plan.
- 85 A reasonably large amount of housing, employment and other development within Stroud District to meet its future needs were proposed in the Emerging Strategy Paper. Therefore, alongside the more overtly positive effects identified in relation to providing new homes and sites for employment and other uses (including community development and open space), the SA Report identified the potential for negative effects in relation to many of the environmental objectives including biodiversity, the historic environment and landscape.
- 86 The Emerging Strategy Paper, however, also included the Council's approach to addressing the key issues and needs of the District. These included many of the issues which have been represented as key issues in the Draft Paper such the local economy and jobs, town centres, local need for housing and local green spaces and community facilities. The approach to addressing these issues set out in the Emerging Strategy Paper presented the aim of protecting and enhancing the economic, social and environmental conditions of the District. The Council's approach to addressing these issues set out in the Emerging Strategy provided a starting point for the working up of policy requirements in the Draft Plan.

Table 4 Summary of likely cumulative effects for the Stroud District Local Plan Review Emerging Strategy Paper (November 2018)

SA Objective	Cumulative effects of the Local Plan Emerging Strategy Paper
SA1: Housing	++
SA2: Health	+
SA3: Social Inclusion	+
SA4: Crime	+
SA5: Vibrant communities	+
SA6: Services and facilities	+
SA7: Biodiversity/geodiversity	+/--
SA8: Landscapes/townscapes	+/--
SA9: Historic environment	+/--
SA10: Air quality	+/-
SA11: Water quality	+/--
SA12: Flooding	+/-
SA13: Efficient land use	+/--
SA14: Climate change	+/-
SA15: Waste	+
SA16: Employment	++/-
SA17: Economic growth	++

Draft Local Plan

87 The draft policies and preferred site allocations in the Stroud District Local Plan Review Draft Plan were also subject to a detailed appraisal against the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) objectives. The findings for draft policies and preferred site allocations were presented in Chapters 4 and 5 respectively of the Draft Local Plan SA Report (November 2019). This document was consulted upon alongside the Stroud District Draft Local Plan from November 2019. **Table 5** shows this summary of the expected cumulative effects in relation to each SA objective. A description of the expected cumulative effects of the Draft Plan was included in Chapter 6 of the Draft Local Plan SA Report (November 2019).

Table 5 Summary of the likely cumulative sustainability effects for the Stroud District Draft Plan (November 2019)

SA Objective	Cumulative effects of the Draft Local Plan
SA1: Housing	++
SA2: Health	+/-
SA3: Social Inclusion	+
SA4: Crime	+
SA5: Vibrant communities	+
SA6: Services and facilities	+/-
SA7: Biodiversity/geodiversity	+/--
SA8: Landscapes/townscapes	+/--
SA9: Historic environment	+/--
SA10: Air quality	+/-
SA11: Water quality	+/-
SA12: Flooding	+/-
SA13: Efficient land use	+/--
SA14: Climate change	++/-
SA15: Waste	+
SA16: Employment	++/-
SA17: Economic growth	++

Stroud District Council's reasons for taking forward the sites and policies included in the Pre-submission Draft Local Plan

- 88 The Council's reasons for including policy approaches in the Local Plan Review Emerging Strategy Paper and evolution of the policy approach in Draft Local Plan and subsequent Pre-submission Draft Local Plan are described in detailed in Appendix 9 of the full SA Report. That appendix also includes the Council's reasons for its decision making for the inclusion or discounting of all reasonable alternative site options considered for inclusion in the Local Plan.
- 89 The decision making of the Council, in relation to the sites and policies taken forward, reflects the findings of the evidence base documents prepared to support the preparation of the Local Plan, including the findings of the SA. The policy approaches taken forward also reflect the findings of public consultation undertaken and changes in national policy (including updates to the Use Classes Order relating to E Class uses). Other emerging important issues such as the District's commitment to become carbon neutral by 2030, the promotion of biodiversity net gain and the uncertainty over the implications of COVID-19 have also been reflected in the policies.
- 90 A refined hybrid growth strategy has been set out in the Local Plan in line with the findings of the SA and transport assessment work. This approach includes support for the regeneration of the canal corridor through the Stroud Valleys and at Sharpness and builds upon the adopted Local Plan strategy. Much of the growth is planned for at strategic locations to maximise the use of infrastructure and minimising the need to travel. Increased capacity is planned for at strategic sites with a good fit to the growth strategy to make most efficient use of land and maximise sustainability and infrastructure benefits. Increased employment growth at accessible locations within A38/ M5 corridor is supported, as is mixed use redevelopment at existing sites, increased flexibility for town centre uses, rural diversification and tourism opportunities. The amount of development proposed within the AONB is limited, and that which is to be delivered in these locations is to meet local needs. At these locations, development is only of a minor scale and is located on land of less than the highest sensitivity to development. Additional opportunities for dispersed small scale growth at smaller towns and larger villages to address local needs, are provided for through the policies in the Local Plan. This approach is supported through settlement development limit changes, regeneration of previously used sites to maximise brownfield land opportunities, small scale development on the edge of Tier 3b and Tier 4 settlements and affordable housing provision to meet local needs. These elements of the Plan also ensure a good mix of sites to meet the housing requirement in accordance with the NPPF.

Likely effects of the Stroud District Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan

- 91 This section presents the SA findings for the policies and site allocations in the current version of the Local Plan, the Pre-Submission Draft (May 2021). The likely sustainability effects for all of the policies in the Local Plan are presented in **Table 6** overleaf. This includes the effects of the site allocations included in the Plan, taking into account the mitigation provided through the site allocation policies. From the summary of expected sustainability effects for all policies in the Plan it is possible to describe the cumulative effects of the Plan as a whole as presented in **Table 7**. The overall effects of the Plan are summarised underneath the table.

Table 6: Effects of the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan Policies and Site Allocations

SA Objectives	SA 1: Housing	SA 2: Health	SA 3: Social inclusion	SA 4: Crime	SA 5: Vibrant communities	SA 6: Services and facilities	SA 7: Biodiversity/geodiversity	SA 8: Landscapes/townscapes	SA 9: Historic environment	SA 10: Air quality.	SA 11: Water quality	SA 12: Flooding	SA 13: Efficient land use	SA 14: Climate change	SA 15: Waste	SA 16: Employment	SA 17: Economic growth
Key priorities	++/-?	+	+	0	+	++	++	+?	+?	++	0	+	++	++	+?	++/-?	++/-?
Vision for the District	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+
Strategic Objectives	++	++	++	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
SO1	++	++	++	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
SO1a	0	++	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SO2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	++
SO3	0	0	0	+	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+
SO4	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	++	0	0	0
SO5	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	++	++	++	++	++	0	0
SO6	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Place Making: the development strategy																	
DCP1	+	+	0	0	+	+	++	+	0	++	+	+	0	++	+	0	0
CP2	++	++/-	+/-	0	+/-	++/-	--?	--?	+?/--?	+/-	-	+/--	+/--	+/-	+	++/-	++/-
CP3	++	++	+	0	+/-	++/-	--?	+/-?	+/-?	+	-	-	+	+	+	++/-	++/-
CP4	+	+	0	+	++	0	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	0
CP5	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	++	+	0	0
CP6	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	+/-	0	0	0	+/-	0	0	+
Making Places: Shaping the future of Stroud District																	

SA Objectives	SA 1: Housing	SA 2: Health	SA 3: Social inclusion	SA 4: Crime	SA 5: Vibrant communities	SA 6: Services and facilities	SA 7: Biodiversity/geodiversity	SA 8: Landscapes/townscapes	SA 9: Historic environment	SA 10: Air quality.	SA 11: Water quality	SA 12: Flooding	SA 13: Efficient land use	SA 14: Climate change	SA 15: Waste	SA 16: Employment	SA 17: Economic growth
Vision for the Stroud Valleys	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	+
Site PS01	+	-/++	0	0	+	+	+/-?	-?	+/--?	0	--?	+/--	+	0	+?	+	+?
Site PS02	+	++/--?	0	0	+	+	+/--?	-?	+/--?	0	--?	+/--	+	0	+?	+?	+?
Site PS05	+	++	0	0	+	+	+/-?	+/--?	+/--?	0	--?	+/-	--?	0	0	+	+
Site PS05a	+	++	0	0	0	+	-?	--?	--	0	--?	-	--?	0	0	+	+
Site PS06	+	++/--?	0	0	+	+	+/-?	+/-?	0	0	--?	0	+	0	+?	+	+?
Site PS10	+	++	0	0	+	++	-?	-?	+/--?	++	--?	0	+	0	+?	+	+?
Site PS11	+	++	0	0	+	++	-?	-?	+/--?	++	--?	0	+	0	+?	+	+?
Site PS12	+	++	0	0	+	++	-?	-?	+/-?	++	--?	0	+	0	+?	++/--	+?
STR065	+	++	0	0	+	++	-?	-?	0/+?	++	--?	0	+	0	+?	++	+?
Vision for the Stonehouse cluster	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	+
Site PS16	+	-/++	0	0	0	+	-?	+/-?	0	0	--?	-	--?	0	0	-	+?
Site PS17	+	+/--?	0	0	+	++	-?	-?	0	+	--?	0	+	0	+?	++	+++?
Site PS19a	++	++/-	0	0	+	++	+/-?	+/-?	0	++/--	+/--?	+/-	--?	0	0	++	++
Site PS20	+	++/--?	0	0	+	++	+/-?	+/--?	+/--	++	+/--?	+/--	--	0	0	++	++
Site PS42	+	++/-	0	0	0	+	0?	+/-?	0	0	--?	-	--?	0	0	--	+?
Vision for Cam and Dursley	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	+

SA Objectives	SA 1: Housing	SA 2: Health	SA 3: Social inclusion	SA 4: Crime	SA 5: Vibrant communities	SA 6: Services and facilities	SA 7: Biodiversity/geodiversity	SA 8: Landscapes/townscapes	SA 9: Historic environment	SA 10: Air quality.	SA 11: Water quality	SA 12: Flooding	SA 13: Efficient land use	SA 14: Climate change	SA 15: Waste	SA 16: Employment	SA 17: Economic growth
Site PS24	++	++/-	0	0	+	++	+/-?	+/-?	0	+/-	+/-?	+/-	--	0	0	++	+/-?
Site PS25	+	++/-	0	0	+	++	+/-?	+/-?	0	+	+/-?	+/-	--?	0	0	++	+
Site PS27	0	++	0	0	+	++	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	+	--?	0	+	0	+	+	+
Site PS28	+	++	0	0	+	++	+/-?	+/-?	+/-	++	--?	0	+	0	+	++	+
Vision for Gloucester's rural fringe	+	0	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	+
Site HAR017	+	++/-	0	0	0	+	-?	+/-?	+/-	+	0	+/-	--?	0	0	--	+
Site PS30	++	++/-	0	0	++	++/-	+/-?	?	0	++/-	+	+/-	--	0	0	+	+/-?
Site PS32	0	+	0	0	0	0	0?	+/-?	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	+	+
Site PS43	0	+	0	0	0	0	0?	+/-?	0	+	0	-	--	0	0	++	++
Site G1	++	++/-?	0	0	++	++	+/-?	+/-?	--	+/-	+	+/-	--	0	0	+	+++?
Site G2	++	++/-	0	0	++	++	+/-?	+/-?	+/-	++/-	+	+/-	--	0	0	+	++/-?
Vision for the Berkeley Cluster	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	+	+
BER016/17	+	++	0	0	0	+	-?	+/-?	0	0	0	+/-	--?	0	0	+	+
Site PS33	+	++	0	0	0	+	+/-?	+/-?	0	+	0	+/-	--?	0	0	++	+
Site PS34	+	++/-?	0	0	+	+	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	+/-	+	+/-	+	0	+	+	+
Site PS35	+	++/-	0	0	+	+/-	-?	-?	0	-	0	0	+	0	+	--	+
Site PS36	++	++/-?	0	0	++	++	++/-?	+/-?	+/-	+/-	+	+/-	--?	+	0	++	+++?
Site PS37	++	++/-	0	0	++	++	+/-?	+/-?	+	++/-	+/-?	+/-	--	+	0	+	++

SA Objectives	SA 1: Housing	SA 2: Health	SA 3: Social inclusion	SA 4: Crime	SA 5: Vibrant communities	SA 6: Services and facilities	SA 7: Biodiversity/geodiversity	SA 8: Landscapes/townscapes	SA 9: Historic environment	SA 10: Air quality.	SA 11: Water quality	SA 12: Flooding	SA 13: Efficient land use	SA 14: Climate change	SA 15: Waste	SA 16: Employment	SA 17: Economic growth
Vision for the Severn Vale	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	0	+
Site PS44	+	++	0	0	0	+	-?	+/-?	-	-	0	-	--	0	0	+	+?
Site PS45	+	++/-	0	0	0	+	+/-?	+/-?	+/-	-	--?	-	--?	0	0	--	+?
Site PS46	+	++/-	0	0	0	+	-?	+/-?	0	-	--?	-	--?	0	0	--	+?
Vision for the Wotton Cluster	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	+
Site PS38	+	++/-	0	0	0	+	+/-?	+/-?	0	-	0	-	--?	0	0	+	+?
Site PS47	0	+	0	0	0	0	0?	+/--?	+/--	+	0	+/-	--?	0	0	++	++
Vision for the Cotswold Cluster	+	0	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+
Site PS41	+	++	0	0	0	+	-?	+/--?	+	0	--?	-	--?	0	0	+	+?
Homes and Communities																	
CP7	++	+	++	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
DGP2	++	++	++	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CP8	++	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	+
CP9	++	0	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CP10	++	0	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0
DHC1	++	+/-	0	0	+	+/-	0	0	0	+/-	0	0	0	+/-	0	+/-	0
DHC2	++	-	+	0	+	+/-	0	+/-?	0	-	0	0	-	-	0	0	0
HC2	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	+	+

SA Objectives	SA 1: Housing	SA 2: Health	SA 3: Social inclusion	SA 4: Crime	SA 5: Vibrant communities	SA 6: Services and facilities	SA 7: Biodiversity/geodiversity	SA 8: Landscapes/townscapes	SA 9: Historic environment	SA 10: Air quality.	SA 11: Water quality	SA 12: Flooding	SA 13: Efficient land use	SA 14: Climate change	SA 15: Waste	SA 16: Employment	SA 17: Economic growth
HC3	++	0	+	0	0	+	0	-?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HC4	++	+/-	+	0	+	+/-	0	-?	-?	+/-	0	0	-	+/-	0	+/-	0
DHC3	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	+
HC1	++	+	0	0	+	0	+	+	+	+/-?	0	0	0	+/-?	0	0	0
DHC4	++	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
HC5	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
HC6	+	+/-	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	+/-	0	0	+	+/-	+	+	0
HC7	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
HC8	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0
DHC5	0	++	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
DHC6	0	++	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0
DHC7	0	++	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	+	0	0	0
Economy and Infrastructure																	
CP11	+?	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+/-	0	+	+/-	+/-	0	++	++
CP12	+	+	+	0	+	++	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	+
CP13	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	++/-	0	0	0	++/-	0	+	+
EI1	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	+/-	-	-	0	+/-	0	++	++
EI2	+	0	0	0	+	+	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	+/-	+	+/-?	+	+/-	0	++	++
EI2a	0	0	0	0	0	0	--?	?	0	-	0	-	+	+/-	0	++	++

SA Objectives	SA 1: Housing	SA 2: Health	SA 3: Social inclusion	SA 4: Crime	SA 5: Vibrant communities	SA 6: Services and facilities	SA 7: Biodiversity/geodiversity	SA 8: Landscapes/townscapes	SA 9: Historic environment	SA 10: Air quality.	SA 11: Water quality	SA 12: Flooding	SA 13: Efficient land use	SA 14: Climate change	SA 15: Waste	SA 16: Employment	SA 17: Economic growth
EI4	+?	0	0	0	0	0	+?	+?	+?	+/-?	0	+?	+/-	+/-?	0	++	++
EI5	0	0	0	0	0	0	+?	+?	+?	+/-?	+?	0	+	+/-?	0	+	++
EI6	0	+	++	0	+	++	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	+	0
EI7	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
EI8	0	+	+	0	+/-?	+?	0	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	+?	+?
EI9	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	++
EI10	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+/-	0	0	+	+/-	0	+	++
EI11	+	++	+	0	+	++	+	+	+	+/-	0	0	0	+/-	0	+	0
EI12	0	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	+
DEI1	0	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	++	0	+	0
EI13	0	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	++	0	+	0
EI14	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	++	0	+	+
EI15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	++
EI16	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	++	0	+	0
Our Environment and Surroundings																	
CP14	+	+	0	+	+	+	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	++	+	0	+
CP15	++	+/-	0	0	+	+/-	+?	+?	+?	-	0	0	+	-	0	+	++
ES1	-?	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	++	+	0	-?
ES2	0	+	0	0	+	0	+/-?	+?	+	0	+	+	+	++	0	+	+

SA Objectives	SA 1: Housing	SA 2: Health	SA 3: Social inclusion	SA 4: Crime	SA 5: Vibrant communities	SA 6: Services and facilities	SA 7: Biodiversity/geodiversity	SA 8: Landscapes/townscapes	SA 9: Historic environment	SA 10: Air quality.	SA 11: Water quality	SA 12: Flooding	SA 13: Efficient land use	SA 14: Climate change	SA 15: Waste	SA 16: Employment	SA 17: Economic growth
DES3	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0
ES3	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	++	++	+	+	0	0	0	+
ES4	0	0	0	0	0	0	+?	+?	0	0	++	++	0	+	+	0	0
ES5	0	+	0	0	0	+	+?	+?	0	++	0	0	0	+	0	+	0
DES1	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	+	+
ES6	0	+	0	0	+	0	++	+?	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0
ES7	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
ES8	0	+	0	0	0	0	++	++	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0
ES9	0	+	0	0	0	0	+?	+?	+?	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+
ES10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ES11	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	++	++	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0
ES12	0	+	++	+	++	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	++	0	+	+
DES2	0	+	+	0	+	0	++	++	?	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0
ES16	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+

Table 7 Summary of likely cumulative effects for the Stroud District Pre-submission Draft Local Plan (May 2021)

SA Objective	Cumulative effects of the Pre-submission Draft Local Plan
SA1: Housing	++
SA2: Health	+/-
SA3: Social Inclusion	+
SA4: Crime	+
SA5: Vibrant communities	+
SA6: Services and facilities	++/-
SA7: Biodiversity/geodiversity	+/-
SA8: Landscapes/townscapes	+/-
SA9: Historic environment	+/-
SA10: Air quality	+/-
SA11: Water quality	+/-
SA12: Flooding	+/-
SA13: Efficient land use	+/-
SA14: Climate change	++/-
SA15: Waste	+
SA16: Employment	++/-
SA17: Economic growth	++

- 92 The Plan sets out the growth strategy for Stroud District up to 2040. Enough housing is allocated to provide for at least 630 homes per year as required by the Government’s standard method for housing delivery for the District. In total over the 20 year plan period, 12,600 new homes will be delivered, including some homes which already have planning permission and others which are assumed to be firm commitments to be developed. The delivery of a range of housing types, including affordable homes and homes suitable for older people is supported through policies included in the Plan. This approach will help to meet the needs of a wide range of local people including the needs of an increasingly older local population. It also expected to help address housing affordability in the plan area.
- 93 The Plan’s growth strategy includes larger strategic sites, which will extend existing larger settlements, two new settlements at Sharpness and Wisloe and local development sites at accessible local settlements and other development broadly in line with the settlement hierarchy. In order to support smaller rural communities, the strategy provides flexibility for small scale development adjacent to settlement developments to meet identified local needs where supported by local communities. A total of 79ha of new employment land is allocated in the Plan to support the growth of the local economy. Much of this is well related to the existing larger settlements in the plan area or areas immediately surrounding, or areas where large scale

housing development is to be delivered over the plan period. The relatively high level of development over the plan period is likely to result in increasing numbers of vehicular journeys in the plan area which could increase air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. However, it is expected that the approach set out would help to achieve a degree of self-containment by making good use of the existing services and facilities, employment opportunities and sustainable transport links in the plan area. The need for residents to travel longer distances may be reduced as a result. The larger strategic sites (most notably the new settlement sites) are of a scale to support substantial new service provision and sustainable transport improvements in the plan area. However, at the new settlements, access to services and facilities will be greatly dependent upon the timing of new service provision and earlier occupiers of the Wisloe and Sharpness new settlements may have to travel longer distances for certain needs.

- 94 Through the growth strategy there could also be implications in terms of landscape character given the high level of greenfield land required. Furthermore, some of the sites lie in close proximity to the AONB and/or have been identified through landscape sensitivity work undertaken as having medium/high or high sensitivity for development. Furthermore, a number of the sites were identified through the heritage impact work undertaken to support the Council's SALA as having potential for impacts on historic assets or their settings, prior to mitigation. The delivery of new development in the plan area is also likely to result in increased habitat disturbance, fragmentation and loss. The HRA screening work undertaken for the Plan identified the potential for significant effects on Severn Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar, Rodborough Common SAC and Cotswolds Beechwoods SAC. However, the potential for most of the types of effects identified as a result of development set out in the Plan to adversely affect the integrity of each of these European sites was ruled out through the appropriate assessment when considering in the policy requirements in the Pre-submission Draft Local Plan. The appropriate assessment also considered the findings of traffic modelling work undertaken.
- 95 The mitigation of the potential adverse impacts of development, are addressed through a number of additional topic-based policies included in the Plan in addition to site specific policy requirements. These include the requirement for development to achieve a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain and the incorporation of measures to contribute to making the District carbon neutral by 2030. Specific policy support is included for decentralised renewable and low carbon energy schemes. Policies are also included to protect local air quality and limit other forms of pollution, prevent increases in flood risk and preserve the historic environment and landscape character. This includes protection for the individual identity of settlements and quality of the countryside as well as the natural and special character of the Cotswolds AONB.

Monitoring

- 96 The SEA Regulations require that monitoring is undertaken in relation to the significant effects of implementing the Plan in question. **Table 8** below sets out a number of suggested indicators for monitoring the potential significant sustainability effects of implementing the Stroud District Local Plan. Indicators are proposed against only the SA objectives for which likely significant and/or uncertain effects (either positive or negative) were identified.

Table 8: Monitoring indicators for the Stroud District Local Plan

SA objectives	Proposed monitoring indicators
<p>Housing SA 1: To provide affordable, sustainable and decent housing to meet local needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net additional dwellings (also considered as a percentage of net dwellings required). • Percentage of Affordable housing. • Percentage reduction of unfit/non-decent homes. • Net additional transit and residential pitches (gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople) permitted and completed to meet identified requirement. • Number of small scale housing applications permitted. • Quantum of new self build housing. • Number of permitted schemes for rural housing. • Net additional care home bed spaces. • Gross completions by dwelling type and size. • Total windfalls from previous year. • Percentage of windfall allowance completed.
<p>Health SA 2: To maintain and improve the community's health with accessible healthcare for residents, including increasing levels of physical activity, especially among the young.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity of health services. • Percentage of people who regularly take 30 minutes exercise more than three times a week. • Number of playgrounds to NPFA standard. • Health inequality indicators. • Net change in floorspace of sports centres. • Quantity of public open space lost. • Quantity of public open space provided. • Percentage of the city's population having access to a natural greenspace within 400 metres of their home. • Length of greenways constructed. • Hectares of accessible open space per 1,000 population.
<p>Vibrant Communities SA 5: To create and sustain vibrant communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of new development built on previously developed land (brownfield completions). • Proportion of vacant shops in all centres.
<p>Services and Facilities SA 6: To maintain and improve access to all services and facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of libraries per 1,000 people. • Number of visits to libraries in Stroud per annum. • Number of visits to leisure facilities in Stroud per annum. • Quantity of community facilities lost through development. • Quantity of new community facilities. • Net change in floorspace of cultural uses in the town centres.

SA objectives	Proposed monitoring indicators
<p>Biodiversity/Geodiversity SA 7: To create, protect, enhance, restore and connect habitats, species and/or sites of biodiversity or geological interest.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of planning applications involving a BAP habitat being created or managed as a result of new development. • Number of trees with preservation orders in place. • Number of planning applications with conditions to ensure works to manage or enhance the condition of SSSI features of interest. • Percentage area of SSSIs in adverse condition as a result of development. • Percentage of granted planning permissions within areas of biodiversity and geodiversity value. • Area of net biodiversity gain. • Number of planning approvals that generated any adverse impacts on sites of acknowledged biodiversity importance. • Percentage of major developments generating overall biodiversity enhancement. • Hectares of biodiversity habitat delivered through strategic site allocations.
<p>Landscapes/Townscapes SA 8: To conserve and enhance the local character and distinctiveness of landscapes and townscapes and provide sustainable access to countryside in the District.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of development approved in areas where there is a need to take account of landscape character. • Number of applications permitted within the AONB. • Amount of new development in AONB with commentary on likely impact.
<p>Historic Environment SA 9: To conserve and/or enhance the significant qualities, fabric, setting and accessibility of the District's historic environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Listed Buildings (all grades) in the district. • Number and percentage of Listed Buildings at Risk (all grades). • Number of listed buildings. • Number of non-designated heritage assets (these can be, but are not always, "locally listed"). • Number of conservation areas with an up to date appraisal and heritage at risk survey. • Number of instances of substantial harm to non-designated heritage assets. • Amount of development permitted on land safeguarded for the canals. • Total distance (metres) of restored canal.
<p>Air Quality SA 10: To ensure that air quality continues to improve.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of residents driving a car or van. • Percentage of trips made using walking or cycling. • Number of applications that do not provide a travel plans and / or transport assessment that is contrary to transport advice. • Percentage of new residential development within 800 metres of public transport facilities. • Number of applications located within 800 metres of a District, Local or Neighbourhood Centre. • Number of permitted schemes with accompanying public transport facilities included within 400 metres. • Level of air pollution recorded through Air Quality Strategy.
<p>Water Quality SA 11: To maintain and enhance the quality of ground and surface waters and to achieve sustainable water resources management in the District.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage increase in use of recycled water. • Number of developments in Drinking Water Safeguarding Zones and Source Protection Zones. • Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on water quality grounds. • Percentage of the District's main water bodies achieving 'good' status.

SA objectives	Proposed monitoring indicators
<p>Flooding SA 12: To manage and reduce the risk of flooding and resulting detriment to public wellbeing, the economy and the environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood risk grounds. • Permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Lead Local Flood Authority.
<p>Efficient Land Use SA 13: To improve efficiency in land use and protection of soil quality through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings and encouraging urban renaissance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of new development built on previously developed land (brownfield completions). • Percentage of greenfield development completions. • Percentage of dwellings completed at between 30 and 50 dwellings per hectare. • Percentage of new development at Tier 1 settlements.
<p>Climate Change SA 14: To implement strategies that help mitigate global warming by actively reducing greenhouse gases and adapt to unavoidable climate change within the District.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of buildings classed A-C in energy efficiency. • Number of renewable energy developments. • Renewable energy capacity installed (by type) (measured in kW). • Percentage of trips made using green modes of transport.
<p>Waste SA 15: To minimise the amount of waste produced, maximise the amount that is reused or recycled, and seek to recover energy from the largest proportion of the residual material, and achieve the sustainable management of waste.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amounts of household, construction and demolition and commercial and industrial waste produced. • Percentage increase in waste recycled. • Percentage reduction in production of hazardous waste.
<p>Employment SA 16: To deliver, maintain and enhance sustainable and diverse employment opportunities, to meet both current and future needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net employment land gain. • Loss of employment floorspace. • Percentage increase in employment. • Amount of new employment floorspace within identified employment areas. • Number of business registrations and de-registrations. • Quantum of land developed by employment type and location. • Quantum of employment land lost to non-employment development. • Quantum of land developed by employment type and location (key employment areas).
<p>Economic SA 17: To allow for sustainable economic growth within environmental limits and innovation, an educated/ skilled workforce and support the long term competitiveness of the District.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in GVA of the region. • Increase in investment in region. • Increase in education facilities in region. • The percentage of young people aged 16 to 18 not in education, training or employment. • Proportion of vacant shops in all centres. • Number of non-retail uses on primary & secondary frontages. • Percentage class A1 retail use in primary frontage. • Percentage class A1 retail use in secondary frontage. • Number of applications granted contrary to advice in relation to retail impact assessment. • Holiday Home completions.

Conclusions

- 97 The full SA report and this Non-Technical Summary have considered the sustainability implications of the policies and sites presented in the Stroud District Pre-submission Draft Local Plan. Alongside these, reasonable alternative policy and site options have also been appraised.
- 98 A number of options for the Plan's growth strategy have been tested through the SA. Alongside the findings of other evidence base studies, this work has been used by the Council to inform its decision to take forward a hybrid approach for the distribution of development. This includes larger strategic sites which will extend existing larger settlements and small sites broadly in line with the settlement hierarchy. Two new settlement sites are also included, at Sharpness and Wisloe. It is expected that this approach would make good use of the existing services and facilities, employment opportunities and sustainable transport links in the plan area. The delivery of a more limited level of development at smaller settlements will help to ensure the viability of local services and facilities at these locations to help ensure that residents can meet some of their needs locally.
- 99 To help mitigate the potential adverse impacts of development, the Plan includes a number of topic-based policies in addition to site specific policy requirements. These include the requirement for development to achieve a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain and the incorporation of measures to contribute to making the District carbon neutral by 2030. Specific policy support is included for decentralised renewable and low carbon energy schemes. Policies are also included to protect local air quality and limit other forms of pollution, prevent increases in flood risk and preserve the historic environment and landscape character. This includes protection for the individual identity of settlements and quality of the countryside as well as the natural and special character of the Cotswolds AONB.
- 100 The likely cumulative sustainability effects of the Pre-submission Draft Local Plan are described in Chapter 6 of the full SA report and in this Non-Technical Summary. Potentially significant positive cumulative effects were identified in relation to SA objectives 1: **housing**, 6: **services and facilities**, 14: **climate change**, 16: **employment** and 17: **economic growth**. For SA objectives 14: climate change and 16: employment it is expected that the significant positive effect identified would be in combination with a minor negative effect for an overall mixed cumulative effect. Potentially significant negative cumulative effects were identified in relation to SA objective 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity**, 8: **landscape/townscape**, 9: **historic environment** and 13: **efficient land use**, in combination with a minor positive effect for an overall mixed cumulative effect.

Next steps

- 101 The full SA Report and this Non-Technical Summary will be available for consultation alongside the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan between 26th May and 7th July 2021.
- 102 Following this consultation, the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan and accompanying SA Report will be submitted to the Secretary of State for public examination. Any proposed changes to the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan that may arise out of the examination process will be subject to SA and consulted upon as necessary.

LUC

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