Your district
Your future

Core Strategy Consultation:
Alternative Strategies for shaping the
future of Stroud District

8th FEBRUARY – 22nd MARCH 2010

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL
www.stroud.gov.uk

Stroud District Core Strategy:
ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES CONSULTATION
8th FEBRUARY – 22nd MARCH 2010

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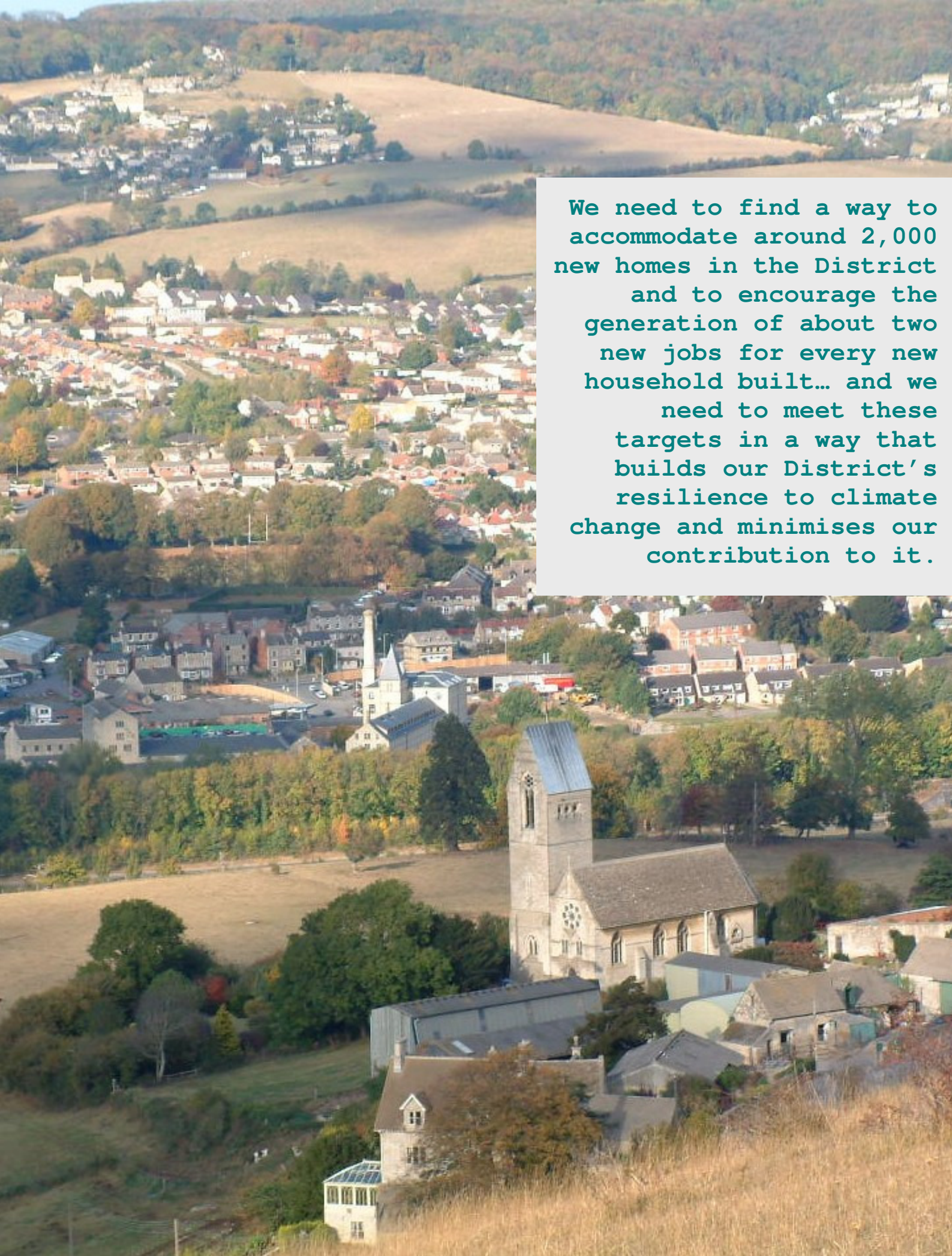
visit www.stroud.gov.uk/core

POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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Part 1: Introduction

1. Introduction

1.1   The Stroud District Local Development Framework is a new way of planning for the future of the district. It will consist of a folder of documents (figure 1.1) prepared at different times (called Local Development Documents). The most important of these, the Core Strategy, sets out an overall vision for the district and includes general policies that will guide the future of the area. It does not deal with specific sites for new development, but will set out ideas for those parts of the district where new homes or jobs might be located. It looks ahead to 2026 – the same timescale as the Sustainable Community Strategy for Stroud and the South West Regional Spatial Strategy. The Core Strategy will be considered by an independent Inspector who will decide its final content.

1.2   We need to find a way to accommodate around 2,000 new homes in the District and to encourage the generation of about two new jobs for every new household built… and we need to meet these targets in a way that builds our District's resilience to climate change and minimises our contribution to it. The challenge facing us is to ensure that future growth is managed in a sustainable way, making provision for homes, jobs and community facilities, whilst at the same time protecting and improving our environment.

What are we asking?

1.3   This document seeks views on choices for the future of the District. Of course, like all planning authorities, we have to work within planning rules that apply across the country. We won't be allowed to set out plans that are out of line with government policy or the regional plans for this area but, within these rules, there is scope to reflect the views of the local community – those who live in, work in, or visit Stroud and local employers, developers and organisations. So the community in its widest sense will play a huge part in shaping what happens here.

1.4   An earlier consultation on key issues facing the District took place during the spring of 2009. The feedback we received from you then has already begun to guide the general direction of the Core Strategy (you can find out more in Chapter 3 and APPENDIX 4). This "Alternative Strategies" consultation sets out a range of possible routes that the District could take, in order to achieve some challenging objectives and to meet our obligations. Some of these are targets that have been set for us by regional and national government; some are goals that you, the people that live, work and invest in this District, have told us should be priorities when planning for the future of our area.

1.5   We would like your views about the various **"spatial strategy" options** and **suggested policies** that are contained in this document.

?   *Do they successfully address the District's priorities, and do some options perform better than others?*

?   *And do they offer a realistic means of meeting our obligations and fulfilling our vision for the future?*

What is the Core Strategy?

1.6   Stroud District Council is in the early stages of drafting an important new planning framework for the District. Known as the Local Development Framework (LDF), this will eventually supersede the current Local Plan – but unlike the Local Plan, the Local Development Framework is made up of a portfolio of separate planning policy documents, which address different policy topics.

1.7   At the centre of this will be the Core Strategy: this is a broad-brush policy document, which will provide an overview of the District and how it should evolve up to 2026. The Core Strategy forms the basis of planning policy decisions for the District, and it will set the context for other more detailed planning policy documents in the future. You can find out more about the Local Development Framework and the new Planning system in APPENDIX 3.
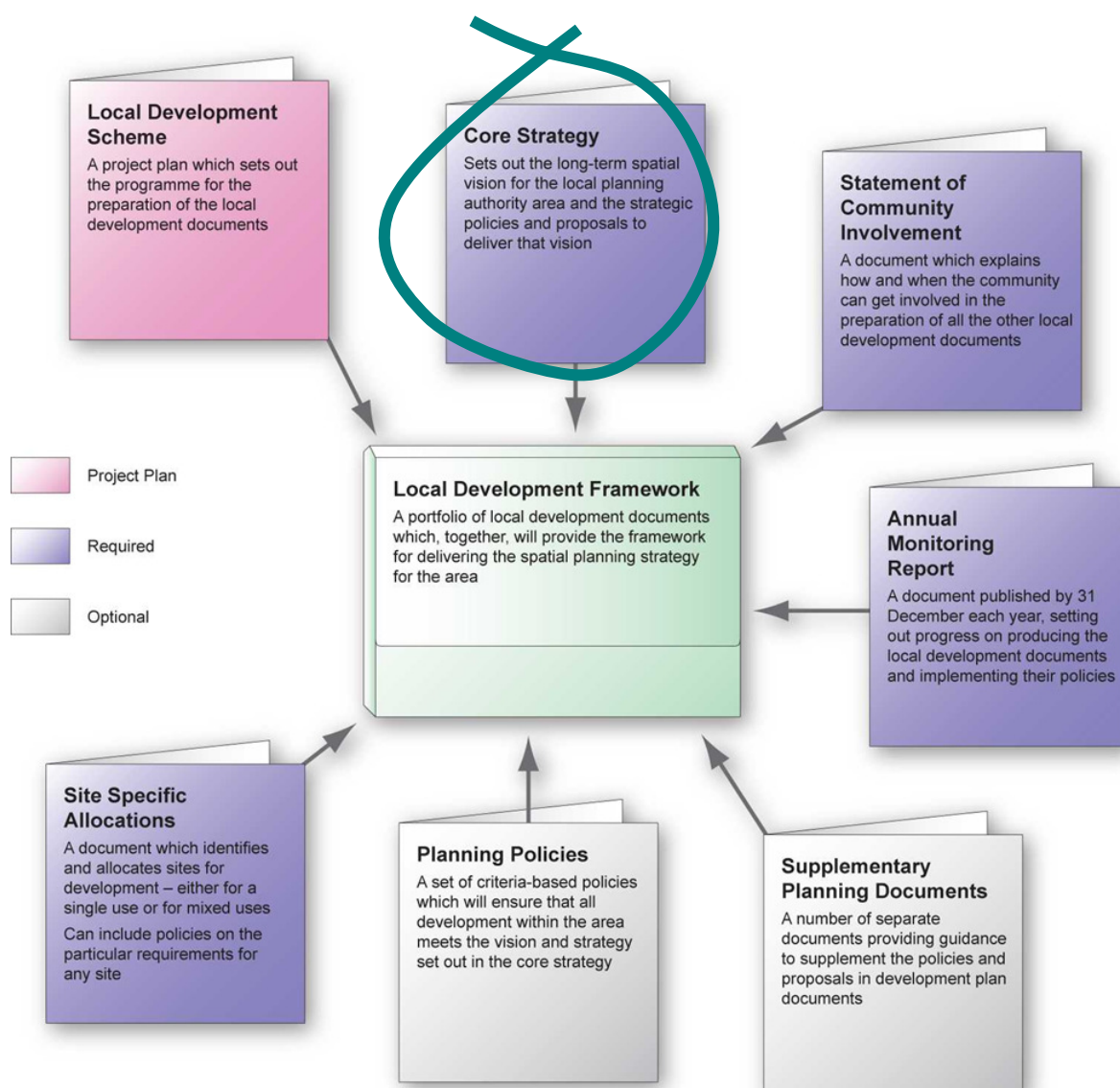

Figure 1.1: contents of a typical Local Development Framework

1.8   Although the process is still in its early days and much has yet to be decided, we do know that the final Core Strategy is likely to cover four broad topic areas:

A spatial strategy
This part will paint a broad-brush picture of how much new development should take place across the district over the next 20 years and beyond, and (in very general terms) what should go where. It will consider the distribution of various kinds of development around the District – setting out, for example, whether there should there be an urban focus (e.g. around the Gloucester fringe, Stroud, Stonehouse, Cam & Dursley); whether development should be dispersed around rural settlements; or whether there should be a mixture of the two. It will establish broad principles about acceptable levels of development in the countryside, and may include the definition of settlement boundaries and a settlement hierarchy (main towns, rural service centres, other villages…). As part of this, we'll be looking at questions such as;

➢ Should there be a review of the defined settlement boundaries?
➢ Is the settlement hierarchy working well for the District?

Economy, employment and infrastructure
The Core Strategy should set out how the District's economy will be strengthened and supported. It will aid the delivery of required infrastructure and will encourage sustainable forms of transport. This part of the plan could deal with topics like employment land, town centres and retail, the rural economy and tourism, road and traffic management, public transport and alternatives such as walking and cycling.

Homes and sustainable communities
A key aim for the Core Strategy will be to create sustainable communities – making sure that enough housing and facilities can be provided to meet the community's needs, and that they are located in the right places. It will consider how existing facilities can be protected and promoted. Under this heading, the plan could cover themes such as housing (including appropriate densities, types, sizes and tenures), provision of affordable housing, provision and access to facilities and services, and how developer contributions could provide support.

Our environment and surroundings
The Core Strategy aims to protect and enhance the natural and built environment of the district. It will also consider more global issues, like how development can help to combat the causes and consequences of climate change. Here, the Core Strategy might look at topics like landscape, culture, built heritage, green space, design, energy provision and supply, flooding, waste management and recycling.

1.9   This consultation is concerned with looking at the range of **alternative "spatial strategies"** open to us, and these are set out in PART 2 (Chapter 6). At this stage, we have also begun to shape proposals for the **broad-brush policies** that will address the District's economy, employment and infrastructure needs; the provision of housing and the shaping of sustainable communities; the protection and enhancement of our natural and built environment; and, crucially, how our District will build its resilience to climate change and minimise our contribution to it. These draft policy proposals are set out in PART 3.

How to get involved and have your say

1.10   This document contains a set of seven spatial strategy options [Strategy Options A – G in PART 2: Chapter 6] and a series of broad-brush policy proposals [PART 3: Chapter 7], which will set the strategic framework for more detailed policy documents in the future. Each of the "alternative strategies" offers a way to meet our targets; but every one of them has pros and cons. We would like your views about the various **strategy options** and **suggested policies** that are contained in this document.

?   *Do they successfully address the District's priorities, and do some options perform better than others?*

?   *And do they offer a realistic means of meeting our obligations and fulfilling our vision for the future?*

1.11   There are a number of questions posed throughout this document. You can simply tell us what you think about each strategy option or policy (do you broadly support it, oppose it or have reservations about it?), or you can get into a bit more detail about the implications as you see them for things like employment provision, or transport.

1.12   Although we would welcome your thoughts about the indicative locations we have shown in the strategy options, please bear in mind that these are not yet site-specific proposals. The locations shown for each option simply offer a theoretical potential for development on the scale being suggested. This is explained in more detail in

1.13   We need any responses to the questions in this document to be submitted by the end of the day on **Monday 22nd March 2010**

We would be grateful if you would use the Council's response forms to answer the questions in this consultation document. You can print out consultation response forms from our website or take a photocopy from APPENDIX 1 of this document.

If you have internet access, you can access the questions online and submit your comments to us directly without having to fill in a response form – which will help us to save paper and save time [go to **www.stroud.gov.uk/core** and follow the links to our consultation portal].

If you don't have internet access, please return your completed response form to the address given below. If you are unable to print out a form from our website or take a photocopy from APPENDIX 1, please phone 01453 754143 and we can send you a copy in the post.

Core Strategy Consultation
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1.14 **Want to know more?**

- Register your interest in the Core Strategy: contact us and give us your details, or make sure you have ticked the 'yes please' box at the end of your response form. We can keep you updated and notify you of future rounds of consultation.

- If you want to know how we came up with the issues, objectives and targets that have informed this Alternative Strategies document, there is information on our website about the Core Strategy's **evidence base:**

  We have been collecting facts and figures and gathering opinions over a long period of time, and we will continue to do so over the next year. This is what is known as the "evidence base": it's what helps us to identify the district's current and future needs, as well as obligations (like having to provide a certain number of new homes over a particular period). We have published a number of topic papers and background studies to accompany this consultation. A full list of available documents is given in APPENDIX 2.

- We are holding exhibitions around the district during late February and early March. You can drop in and chat to officers working on the Core Strategy and find out about how the various strategies might affect the district. Copies of all the documents we have published in connection with this consultation will be available to view and you can pick up consultation response forms there too. Details of dates and venues are given in APPENDIX 6.

1.15 **What happens next?**

The Core Strategy won't be finally adopted until 2011. The Council is still at a relatively early stage in producing the plan. Since last year, there has been ongoing contact with the District's residents and businesses, as well as key stakeholders and interest groups, and this will continue as we refine the various options, look at alternatives and develop a draft document, known as the "preferred strategy". The draft document will then be published to allow everyone to comment and, if necessary, suggest changes.

- In Spring 2009 we published a discussion paper and a questionnaire, looking at key issues for the District and what our options might be for addressing those issues. How people responded to the issues has helped us to develop a set of priorities and 'strategic objectives' for the Core Strategy.

- The current consultation on *"alternative strategies"* sets out a range of possible routes that the District could take, in order to achieve some challenging objectives and to meet our obligations. *We are here*

- In September (2010), we will publish a draft document (the *"preferred strategy"*) and there will be 6 weeks of public consultation on it.

- In January 2011, the finalised draft will be submitted to the Secretary of State and there will be another 6 weeks of public consultation.

- There will be a Public Examination of the document in May 2011 and, following an Inspector's report, the final document will be adopted later that year.
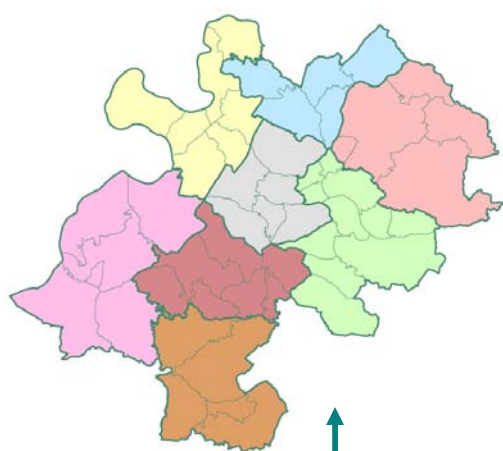
2. A Portrait of Stroud District

2.1　The emerging Core Strategy has to be based on a clear understanding and interpretation of how our district functions as a place, what its characteristics and special qualities are and how the various strategies that might be pursued could impact upon this.

2.2　One of our background papers, published in support of this consultation, is a District profile (see APPENDIX 2 for a list of all background papers). Our **'Portrait of Stroud District'** consists of a series of 'area profiles' that focus on the District's main settlements and eight diverse parish clusters, as well as the headline facts and figures for the Stroud District as a whole. We aim to use this paper and the evidence we have gathered to help us understand geographical differences across the district – which will assist in developing alternatives related to the needs, character and roles of different localities and in preparing strategies that are spatially specific in the distribution of development and the management of change.

2.3　Here we have set out just a brief 'snapshot' of Stroud District today.

Figure 2.1: Stroud District in context

We are here

Our background paper – a "Portrait of Stroud District" – looks at key statistics, issues and characteristics associated with eight clusters of parishes, to provide us with a set of distinct 'area profiles'.

1.

2.4 The District of Stroud is located in the county of Gloucestershire in the west of England (part of the South West region), covering an area of approximately 45,325 hectares (about 175 square miles). The District is situated about 20 miles north of Bristol and lies immediately south of Gloucester and Cheltenham. Much of the eastern half of the District falls into the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) (covering just over 50% of the district's total land area). The western half of the District, characterised by the low lying landscape of the Severn Vale, is bounded by the Severn Estuary.

2.5 The main town, Stroud, acts as the focal point of the wider functional urban area within the Stroud Valleys. The Valleys are home to some 45,000 people (around 40% of the district's population), including 5,500 in the town of Nailsworth. Stonehouse, with a population of just under 8,000, lies just outside the topographical Stroud Valleys (3.5 miles west of Stroud), but the town functions as part of this urban area as well. Stroud town is the district's largest commercial centre, with the Gloucester-London main railway line running through it and junction 13 of the M5 lying five miles to the west of the town centre.

2.6 To the south of the district lie the towns of Cam and Dursley (population approximately 15,000), which jointly act as a focus for the South Vale area. Hardwicke (3,500 people) is at the northern border of the district and forms part of the Gloucester urban area. The remaining countryside areas of the District are mainly used for agriculture and host a large number of smaller towns, villages and hamlets.

The headlines:

- Ours is a rural district with several market towns, each with their own distinct characteristics, assets and issues

- We have a high quality environment; this is a desirable place to live and work

- Our population is ageing; the population is generally affluent, but there are pockets of deprivation

- We have low levels of unemployment, but too few jobs available within the District itself – leading to high levels of out-commuting

- We have a significant shortage of affordable housing

- We have generally good educational standards and a well qualified resident workforce

2.

- There are low levels of crime, but a disproportionate fear of crime
- Our CO_2 emissions are rising
- Public transport is limited across the District
- There is poor accessibility east to west through the District
- Significant growth is occurring along the M5 corridor (focused on Gloucester, Cheltenham and Bristol) – which impacts on Stroud District now and will do in the future

3.

4.

Stroud District at a Glance	
Area	175 miles^2 / 45,325 ha / 112,000 acres
Population (2007)	110,700 [a]
Projected population (2026)	123,500 [b]
Population density (2007)	2.5 persons per hectare
No. of households (2001)	45,676 [c]
Average household size (2001)	2.38 [c]
Life expectancy	women 82.5 yrs / men 78.4 yrs [d]
Mean age of population	40.46 years [e]
No. of dwellings (2008)	48,586 [f]
Total economically active (2008/09)	62,100 people [g]
Average household income (2008)	£26,228 [g]
Unemployed (Aug. 2009)	3.1% [h]

Table 2.1: headline statistics for the District

a *Source: ONS/NOMIS*
b *Source: Gloucestershire County Council - Gloucestershire Local Projection 2008*
c *Source: Census 2001*
d *Source: NHS - Stroud Health Profile 2009*
e *Source: Census 2001*
f *Source: Stroud D C Annual Monitoring Report 2008*
g *Source: ONS/NOMIS - Labour Market Profile Stroud*
h *Source: NOMIS Claimant Count*

5.

IMAGES:
1. *View across the Severn Vale from the Cotswold escarpment*
2. *Stroud farmers market*
3. *Painswick*
4. *Dursley*
5. *Car traffic on the A46 at Stroud*
6. *The Severn estuary*

6.

3. The Issues

3.1 A vast array of studies, strategies and policy guidance is feeding into the development of Stroud's Core Strategy. Here, we look at some of the headline issues that we have considered and that have helped us to draw up some overarching objectives for the Core Strategy. We have considered national planning rules, regional plans, the strategies of other organisations and the views of the community we are planning for. We have also gathered a lot of information and evidence about the characteristics of the District and the opportunities, concerns and needs that we have here. APPENDIX 4 introduces some of our main sources and highlights the points from each that we think are the most relevant issues for Stroud.

3.2 In Spring 2009 we published a discussion paper and a questionnaire, looking at key issues for the District and what our options might be for addressing those issues. How people responded to the issues has helped us to develop a set of priorities and 'strategic objectives' for the Core Strategy.

3.3 The consultation was based around 19 key issues, which were effectively boiled down from all the advice, targets and obligations contained in regional and national policy, as well as more local strategies (such as county-wide strategies, council plans, parish plans). These are the things that we believe are most relevant to Stroud District, and should be important matters for the Core Strategy to address:

The Key Issues we consulted on	
Overarching Issues:	
Issue 1	Improving the image of the District and its towns
Issues relating to economy, employment and infrastructure:	
Issue 2	Providing for job opportunities across the District
Issue 3	Achieving a better transport system to help reduce CO_2 emissions
Issue 4	Improving the vitality and viability of our town centres
Issue 5	Developing the tourism potential of the District
Issue 6	Supporting and capitalising on the District's artistic and cultural assets
Issues relating to homes and sustainable communities:	
Issue 7	Meeting the District's identified future housing needs
Issue 8	Maintaining and improving the sustainability of our villages
Issue 9	Improving provision of facilities for young people
Issue 10	Meeting the needs of an increasingly elderly population
Issue 11	Meeting the District's need for sports facilities
Issue 12	Achieving social inclusion and active communities, where community initiatives are the norm
Issues relating to our environment and surroundings:	
Issue 13	Conserving and enhancing Stroud District's countryside and biodiversity
Issue 14	Protecting and enhancing our historic environment
Issue 15	Contributing to the provision of renewable and low-carbon energy generation in the District
Issue 16	Minimising waste generation and increasing recycling
Issue 17	Ensuring that the Cotswold canals restoration plays a positive role in the District's future
Issue 18	Providing resilience to flood risk
Issue 19	Meeting the District's need for green and open space

Table 3.1: The 19 'Key Issues' from the discussion paper and questionnaire (consultation Spring 2009)

3.4 Consultation on these 19 issues has helped us to prioritise them and has given us an understanding of what is important to the people who live and work in Stroud District. APPENDIX 4 sets out the headline findings of this consultation and you can find more detail in the '**Key Issues Consultation Report**'. In Question 20, the following issues ranked as highest priorities:

1. Maintaining and improving the sustainability of our villages
2. Providing for job opportunities across the District
3. Achieving a better transport system to help reduce CO_2 emissions
4. Conserving and enhancing Stroud District's countryside and biodiversity
5. Improving the vitality and viability of our town centres
6. Protecting and enhancing our historic environment
7. Minimising waste generation and increasing recycling
8. Contributing to the provision of renewable and low-carbon energy generation in the District

3.5 Additionally, the analysis of responses to the various options suggested in the Questionnaire provides a useful overall steer for the Core Strategy and seems to support this 'ranking', which suggests that the Core Strategy should place climate change, the "green agenda", local distinctiveness and care for our high quality natural and built environment at its heart.

3.6 However, despite the high priority accorded them in Question 20, the results also highlight the fact that some tough decisions will have to be faced when it comes to addressing some of the Key Issues – in particular:

- Improving the vitality and viability of our town centres
- Maintaining and improving the sustainability of our villages
- Meeting the District's identified future housing needs
- Providing for job opportunities across the District

3.7 Most of the options in the questionnaire that made some reference to growth or expansion, finding land for development and, in particular, housing development and 'greenfield' development, scored amongst the lowest of all the options. All the suggested housing options scored within the 25 most unpopular options.

Drawing out the main priorities for the Core Strategy

3.8 Here we have briefly summarised the key issues that will feed into the Vision and the Strategic Objectives for the Core Strategy. They have been drawn from the findings of our earlier consultation and from other strategies and our evidence base (see APPENDIX 4).

3.9 Stroud district has a number of priorities: some of these are targets that have been set for us by regional and national government; some are goals that you, the people that live, work and invest in this District, have told us should be priorities when planning for the future of our area. One of the biggest challenges for the Core Strategy will be to rationalise the priorities and aspirations of our District's community against the obligations, requirements and policy advice that the Council faces from other sources (see APPENDIX 4).

3.10 By drawing out a series of eight topics as the main priorities for the Core Strategy, we hope to balance these 'top-down' and 'bottom-up' pressures, with the overall goal of creating sustainable communities and shaping attractive, successful, locally distinctive and high quality places in the future.

Overarching:

1.   Climate change and the environment

Analysis of the responses to the Key Issues consultation has provided a useful overall steer for the Core Strategy, suggesting that it should place climate change and environmental issues at its heart. This will be an overarching guiding principle in the development of the Core Strategy and will be central to the formulation of core policies and the shaping of a spatial strategy (options for which are examined in PART 2, Chapter 6). Essentially, this takes two forms:

i)   mitigation of and adaptation to the effects of climate change on our District

ii)   carbon reduction: putting strategies in place that can help to reduce our District's carbon footprint and our contribution to climate change

This 'topic' could impact on a wide range of policy areas and issues, including:

- Flooding
- CO_2 emissions
- Transport and travel
- Building design/design of spaces
- Energy generation and use
- Waste minimisation and recycling

"Must do"/obligation:

Like every local authority, we have to heed government planning policy and strive to achieve the targets that are set of us at a regional level. There are some things that have to be at the top pf our list of priorities:

2.   Housing

The (Draft) Regional Spatial Strategy for the south west currently requires the provision of 9,100 new homes in Stroud district between 2006–2026. Part 2 (Chapter 6) explains that the Core Strategy actually needs only to find around 2,000 of these, since many have already been built or are accounted for through existing planning permissions or allocations. As well as quantity and location of housing, related policy areas include:

- Meeting the District's identified future housing needs (quantity, type, size and tenure)
- Affordable housing
- Building adaptable "lifetime homes"
- Energy efficiency and building design

3.   Employment and economic growth

If house building is not coupled with the delivery of significant employment developments, it will exacerbate current imbalances in terms of

i)   the number of people available to work and the number of jobs available locally

ii)   the skills and occupations of the resident population and the types of jobs that are available in the district

The Core Strategy must deliver a strategy that is focussed on:

- Providing for job opportunities across the District

District "wish list":

Public consultation has provided a clear steer in terms of what people envisage for the future of the district and what are the main concerns and priorities for the local population. APPENDIX 4 summarises the findings of the Key Issues consultation (and more detail can be found in the Consultation Report) and explains how these five topics shone out as priorities:

4. **Village/rural centre sustainability**

5. **Transport and accessibility (including CO$_2$ reduction)**

6. **Built and natural environment: character, quality and local distinctiveness**

7. **Town centre vitality and viability**

8. **Adapting to our ageing population**

Climate Change and the Core Strategy

3.10   Addressing climate change is central to the strategy and is a direct response to a number of the key issues raised in the Core Strategy 20 questions feedback. Tackling climate change is a key Government priority for the planning system. In deciding which areas and sites are suitable, and for what type and intensity of development, the Council will take into account the guidelines contained in the Government's supplement to PPS1, which deals with *Planning and Climate Change* (December 2007). This is explained in Part 2 (paragraph 6.5) of this document. Assessment criteria relating to climate change have been added to each of the Alternative Strategies. These summarise some of the main impacts and opportunities offered by each strategy option in terms of adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, as well as considering their respective potentials to minimise our district's contribution to it.

3.11   Within Stroud District, we will place environmental consciousness at the heart of the Planning process. The Core Strategy will orchestrate the necessary social, physical and green infrastructure required to ensure that by 2026 we are building sustainable communities.

3.12   We have published a background paper ('**Stroud District and Climate Change**') to support this consultation, which looks at the main issues facing Stroud District in respect of future climate change. Please refer to APPENDIX 2 for a full list of all the topic papers and evidence studies we have produced along with this consultation.

4. A Vision for Stroud to 2026

Stroud District tomorrow: a vision for the future

4.1　What do we want tomorrow's Stroud District to be like? In developing a Core Strategy for the District, it is important to have a vision of the kind of place we want to be living in, working in or visiting in the future, so that clear objectives can be set for the policies and proposals that will help to shape that place.

4.2　We have drafted a broad and over-arching vision, which expresses aspirations for the future of our district, drawn from issues arising in our evidence base and refined through earlier consultation (Core Strategy Key Issue Consultation, spring 2009). This vision is likely to evolve further as the Core Strategy progresses, but it is an essential part of developing objectives and measuring the likely impacts of any strategy for the district's future growth and development.

Imagine Stroud District in 2026:

A Vision of Stroud District in 2026

Stroud District sits at the south-western edge of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and extends westward across the Severn Vale, which is bordered by a rich estuarine landscape. We have a Vision that draws upon our special environmental, social and economic qualities.

Our rural District is living, modern and innovative. We have responded to climate change through our Local Development Framework core policies and actions. These contribute to reducing our CO_2 emissions and adapting our lifestyles to live within our environmental limits.

Our District supports a network of market towns, well connected to their rural hinterlands and wider regional centres. Each contributes to our sustainable and thriving local economy. We capitalise on our heritage, skills, and knowledge – exploiting our unique assets to nurture growth in green technologies and creative industries. We are adaptable and able to respond to changing needs and modern lifestyles.

We enjoy a high quality of life within our vibrant and diverse communities, which have a strong sense of their own identity and local distinctiveness – from Wotton-under-Edge in the south, to Stroud Town in the centre and Upton St. Leonards in the north. They are all safe and secure places, where vulnerable people are supported.

Every day we see the richness, diversity and beauty of our District. We nurture our historic and cultural heritage, from our arts and crafts, through to the Cotswold Canals and our wool and cloth mills.

4.3 PPS12 advises that a Core Strategy vision should set out how the area and the places within it should develop; it should be 'locally distinctive': *"informed by an analysis of the characteristics of the area and its constituent parts and the key issues and challenges facing them"*[1].

4.4 Although the Core Strategy is a district-wide strategy, it must recognise the distinct qualities, issues, constraints and opportunities that exist in different parts of the overall area. Understanding geographical differences across the district can assist in developing alternatives related to the needs, character and roles of different localities and in preparing strategies that are spatially specific in the distribution of development and the management of change[2].

4.5 One of our background papers, published in support of this consultation, is a District profile (see APPENDIX 2 for a list of all background papers). Our **'Portrait of Stroud District'** consists of a series of 'area profiles' that focus on the District's main settlements and eight diverse parish clusters, as well as the headline facts and figures for the Stroud District as a whole. Using this evidence, together with whatever outcomes emerge from this public consultation, we will begin to shape more spatially specific 'mini visions'. These will set out the envisaged and desired effects that the preferred strategy should have on particular parts of the district, with a view to achieving the overarching Vision for the district as a whole.

We would be grateful if you would use the Council's response forms to answer this question. The response form is reproduced in APPENDIX 1. You are welcome to take a copy or turn to paragraph 1.13 to find out how you can get hold of printed forms. If you have internet access, please access these questions through our online consultation portal (www.stroud-consult.limehouse.co.uk) – this will greatly ease our efficiency in processing all the responses. Thank you.

THIS QUESTION IS OPTIONAL:

Q1. **What do you think of this vision for Stroud District's future?**

Please use the consultation response form or online consultation portal to select one of the following responses and, if you wish, to comment on how it could be amended.

- Overall, I would broadly support this vision
- Overall, I would oppose this vision
- I would support this vision but with reservations
- I don't feel strongly either way / don't know

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[1] *Planning Policy Statement 12: Creating strong, safe and prosperous communities through Local Spatial Planning* (2008) paragraph 4.2

[2] Communities and Local Government (2008) *Spatial Plans in Practice: Supporting the reform of Local Planning*

5. Strategic Objectives

5.1 Taking account of the issues and priorities set out in Chapter 3 and APPENDIX 4, we have drawn up six principal objectives for the Core Strategy. These objectives provide a more tangible and measurable way of taking forward the overall Vision for the district.

5.2 Each of the seven "alternative strategies" set out in PART 2 of this document offers a way to meet our targets; but every one of them has pros and cons and how well they would succeed at achieving these objectives does vary from strategy to strategy.

5.3 When looking at the range of spatial strategy options and the suggested policy in this consultation document, it will be worth bearing in mind the following:

? *Do they successfully address the District's priorities, and do some options perform better than others?*

Strategic Objectives for the Core Strategy

1 **Maintaining and improving the accessibility of our communities with:**
- **healthcare for all residents**
- **affordable and decent housing for local needs**
- **active social, leisure and recreation opportunities**
- **youth and adult learning opportunities.**

2 **Providing for a strong, diverse vibrant local economy that enables balanced economic growth coupled with enhanced job opportunities across the District.**

3 **Conserving and enhancing Stroud District's distinctive qualities based on landscape, townscape and biodiversity.**

4 **Promoting healthier alternatives to the use of the private car and seeking to reduce CO_2 emissions by using new technologies and encouraging an integrated transport system to improve access to local goods and services.**

5 **Promoting a development strategy that mitigates global warming and adapts to climate change by:**
- **securing energy efficiency through building design**
- **maximising the re-use of buildings and recycling of building materials**
- **minimising the amount of waste produced and seeking to recover energy**
- **promoting the use of brownfield land**
- **minimising and mitigating against future flood risks and recycling water resources.**

6 **Improving the safety, vitality and viability of our town centres which link to and support the needs of their rural hinterlands.**

Part 2: Alternative Strategies

6. Alternative Strategies

6.1   This part of our consultation document contains a set of seven spatial strategy options [Strategy Options A – G]. These illustrate a range of alternative routes that we could take to produce an overarching strategic framework for the District – a framework that will ultimately set the scene for more detailed policy decisions in the future. Each of these seven "alternative strategies" offers a way to meet our targets; but every one of them has pros and cons, strengths and weaknesses. We would like your views about the various strategy options:

Do they successfully address the District's priorities, and do some options perform better than others?

And do they offer a realistic means of meeting our obligations and fulfilling our vision for the future?

6.2   After each strategy option, you will find a short series of questions. You can simply tell us what you think about each option (do you broadly support it, oppose it or have reservations about it?), or you can get into a bit more detail about the implications as you see them for things like employment provision, or transport.

6.3   **Although we would welcome your thoughts about the indicative locations we have shown in the spatial strategy options, please bear in mind that these are not yet site-specific proposals. The locations shown for each option simply offer a theoretical potential for development on the scale being suggested.**

6.4   Please use the Council's response forms to answer the questions posed in this section. The forms can be found in APPENDIX 1 of this document. There is a separate sheet for each strategy option, which looks like this:

*Figure 6.1:   What the consultation response forms look like.
There is a separate form for each strategy option.*

Climate Change

6.5 The climate change agenda will be at the heart of the Stroud Core Strategy. Tackling the issues associated with climate change is a key Government priority for the planning system. The ambition and policies in national Planning Policy Statement 1 (**PPS1: General Policy and Principles**) should therefore be fully reflected by both regional planning bodies in the preparation of Regional Spatial Strategies and by local planning authorities in the preparation of Local Development Documents. In deciding which areas and sites are suitable, and for what type and intensity of development, the Council is expected to assess their consistency with the following pointers, which are derived from PPS1 and its accompanying policy guidance:

	The extent to which existing or planned opportunities for decentralised and renewable or low-carbon energy could contribute to the energy supply of development;
	Whether there is, or the potential for, a realistic choice of access by means other than the private car and for opportunities to service the site through sustainable transport;
	The capacity of existing and potential infrastructure (including for water supply, sewage and sewerage, waste management and community infrastructure such as schools and hospitals) to service the site or area in ways consistent with cutting carbon dioxide emissions and successfully adapting to likely changes in the local climate;
	The ability to build and sustain socially cohesive communities with appropriate community infrastructure, having regard to the full range of local impacts that could arise as a result of likely changes to the climate;
	The effect of development on biodiversity and its capacity to adapt to likely changes in the climate;
	The contribution to be made from existing and new opportunities for open space and green infrastructure to urban cooling, sustainable drainage systems, and conserving and enhancing biodiversity; and
	Known physical and environmental constraints on the development of land such as sea level rises, flood risk and stability, and take a precautionary approach to increases in risk that could arise as a result of likely changes to the climate.

Source: Derived from Planning and Climate Change – Supplement to PPS1, December 2007

Housing

6.6 The Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West (the RSS) currently requires the provision of 9,100 dwellings in Stroud District in the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2026. However, many of these dwellings have already been built, have been given planning permission, are awaiting signing of section 106 agreements or are already allocated in the existing Stroud District Local Plan. This means that the residual number of homes that must be found through the Core Strategy process is actually much lower than 9,100. The table below illustrates this.

Calculating our housing target for the Core Strategy (up to 2026):			
	A	**RSS requirement 2006-2026**	**9,100**
Supply	B	**Number of houses completed between 1.4.2006 and 31.3.2009**	1,382
	C	**Sites with planning permission at 1 April 2009 (includes those sites either not started or under construction)**	4,061
	D	**Other firm commitments (sites subject to s106 Legal Agreements)**	206
	E	**Non-committed allocations in Local Plan (i.e. allocated sites that don't yet have planning permission)**	225
	F	**Total existing housing supply [= B+C+D+E]**	5874
Requirement	G	**Residual Requirement up to 2026 [= A – F]**	3,226
	H	**Number of houses proposed through RSS policy HMA3** * Under proposed Policy HMA3 of the draft RSS, Stroud district would be required to find land just south of Gloucester for 3,500 new dwellings. The RSS identifies two areas it considers to be appropriate for these housing sites in Brookthorpe-with-Whaddon and in Haresfield [half of these (1,750) have already been accounted for through planning permissions at Hunts Grove (see point C above)]. If the RSS is adopted without amendment to Policy HMA3 this will become part of the development plan for the District. So for the purposes of formulating a range of alternative strategies for housing delivery, the council has worked on the assumption that a further 1,750 new homes *will* be delivered here. This may need to be reviewed if further changes are proposed in the future RSS.	1,750*
	I	**Residual Requirement to be found through the Core Strategy process [= G – H]**	**1,726**

Table 6.1: calculating Stroud District's housing target for the Core Strategy (up to 2026)

6.7 Although our residual requirement totals just over 3,200, we are currently assuming that the Core Strategy will not have to find sites for 1,750 of these because their location is already accounted for through draft RSS proposals (see point H in the table above).

6.8   Therefore, a remainder of at least 1,476 dwellings will need to be allocated through the Core Strategy and, if necessary, a specific Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) in the period up to 31st March 2026. To be safe, for this stage of the Core Strategy preparation we have rounded up the residual requirement to **2,000 dwellings**. So the seven strategy options presented in this document assume that we still need to find sites for around 2,000 through the Core Strategy process.

Why do we need all these houses?

6.9   A lot of research has been done at national, regional and county level, looking at current population and lifestyle trends to work out how many new homes we will need in our area in the future. Much of our natural population growth can be attributed to increasing life expectancy, while changes in lifestyles and family structures mean that small and single-person households are on the rise. People are also moving here from other parts of the country, attracted by the quality of life and environment.

6.10   As explained above, the Regional Spatial Strategy calculates that 9,100 new homes should be provided in the District over a twenty year period up to 2026. This works out at approximately 455 new homes per year – a similar level of growth to that experienced by the district over the past 10 years (on average we have seen a net increase of around 410 dwellings per year since 1999).

6.11   In line with Government policy, the draft RSS sets out that the majority of housing and employment growth will be centred upon the region's major towns and cities – referred to as "Strategically Significant Cities and Towns" (SSCTs) – such as Bristol, Gloucester, Cheltenham and Swindon.

6.12   Stroud is not an SSCT, but our district will nevertheless see sustained growth throughout the RSS period. The RSS recognises that, given the dispersed nature of the region's population, certain towns (particularly what it terms "market towns" or "coastal towns") play important roles for their surrounding area – ensuring the availability of jobs and services – and that the bulk of housing development should be based at such towns. In addition, there is a recognition that some development may be appropriate at smaller towns and villages, in order to enable rural communities to survive or, better, to thrive. This framework affords our district some degree of flexibility when looking at our local strategy for housing delivery – a range of alternative strategies is possible.

Alternative Strategies for housing delivery – where should they all go?

6.13   It is important to note that generally the Core Strategy will be concerned with broad location, not with individual sites. However, there is an exception to this rule where specific sites would be considered absolutely crucial to the delivery of a particular strategy: they would therefore be "strategic" sites and could be identified through the Core Strategy.

6.14   This document sets out seven alternative strategies for the spatial distribution of new housing and other forms of development within the district. Inevitably, in order to formulate these strategy options, we have had to look at the housing capacity offered by potentially developable sites right across the district. This has been done through a process known as **'Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment'** ("SHLAA").

6.15   In January we published the findings of our SHLAA (available to view on our website at www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/localplan/housing_land.asp), which identified a total 'potential' of 730 sites to provide nearly 32,000 dwellings – clearly a vast surplus given our actual housing

target. It is the job of the Core Strategy to provide a policy framework so that appropriate sites can be narrowed down.

6.16   We have used this initial analysis of capacity on "SHLAA" sites to help us develop the seven strategy options[1]. This helped us identify where, for example, two sites of 1,000 dwellings might be found; or which settlements might be able to accommodate a smaller site of 100 dwellings.

6.17   In addition, we have had regard to how accessible services and facilities are from any of the proposed locations, as well as the roles and functions of the district's various settlements. To help with this, we carried out a desktop assessment of the district's settlements, the results of which are published in a separate background paper: **'Rural Settlement Classification'** (refer to APPENDIX 2 for a full list of background material and topic papers).

6.18   In summary, the district's settlements have been classified into five different types/tiers:

- **Accessible local service centre (First Tier):** a settlement with primary services and accessible to a main line railway station and a secondary school by means of public / sustainable transport;

- **Local service centre (Second Tier):** a settlement with a number of primary services and therefore self contained for everyday requirements;

- **Accessible settlement with limited facilities (Third Tier):** a settlement with limited facilities but accessible to a main line railway station and a secondary school by means of public / sustainable transport;

- **Accessible settlement (Fourth Tier):** a settlement lacking in facilities, which has access to a railway station and a secondary school by means of public /sustainable transport; and

- **Unclassified (Fifth Tier):** A settlement which is not fully accessible and does not provide the facilities to meet the day to day needs of residents.

6.19   This work informed the spatial options as follows:

Option A – Concentrated Growth Point Strategy
This strategy proposes that a single development of 2000 dwellings could be concentrated at a 'First Tier' (or one with potential to be such): at either Cam, Eastington, or west of Stonehouse. Whilst Eastington is currently a third tier settlement, growth and development at this scale could feasibly secure GP services and greater employment opportunities, to boost Eastington to a higher status of settlement classification.

Option B - Concentrated Development Strategy
Under this strategy, developments of 1000 dwellings each could be located at two settlements that meet at least the 'Second Tier' classification, or could be 'upgraded' as a result of development (potentially Cam, Eastington, west of Stonehouse, Brimscombe & Thrupp or Whitminster). Whilst Eastington, Brimscombe and Whitminster are currently third tier settlements, growth of this scale could feasibly provide them with new GP

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[1] Note: for this purpose, we assumed that each site could be developed at a relatively low overall density of 35 houses per hectare (to allow for any possible physical constraints or potential landscape/urban character impacts).

services and greater employment opportunities, thus securing them a higher status of settlement classification.

Option C - Cluster Strategy

This strategy aims to boost the roles of Local Service Centres (Second Tier) by locating between 200 to 250 dwellings at 8 settlements that either meet this classification already or would be capable of meeting it as a result of development and associated improvements to facilities and infrastructure. These settlements should act as local focus points for the 'cluster' of parishes that make up their rural hinterland.

Option D - Stroud Valleys Strategy

This strategy is based upon the existing 'Stroud Urban Area', which is identified in the current Local Plan: a collection of settlements in the Stroud valleys, of varying sizes and 'classifications', that function as a coherent urban area with good accessibility to services and transport infrastructure.

Option E – Town & Country Combination Strategy

Strategy E combines elements of Strategy B (again focussing the bulk of development at settlements that meet at least the 'Second Tier' classification, or could be 'upgraded' as a result of development) with a more dispersed approach, where smaller developments would be located at have 'Third Tier' classification, or would be capable of achieving in conjunction with the levels of development that are proposed. One site of 1000 dwellings would be located at either Cam, Eastington, Brimscombe, West of Stonehouse or Whitminster; while at least 10 more sites (each of 100 dwellings or less) would be located at the 'Third Tier' settlements.

Option F – Rural Communities Strategy

This strategy would see at least twenty five sites spread across a wide range the District's parishes, each site accommodating between 50 to 100 dwellings to support our small towns and villages. The towns and villages should have 'Fourth Tier' status or above, or be capable of upgrading to this classification as a result of investment and development associated with the strategy.

Option G – Dispersal Strategy

Finally, Strategy G applies to settlements that have 'Fifth Tier' status or higher – a very wide, diverse range of villages and towns throughout the district. This strategy would involve a wide range of smaller sites in our towns, villages and other settlements with at least 40 sites of 10 to 50 dwellings, distributed amongst the District's parishes.

Employment

6.20 The Employment Land Review (October 2007) recognised that Stroud faces a number of challenges when planning for future employment within the District. Stroud District's population is growing and we also have rising economic activity rates and rising average earnings. On the whole the District has a skilled workforce. Despite this, Stroud still has problems of out-commuting, a problem which continues to grow today. In some areas of the District up to one third of the working population commute out of Stroud District to their place of work. This presents us with a big challenge if we are to reduce our district's carbon footprint: as a rural district, many of us are car-dependent, so we also need to ensure that access to jobs, services and facilities can be improved in the future and our chosen strategy must enable more sustainable forms of transport to be developed.

6.21 Within Stroud District, employment sites are principally concentrated in a limited number of key locations including Stroud town centre, Stonehouse and the Stroud Valleys area, although the Littlecombe business park development in Dursley could attract more people to the south of the District, rather than commuting to places such as Bristol.

6.22 In order to stem out-commuting Stroud will need to attract more knowledge-based industries, enabling greater employment opportunities for the highly skilled and well qualified working population. At present there is an imbalance in two facets of employment:

- Between the number of jobs available in the District and the number of economically active people;
- between the skills and types of jobs held by the resident population and the types of jobs that are available locally.

6.23 This suggests a need for the District to both increase and diversify its employment base in order to decrease the number of people travelling to towns and cities beyond the district for work.

Why an employment-led strategy?

6.24 All this points to a land-use strategy within the District that is employment led. If further releases of housing are not coupled with the delivery of significant employment developments, it will only serve to further exacerbate the current out-commuting situation – meaning that our district won't feel the full economic benefits of the business resources that we have.

6.25 Regional planning policy seeks to encourage an increased proportion of new development, particularly housing, to be delivered at the Strategically Significant Cities and Towns (SSCT's). This creates an issue for Stroud, as it is not recognised as an SSCT by the RSS (nor is any other settlement within the District). This means that any new development in Stroud District must be "employment led", in order that the housing/employment imbalance that already exists is not exacerbated and so that greater self-containment of communities can be achieved. The Council suggests that an employment provision of two jobs per new household is required to help address this imbalance.

Employment mix

6.26 Traditionally, planning policy has taken the approach that "employment" uses are those that fall within the use categories B1, B2 and B8 – industry, warehousing, offices etc. In order to achieve a more diverse employment base, we will need to look at "employment" in a more rounded sense: uses such as retail, leisure facilities, health services and residential care can all be big employment providers. We need to look carefully at our district's future employment mix a well as quantity.

Our Current Supply: The proportional range of uses currently provided for by the District's employment floorspace (in comparison with County and the S W).			
Class	**Stroud**	**Gloucestershire**	**South West**
Retail	10%	13%	18%
Offices	15%	25%	27%
Factories	50%	40%	32%
Warehouse	25%	22%	23%

Table 6.2 Source: Stroud District Employment Land Review 2007

6.27 Stroud has a higher percentage of factory and warehouse stock and less office and retail floor space than either the county or South West average. In seeking to address some of the district's employment trends and commuting imbalances, the Council will assume growth in the following sectors:- construction, distribution, retailing, computing services, hotel & catering, transport, professional services, other business services and health and social work. Professional services, other business services, computing services and health and social work will be key growth areas to provide higher skilled jobs. A healthy supply of premises in the right locations will be required to serve this demand and to build the potential for more self-contained communities.

6.28 In order to secure appropriate uses, related to the resident population skills and changes to the employment demands within the District, it is considered that the future uses should equate to about:

Future Supply: Proposed range of uses to be provided for by the District's employment floorspace	
Class	**Stroud**
Retail	15%
Offices	25%
Factories	35%
Warehouse	25%

Table 6.3 The above table takes account of the Stroud Floorspace Requirement 2004 – 2026 sourced from LEFM data and the GVA Grimley analysis of trends (2007).

6.29   Over the following pages, against each strategy option, we have provided indicative figures for floor areas that would be required for a range of employment uses in order to achieve the creation of two new jobs for every new home. These are derived from English Partnerships and the Regional Development Agency Employment Densities (2001): the categories of use are very broad and each use within a broad category will contain variations of density (i.e. how many people would be employed per sq.m of floorspace). They should only be used as a broad guide and be considered as purely indicative, as a preliminary draft.

6.30   The figures may be subject to change as a preferred option is selected. The appropriate uses and availability of a skilled workforce will be refined and other factors such as access and physical constraints are taken into account. The preferred option stage will also need to take account of energy demand and supply. The Severn Wye Energy Agency (SWEA) have advised Stroud District Council in the past on carbon reduction matters. They or other appropriately skilled consultants could inform any preferred option with a programme of work to develop the sustainable use of energy covering energy efficiency, renewable energy, affordable warmth and sustainable transport. Some locations may favour greater warehouse and distribution uses, having close proximity to the rail, shipping or strategic road routes for example. This may free up development elsewhere for alternative uses such as mixed uses or offices for example.

6.31   In order to deliver our employment strategy in conjunction with new housing across the district, we need to be aware of as many sites as possible that are potentially suitable for employment uses. Question Q4 at the end of this chapter invites anyone that owns or represents a potential employment site that might be considered **suitable, available** and **deliverable** to contact us with information about the site. Please read Question Q4 carefully to ensure that the necessary supporting information is supplied.

Concluding Remarks

6.32   We will take account of whatever emerges as a result of this consultation and we will continue to refine the alternatives until there is a clear "preferred option". This will be subject to further consultation later in the year. Whilst this document explores seven alternative spatial strategies, the eventual preferred strategy could well be a combination of parts of these alternative options. They are not necessarily mutually exclusive. Any preferred option that emerges from this process will be subject to further technical work – such as evidence of what physical, social and green infrastructure would be needed to support an area where new development is proposed.

Strategy Option A
Concentrated Growth Point Strategy

*with 2000 dwellings concentrated at **either** Cam, Eastington, or west of Stonehouse.*

Legend:
- A Roads
- B Roads
- Railway
- Motorway
- Urban areas

GLOUCESTER

Severn Estuary

STROUD

Dursley
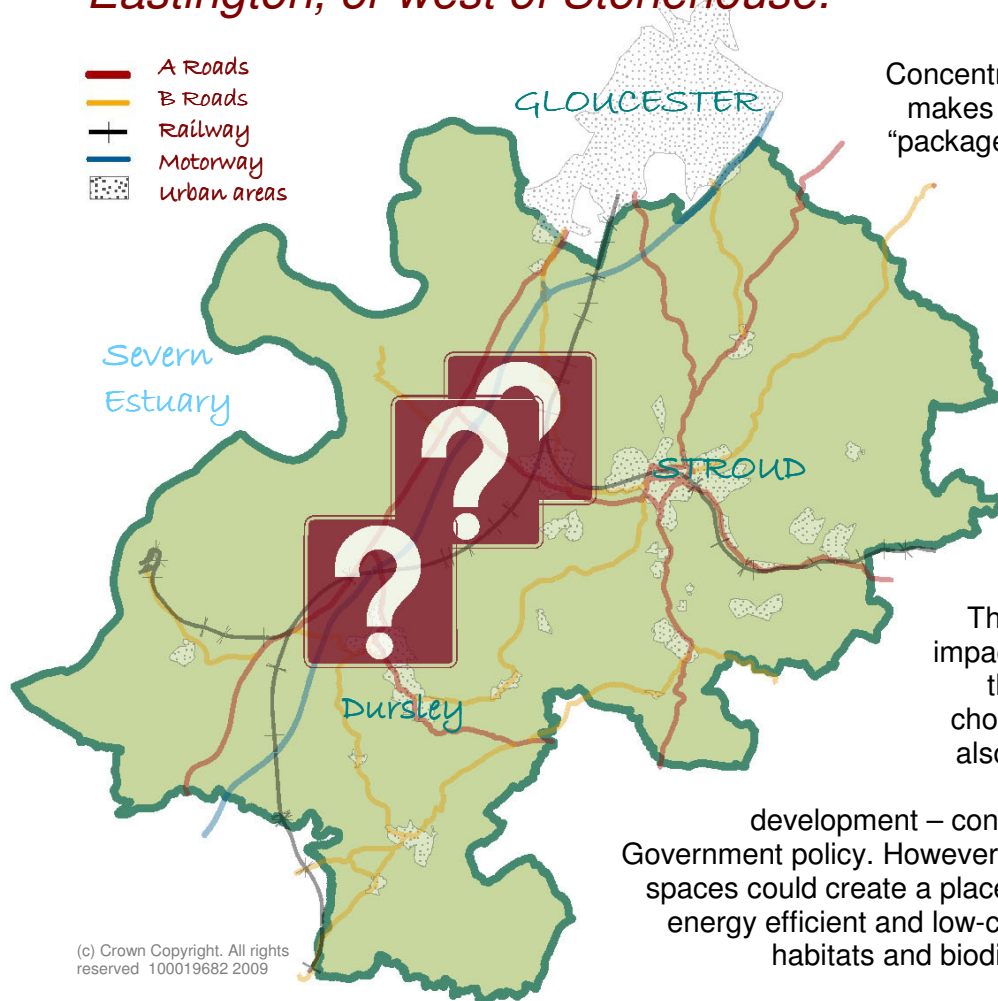
Concentrating development in one place makes it easier to deliver an integrated "package" of infrastructure and services.

This scale of development provides great potential for improving transport infrastructure, such as bus services and cycle routes. The community could be served by a comprehensive renewable energy scheme – and this could potentially even supply homes and businesses in the surrounding area.

This strategy would mean minimal impact on the character of the rest of the district, but the impact on the chosen area might be profound. It's also likely that development on this scale would involve greenfield development – contrary to the "brownfield" focus of Government policy. However, careful design of buildings and spaces could create a place with a distinctive character, an energy efficient and low-carbon community where natural habitats and biodiversity were actually enhanced.

Implications for employment provision:

This strategy option would consist of a single mixed-use development, where new employment and business premises would be integrated, as well as the 2000 new homes. This large-scale mixed-use approach offers an opportunity to grow a self-sustaining community as far as possible, although clearly the need for people to commute to work elsewhere can never be eliminated.

Indicative floorspace that would be required on a mixed use development, in order to meet an employment density of two jobs per new household, is as follows:

- **General industrial:** 46,240 sq.m
- **General office:** 19,000 sq.m
- **Warehousing & distribution:** 50,000 sq.m
- **Retail & leisure:** 12,000 sq.m

A   *Concentrated Growth Point Strategy*
with 2000 dwellings concentrated at either Cam, Eastington, or west of Stonehouse.

Assessment commentary using Climate Change criteria

|		
	Able to use a Renewable Energy source to meet that development's energy demands? It should then ideally look to increase supply to surrounding area (to contribute to self contained communities).	✓ All have significant opportunity for Macro renewable energy schemes backed up with Micro potential. Development of this scale could supply the surrounding area.
	Would have safe access choices by means other than the private car such as cycling, walking, bus or train?	✓ **Safe Access:** All should achieve this given scale of development. ✓ **Bus:** All are on existing bus routes. ✓ **Train:** Cam & Stonehouse have stations. Eastington would require other forms of transport to readily access a station. ✓ **Cycle:** Cam & Eastington have limited cycle route access. Stonehouse is on national cycle route. ✓ **Walk:** The ability to walk will be destination and/or purpose of journey dependant – e.g. How much to be carried and to where?
	Has existing and/or potential infrastructure to service the site or area in ways consistent with cutting carbon dioxide emissions and successfully adapting to changes in the local climate?	✓ **?** All have good opportunity to change infrastructure through development. Further performance assessment required.
	Able to build and sustain socially cohesive communities with adequate job opportunities, access to goods and services and appropriate community infrastructure within reasonable distance (600 metres)?	**?** All have an opportunity to potentially create socially cohesive communities. Possible limit is the scale of change. **?** Difficult to assess jobs but development at this scale could accommodate jobs to create balanced communities. **?** Cam and Stonehouse have the edge over Eastington in terms of access to wider range of existing goods and services.
	Development would avoid harm to recognised biodiversity interests and support the capacity of wildlife to adapt to likely changes in the climate in the future?	✓ **?** All have a good opportunity to mitigate any biodiversity impacts by off-site works and/or creation of wildlife corridors within the developments. Further assessment will be required though.
	Can provide realistic opportunities for open space and green infrastructure links and creation of new space? Provides opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and local landscape character?	**?** All have good opportunity to provide open space and green infrastructure. All have good opportunity to enhance biodiversity through development. However all have potential to have adverse landscape impacts given scale and location within the flatter Severn Vale areas. Further assessment required.
	Able to mitigate against future sea level rises and to future flood risks? It should promote sustainable drainage system use (SuDS).	✗ **Little or no flood risk? :** No: all proposals have rivers within or adjoining the sites so are at risk (zone 2 or above). ✗ **Flood risk taking a/c of climate change:** All could be susceptible to flood risk within the Vale. Further SFRA assessment required. ✓ **SuDS:** All have a good opportunity to provide SuDS.

A Concentrated Growth Point Strategy
with 2000 dwellings concentrated at either Cam, Eastington, or west of Stonehouse.

How is this strategy likely to perform against our objectives?

Objective 1: Accessible communities

Development of this scale will provide potential for a new primary healthcare facility in the area to be developed and also funding towards social, leisure and recreational facilities. Funding for youth and adult learning opportunities could also potentially be provided. However the benefits would not be felt across the District as a whole. Affordable housing in one location will not suit people who currently live and have developed roots in other parts of the District. Investment in healthcare facilities and leisure opportunities in other parts of the District will be limited by lack of new housing development.

Objective 2: Local economy and jobs

Enhanced job opportunities will be localised to the area chosen for of concentrated development. The benefits of providing a strong, diverse and vibrant local economy will not be felt across the District as a whole. Strategic scale of development can deliver employment opportunities that are integrated with the planned housing.

Objective 3: Our district's distinctive qualities

Whilst development would exist outside of the AONB there would be localised impact from concentration of development in one area. However, the effect on the District as a whole would be less than a dispersal option. Therefore this option would protect the character and distinctiveness of the majority of the District

Objective 4: Transport

Concentrated development is more likely to provide opportunities to invest in improving local public and sustainable transport than dispersal option.

Objective 5: Climate change

Development would be concentrated on Greenfield sites which is contrary to Government advice and would not involve the significant re-use of redundant buildings or land. This strategy offers similar opportunities to the other strategies in terms of securing energy efficiency through design, minimising the amount of waste produced or mitigating against future flood risks. However, the scale of development means it could be more ambitious in projects such as securing energy from waste for district heat and power schemes.

Objective 6: Town centres and rural hinterlands

There may be an insufficient capacity to accommodate development within settlement boundaries therefore development is likely to be on Greenfield land, located too far away from town centres and their hinterland to guarantee improvement in safety, viability and vitality.

Other comments

Large developments of this scale often provide more certainty than a large number of smaller development sites. Large sites can be more appropriately managed by phasing the development of housing, schools, employment, community facilities and open space. The option is more likely to deliver an integrated "package" of infrastructure than a dispersed option because it will generate more funding in one location for services and facilities.

Please refer back to Part 1, Chapter 5 for a description of the 6 strategic objectives.

> **We would be grateful if you would use the Council's response forms to answer these questions. The response form is reproduced in APPENDIX 1. You are welcome to take a copy or turn to page 7 to find out how you can get hold of printed forms.**
>
> **If you have internet access, please access these questions through our online consultation portal (www.stroud-consult.limehouse.co.uk) – this will greatly ease our efficiency in processing all the responses. Thank you.**

PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION:

QA **What do you think of Strategy Option A?**
Please consider whether you would support this option in very broad terms – you will have the opportunity to tell us which is your preferred strategy later and to comment about the pro's and con's of specific locations.

- Overall, I would broadly support this option
- Overall, I would oppose this option
- I would support this option but with reservations
- I don't feel strongly either way / don't know

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS:
YOU CAN GIVE US SOME MORE DETAIL IF YOU LIKE OR YOU CAN MOVE ON TO THE NEXT OPTION…

Locations:

QA1 Do you **object** to a particular location? Please tell us which one(s) and why.

QA1(a) If the site(s) you object to were not included, would you be more supportive of this overall strategy?

QA2 Do you **support** a particular location? Please tell us which one(s) and why.

Employment:

QA3 Do you think that this Strategy would be a good thing or a bad thing for employment provision in the District? Please tell us why.

- I think the impact would be broadly positive
- I think the impact would be broadly negative

Climate Change:

QA4 Do you think that this Strategy would be a good thing or a bad thing for the District's ability to adapt to climate change and minimise our contribution to it? Please tell us why.

- I think the impact would be broadly positive
- I think the impact would be broadly negative

Strategy Option B
Concentrated Development Strategy

*with 1000 dwellings concentrated at **two** of the following settlements: Cam, Eastington, west of Stonehouse, Brimscombe & Thrupp or Whitminster.*

Like OPTION A, this sort of scale of development does offer opportunities to build sustainable communities as well as to create a strong "sense of place", distinctive character and make environmental enhancements through design.

But the various locations differ in their potential to tap into and integrate with existing infrastructure, services and facilities in the surrounding area and it is questionable whether a new community of this size would be sufficient to sustain the services and facilities developed for it/as part of it.

Similar issues of greenfield development are likely to apply to both OPTIONS A and B, with the exception of Brimscombe where an intensive "brownfield" focus would be needed.

GLOUCESTER
Severn Estuary
STROUD
Dursley

— A Roads
— B Roads
+ Railway
— Motorway
Urban areas
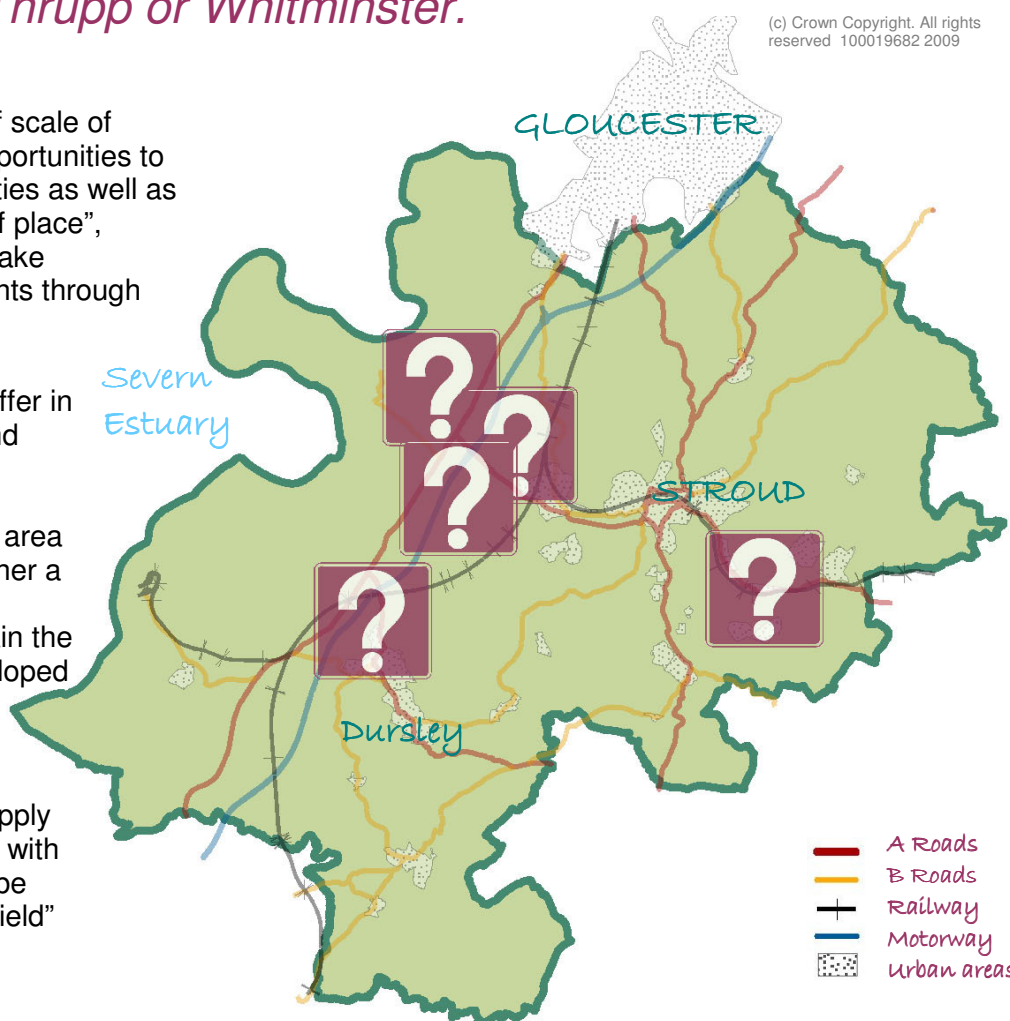
Implications for employment provision:

This strategy option would consist of two large mixed-use developments, where new employment and business premises would be integrated, as well as new housing. This kind of scale and mixed-use approach offers potential benefits in terms of creating sustainable communities.

In order to meet an employment density of two jobs per new household, these areas of floorspace would be needed at both development locations:

- **General industrial:**   23,800 sq.m
- **General office:**   9,050 sq.m
- **Warehousing & distribution:**   25,000 sq.m
- **Retail & leisure:**   6,000 sq.m

B Concentrated Development Strategy

*with 1000 dwellings concentrated at **two** of the following settlements: Cam, Eastington, west of Stonehouse, Brimscombe & Thrupp or Whitminster.*

Assessment commentary using Climate Change criteria

	Able to use a Renewable Energy source to meet that development's energy demands? It should then ideally look to increase supply to surrounding area (to contribute to self contained communities).	✓ All have an opportunity for Macro renewable energy schemes backed up with Micro potential. Development of this scale could supply the surrounding area.
	Would have safe access choices by means other than the private car such as cycling, walking, bus or train?	✓ **Safe Access:** All should achieve this given scale of development. ✓ **Bus:** All are on existing bus routes. ✓ **?** **Train:** Cam & Stonehouse have stations. Brimscombe, Eastington & Whitminster require other forms of transport to access a station. ✓ **?** **Cycle:** Cam has limited cycle route access. Brimscombe could utilise the canal towpath; Whitminster and Stonehouse are on national cycle routes. ✓ **Walk:** The ability to walk will be destination and/or purpose of journey dependant – e.g. How much to be carried and to where?
	Has existing and/or potential infrastructure to service the site or area in ways consistent with cutting carbon dioxide emissions and successfully adapting to changes in the local climate?	✓ **?** All have good opportunity to change infrastructure through development. Further performance assessment required.
	Able to build and sustain socially cohesive communities with adequate job opportunities, access to goods and services and appropriate community infrastructure within reasonable distance (600 metres)?	✓ **?** All have an opportunity to create socially cohesive communities. **?** Difficult to assess jobs but development at this scale could accommodate jobs to create balanced communities. **?** Cam & Stonehouse have the edge over Brimscombe, Whitminster and Eastington in terms of access to wider range of existing goods and services.
	Development would avoid harm to recognised biodiversity interests and support the capacity of wildlife to adapt to likely changes in the climate in the future?	✓ **?** All have a good opportunity to mitigate any biodiversity impacts by off-site works and/or creation of wildlife corridors within the developments. Further assessment will be required though.
	Can provide realistic opportunities for open space and green infrastructure links and creation of new space? Provides opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and local landscape character?	✓ **?** All have good opportunity to provide open space and green infrastructure. All have good opportunity to enhance biodiversity through development. However all have potential to have adverse landscape impacts given scale and location within the flatter Severn Vale areas or the Stroud Valley sides. Further assessment required.
	Able to mitigate against future sea level rises and to future flood risks? It should promote sustainable drainage system use (SuDS).	✗ **Little or no flood risk? :** No: all proposals have rivers within or adjoining the sites so are at risk (Zone 2 or above). ✗ **Flood risk taking a/c of climate change:** All could be susceptible to flood risk within the Vale. Further SFRA assessment required. ✓ **SuDS:** All have a good opportunity to provide SuDS.

B Concentrated Development Strategy

*with 1000 dwellings concentrated at **two** of the following settlements: Cam, Eastington, west of Stonehouse, Brimscombe & Thrupp or Whitminster.*

How is this strategy likely to perform against our objectives?

Objective 1: Accessible communities

Development of this scale will provide potential for a new primary healthcare facility in the area to be developed and also funding towards social, leisure and recreational facilities. Funding for youth and adult learning opportunities could also potentially be provided. However the benefits would not be felt across the District as a whole. Affordable housing in just two locations will not necessarily suit people who currently live and have developed roots in other parts of the District. Investment in healthcare facilities and leisure opportunities in other parts of the District will be limited by lack of new housing development.

Objective 2: Local economy and jobs

This option provides an opportunity to integrate the delivery of employment alongside housing development. However, enhanced job opportunities will be localised to the two areas chosen for concentrated development. The benefits of providing a strong, diverse and vibrant local economy will not be felt across the District as a whole.

Objective 3: Our district's distinctive qualities

Development would exist outside of the AONB. Whilst there would be localised impact from concentration of development in two areas the effect on the District as a whole would be less than a dispersal option.

Objective 4: Transport

Concentrated development is more likely to provide opportunities to invest in improving local public and sustainable transport than dispersal option. However, commuting to these two locations from other parts of the district could increase commuting by use of private motor car, which will not reduce CO_2 emissions.

Objective 5: Climate change

With the exception of Brimscombe, development would be concentrated on Greenfield sites which is contrary to Government advice and would not involve the significant re-use of redundant buildings or land. This strategy offers similar opportunities to the other strategies in terms of securing energy efficiency through design, minimising the amount of waste produced or mitigating against future flood risks. However, the scale of development means it could be more ambitious in projects such as securing energy from waste for district heat and power schemes.

Objective 6: Town centres and rural hinterlands

There may be an insufficient capacity to accommodate development within settlement boundaries therefore development is likely to be on Greenfield land, located too far away from town centres and their hinterland to guarantee improvement in safety, viability and vitality. Option B offers potential to invest in two centres, improving accessibility to a larger proportion of the District than Option A.

Other Comments

Large developments of this scale often provide more certainty than a large number of smaller development sites. Large sites can be more appropriately managed by phasing the development of housing, schools, employment, community facilities and open space. The option is more likely to deliver an integrated "package" of infrastructure than a dispersed option because it will generate funding for services and facilities that is concentrated on the two locations.

Please refer back to Part 1, Chapter 5 for a description of the 6 strategic objectives.

We would be grateful if you would use the Council's response forms to answer these questions. The response form is reproduced in APPENDIX 1. You are welcome to take a copy or turn to page 7 to find out how you can get hold of printed forms.

If you have internet access, please access these questions through our online consultation portal (www.stroud-consult.limehouse.co.uk) – this will greatly ease our efficiency in processing all the responses. Thank you.

PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION:

QB   **What do you think of Strategy Option B?**
Please consider whether you would support this option in very broad terms – you will have the opportunity to tell us which is your preferred strategy later and to comment about the pro's and con's of specific locations.

- Overall, I would broadly support this option
- Overall, I would oppose this option
- I would support this option but with reservations
- I don't feel strongly either way / don't know

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS:
YOU CAN GIVE US SOME MORE DETAIL IF YOU LIKE OR YOU CAN MOVE ON TO THE NEXT OPTION…

Locations:

QB1   Do you **object** to a particular location? Please tell us which one(s) and why.

QB1(a)   If the site(s) you object to were not included, would you be more supportive of this overall strategy?

QB2   Do you **support** a particular location? Please tell us which one(s) and why.

Employment:

QB3   Do you think that this Strategy would be a good thing or a bad thing for employment provision in the District? Please tell us why.

- I think the impact would be broadly positive
- I think the impact would be broadly negative

Climate Change:

QB4   Do you think that this Strategy would be a good thing or a bad thing for the District's ability to adapt to climate change and minimise our contribution to it? Please tell us why.

- I think the impact would be broadly positive
- I think the impact would be broadly negative

Strategy Option C
Cluster Strategy

200 to 250 dwellings at 8 Settlements, boosting local service centres that serve a rural hinterland. These could be located at:

- **Gloucester Fringe** *(either Haresfield or Upton St Leonards)*
- **Stonehouse Cluster** *(either at Stonehouse, Eastington, Kings Stanley or Leonard Stanley)*
- **Cotswold Cluster** *(at Painswick)*
- **Stroud Valleys** *(either at Stroud, Randwick, Cainscross, Brimscombe & Thrupp or Minchinhampton)*
- **Cam/Dursley Cluster** *(either at Cam, Dursley or Stinchcombe)*
- **Wotton Cluster** *(at Wotton-under-Edge)*
- **Berkeley Cluster** *(either at Berkeley or Newtown/Sharpness)*
- **Severn Voice** *(either at Frampton-on-Severn or Whitminster)*

Implications for employment provision:

At each of the eight locations, the amount of new employment floorspace that would be required, in order to meet an employment density of two jobs per new household, is indicated as follows:

- **General industrial:** 2,975 sq.m
- **General office:** 1,187.5 sq.m
- **Warehousing & distribution:** 3,125 sq.m
- **Retail & leisure:** 750 sq.m
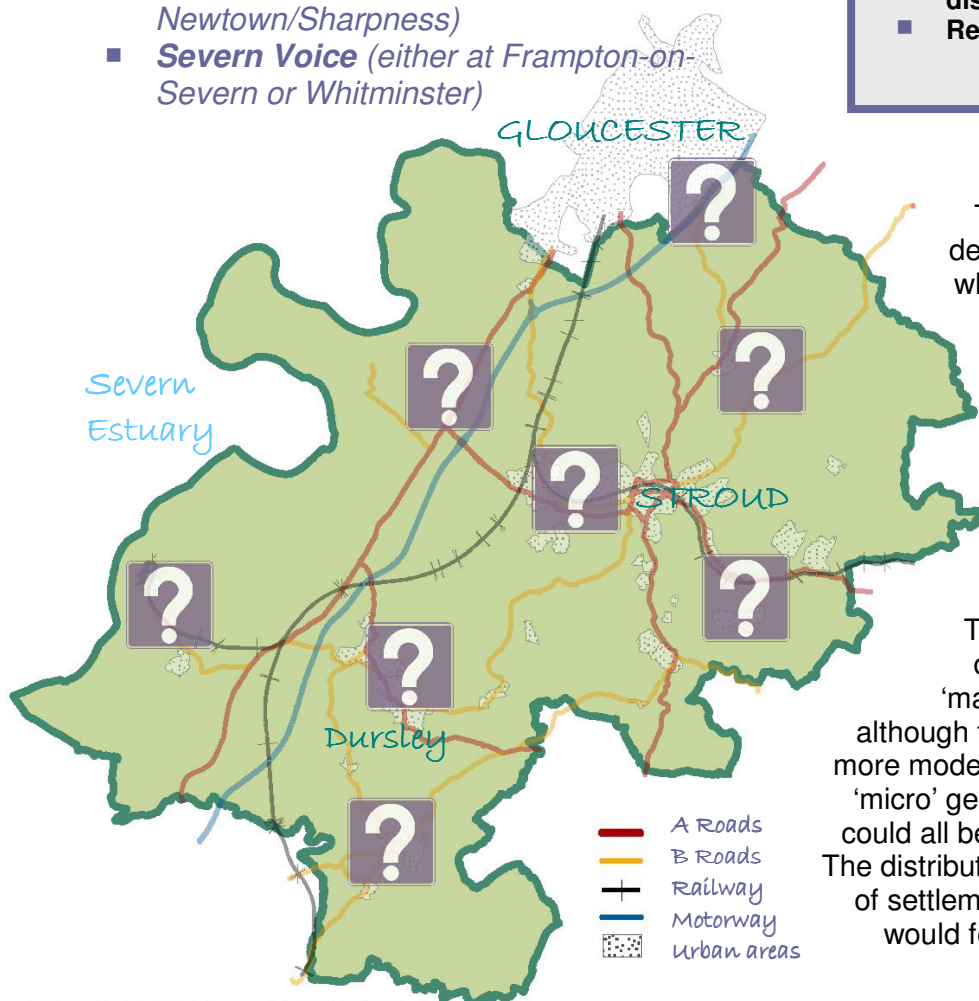
This strategy means focussing new development at local service centres, where some facilities already exist to serve the surrounding rural area. It offers the potential to boost the district's market towns and larger villages, to help sustain their existing facilities, as well as bringing infrastructure and amenity improvements and more local employment opportunities.

These smaller scaled developments offer limited potential to incorporate 'macro' renewable energy generation, although they could of course accommodate more modest community- or household-based 'micro' generation schemes. These locations could all benefit from new affordable housing. The distribution would mean that a wider range of settlements, landscapes and communities would feel a direct impact – but the effects could be very positive.

GLOUCESTER

Severn Estuary

STROUD

Dursley

A Roads
B Roads
Railway
Motorway
Urban areas

C Cluster Strategy
With 200 – 250 dwellings at 8 settlements, serving a rural hinterland in each cluster

Assessment commentary using Climate Change criteria

	Able to use a Renewable Energy source to meet that development's energy demands? It should then ideally look to increase supply to surrounding area (to contribute to self contained communities).	✓ ❓ Possible limited opportunity for Macro renewable energy scheme. All could be accommodated with Micro potential. Development of this scale may not supply the surrounding area.
	Would have safe access choices by means other than the private car such as cycling, walking, bus or train?	✓ **Safe Access:** All should achieve this given scale of development. ✓ ❓ **Bus:** Most locations are on bus routes. Frequency of service may be an issue. ✗ ❓ **Train:** Most require other forms of transport to access stations. ✓ **Cycle:** Only Cotswold Cluster has limited access to cycle network - however this may have quiet rural lanes. ✗ ❓ **Walk:** The ability to walk will be destination and/or purpose of journey dependant – e.g. How much to be carried and to where? Limited opportunity to meet all service and goods needs through walking in some areas.
	Has existing and/or potential infrastructure to service the site or area in ways consistent with cutting carbon dioxide emissions and successfully adapting to changes in the local climate?	✓ ❓ All have good opportunity to already have or change infrastructure through development. Further performance assessment required.
	Able to build and sustain socially cohesive communities with adequate job opportunities, access to goods and services and appropriate community infrastructure within reasonable distance (600 metres)?	✓ All have a good opportunity to create socially cohesive communities given scale and nature of change at hubs which serve hinterlands. ✓ ❓ Difficult to assess jobs but development at this scale likely to positively impact employment. ❓ Possibly limited in range of existing goods and services available to residents.
	Development would avoid harm to recognised biodiversity interests and support the capacity of wildlife to adapt to likely changes in the climate in the future?	✓ ❓ All have a good opportunity to mitigate any biodiversity impacts by off-site works and/or creation of wildlife corridors within the developments. Further assessment will be required though.
	Can provide realistic opportunities for open space and green infrastructure links and creation of new space? Provides opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and local landscape character?	✓ ❓ All have good opportunity to provide open space and green infrastructure. All have good opportunity to enhance biodiversity through development. All have potential to mitigate any landscape impacts given scale and locations. Further assessment required.
	Able to mitigate against future sea level rises and to future flood risks? It should promote sustainable drainage system use (SuDS).	✓ ❓ **Little or no flood risk? :** Some sites may have rivers within or adjoining them so would be at risk (Zone 2 or above and would require SFRA 2), but generally most are within Zone 1 (lowest risk category). ✗ ❓ **Flood risk taking a/c of climate change** Some could be susceptible to flood risk. Further SFRA assessment required on potential sites if the strategy is selected. ✓ **SuDS:** All have a good opportunity to provide SuDS.

C *Cluster Strategy*
With 200 – 250 dwellings at 8 settlements, serving a rural hinterland in each cluster

How is this strategy likely to perform against our objectives?

Objective 1: Accessible communities

This option concentrates development in rural locations with greatest range of facilities and services at present. However, there would be no guarantee that this option would provide potential for a new primary healthcare facility in each of the eight areas. Development of this scale would provide funding towards social, leisure and recreational facilities in each of the eight areas. It would also provide funding for youth and adult learning opportunities. Affordable housing would be provided in each of the eight locations and is more likely to meet the local needs than Options A and B.

Objective 2: Local economy and jobs

This option could enable the provision of local employment and underpin some existing local opportunities. Clusters of employment in eight locations would potentially be sustainable.

Objective 3: Our district's distinctive qualities

Clusters of development of this scale across the District would impact local landscape, townscape and biodiversity.

Objective 4: Transport

Clusters of development are likely to provide opportunities to invest in improving local public and sustainable transport. This reflects Government policy which promotes the need to travel less.

Objective 5: Climate change

It may be possible to achieve some development on previously developed land. This strategy could offer similar opportunities to other strategies in terms of its ability to secure energy efficiency through design, minimise the amount of waste produced or mitigate against future flood risks. But the scale of development may limit more ambitious schemes, such as large scale energy generation or innovative waste solutions.

Objective 6: Town centres and rural hinterlands

There may be an opportunity with this option to invest and improve the safety, vitality and viability of 8 locations across the District. Access to services and facilities within these town and village centres are likely to improve. This option will enhance and improve public transport systems to these destinations. This option supports the 'issue' that was most highly prioritised during our first round of public consultation in 2009: the need to maintain and improve the sustainability of our villages.

Other comments

This option reflects PPS7 "Sustainable Development in Rural Areas" that allows development at local service centres that serve rural areas. It also reflects emerging Regional Spatial Strategy on supporting market towns.

There may be insufficient capacity to accommodate development within each the cluster hub settlements. The scale of development in some locations may have to be increased or reduced.

Please refer back to Part 1, Chapter 5 for a description of the 6 strategic objectives.

We would be grateful if you would use the Council's response forms to answer these questions. The response form is reproduced in APPENDIX 1. You are welcome to take a copy or turn to page 7 to find out how you can get hold of printed forms.

If you have internet access, please access these questions through our online consultation portal (www.stroud-consult.limehouse.co.uk) – this will greatly ease our efficiency in processing all the responses. Thank you.

PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION:

QC   **What do you think of Strategy Option C?**
Please consider whether you would support this option in very broad terms – you will have the opportunity to tell us which is your preferred strategy later and to comment about the pro's and con's of specific locations.

- Overall, I would broadly support this option
- Overall, I would oppose this option
- I would support this option but with reservations
- I don't feel strongly either way / don't know

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS:
YOU CAN GIVE US SOME MORE DETAIL IF YOU LIKE OR YOU CAN MOVE ON TO THE NEXT OPTION…

Locations:

QD1   Do you **object** to a particular location? Please tell us which one(s) and why.

QD1(a)   If the site(s) you object to were not included, would you be more supportive of this overall strategy?

QD2   Do you **support** a particular location? Please tell us which one(s) and why.

Employment:

QD3   Do you think that this Strategy would be a good thing or a bad thing for employment provision in the District? Please tell us why.

- I think the impact would be broadly positive
- I think the impact would be broadly negative

Climate Change:

QD4   Do you think that this Strategy would be a good thing or a bad thing for the District's ability to adapt to climate change and minimise our contribution to it? Please tell us why.

- I think the impact would be broadly positive
- I think the impact would be broadly negative

Strategy Option D
Stroud Valleys Strategy

Three 200 dwelling sites and the remaining 1400 to be found through a variety of smaller sites within the Stroud valleys (with a degree of focus upon canal corridor regeneration sites).

This strategy offers an exciting opportunity to create a distinctive living and working environment, making the most of the Stroud Valleys' rich legacy of historic mills and industrial heritage. Regeneration-focussed development could help to draw more creative and knowledge-based industries to the area, building on our District's existing skills base and cultural and artistic assets.

Many sites with development potential are on "brownfield" (previously developed) land in the industrial valley bottoms; but this brings associated constraints, risks and costs due to factors such as flooding, previous contamination and the area's many listed buildings and conservation areas. Traffic congestion is also a key issue in what is already the most densely populated part of the District, while this strategy might place pressure on valuable green spaces and gaps. Meanwhile, it might not deliver significant service or infrastructure benefits for the rest of the District.

GLOUCESTER

Severn Estuary

STROUD

Dursley

A Roads
B Roads
Railway
Motorway
Urban areas

Implications for employment provision:

This strategy option would consist of three mixed-use developments, where new employment and business premises would be integrated alongside new homes; achieving balanced mixed developments on the smaller sites would probably be more difficult, but the following floorspaces are indicated:

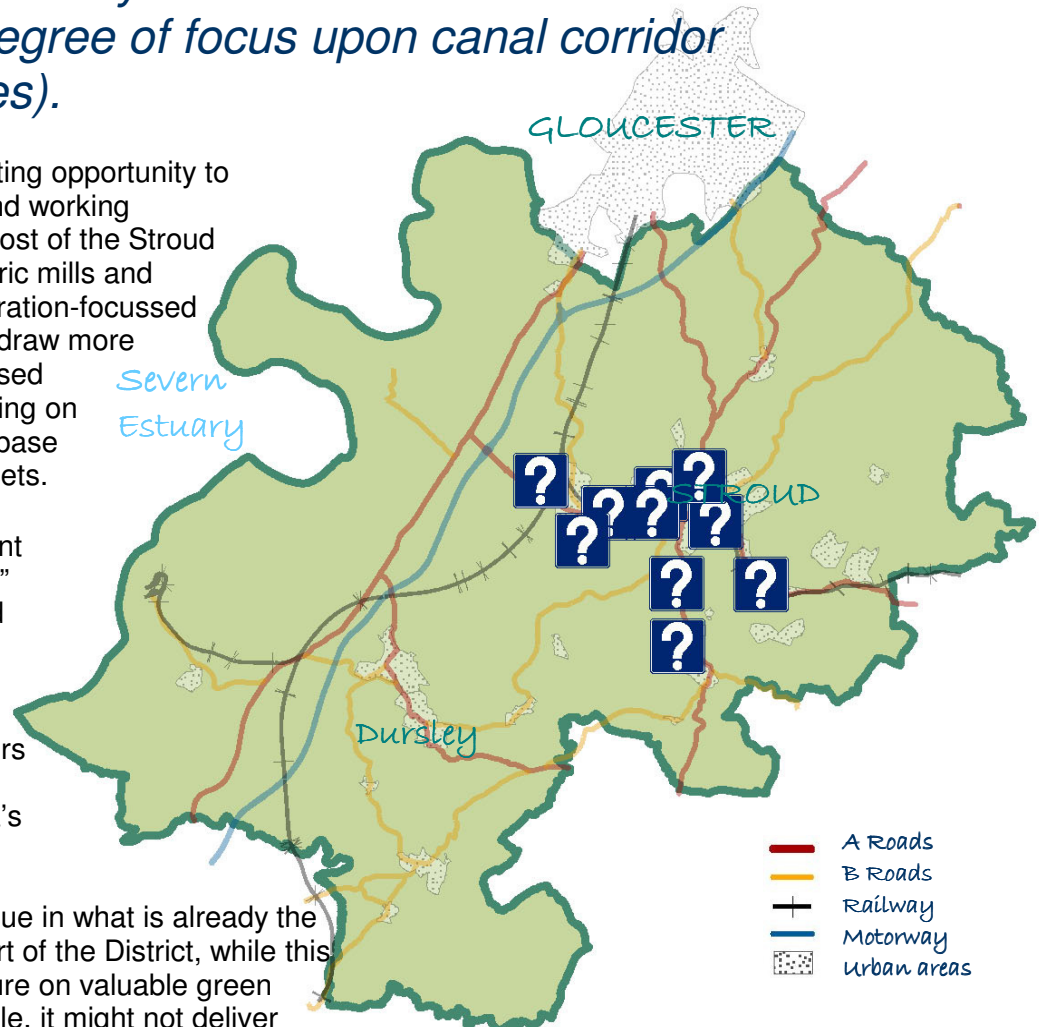|	*At each large site:*	*At the smaller sites:*
■ General industrial:	4,760 sq.m at each.	23.8 sq.m per dwelling.
■ General office:	1,900 sq.m at each.	9.5 sq.m per dwelling.
■ Warehousing & distribution:	5,000 sq.m at each.	25 sq.m per dwelling.
■ Retail & leisure:	1,200 sq.m at each.	6 sq.m per dwelling.

D Stroud Valleys Strategy
Three 200 dwelling sites and the remaining 1400 to be found through a variety of smaller sites within the Stroud valleys (with a degree of focus upon canal corridor regeneration sites)

Assessment commentary using Climate Change criteria

Able to use a Renewable Energy source to meet that development's energy demands? It should then ideally look to increase supply to surrounding area (to contribute to self contained communities).	**?**	Limited opportunity for Macro renewable energy scheme. All could be accommodated with Micro potential. Development of this scale unlikely to supply the surrounding area
Would have safe access choices by means other than the private car such as cycling, walking, bus or train?	✓	**Safe Access:** Most should achieve this given mixed development scale.
	✓	**Bus:** All should be on existing regular service bus routes.
	✗ **?**	**Train:** Most require other forms of transport to access stations.
	✓	**Cycle:** All should have relatively good access to cycle network or be in close proximity to it.
	✓ **?**	**Walk:** The ability to walk will be destination and/or purpose of journey dependant – e.g. How much to be carried and to where? Proximity to Stroud centre provides a stronger opportunity to meet most if not all needs through walking.
Has existing and/or potential infrastructure to service the site or area in ways consistent with cutting carbon dioxide emissions and successfully adapting to changes in the local climate?	✓ **?**	All have good opportunity to already have or change infrastructure through development. Location generally considered sustainable. Further assessment required.
Able to build and sustain socially cohesive communities with adequate job opportunities, access to goods and services and appropriate community infrastructure within reasonable distance (600 metres)?	✓	All have a good opportunity to create socially cohesive communities given scale and nature of change within Stroud Urban Area.
	✓	Difficult to assess jobs but development at this scale likely to be supported as this is where concentration of existing employment sites exist.
	✓	Good option in terms of access to a range of existing goods and services available to residents.
Development would avoid harm to recognised biodiversity interests and support the capacity of wildlife to adapt to likely changes in the climate in the future?	✓ **?**	All have a good opportunity to mitigate any biodiversity impacts by off-site works and/or creation of wildlife corridors within the developments. Further assessment will be required though.
Can provide realistic opportunities for open space and green infrastructure links and creation of new space? Provides opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and local landscape character?	✓ **?**	All have good opportunity to provide open space and green infrastructure. All have good opportunity to enhance biodiversity through development. All have potential to mitigate landscape impacts given limited scale of development and locations within or on the edge of built areas. Further assessment required.

☁️ **Able to mitigate against future sea level rises and to future flood risks? It should promote sustainable drainage system use (SuDS).**	❌❓ **Little or no flood risk? :** Potential risk for sites located along valley bottom with canal/rivers within or adjoining the sites so would be at risk (Zone 2 or above and would require SFRA 2), ❌ **Flood risk taking a/c of climate change:** Many could be susceptible to flood risk. Further SFRA assessment required on potential sites if the strategy is selected. ✔️ SuDS: All have a good opportunity to provide SuDS.

D *Stroud Valleys Strategy*
Three 200 dwelling sites and the remaining 1400 to be found through a variety of smaller sites within the Stroud valleys (with a degree of focus upon canal corridor regeneration sites)

How is this strategy likely to perform against our objectives?

Objective 1: Accessible communities

This option could provide potential for new primary healthcare facilities and funding towards social, leisure and recreational facilities. It would also generate funding for youth and adult learning opportunities. These would all be provided within the Stroud Valleys which would benefit local people but would not necessarily reach the whole of Stroud District. The provision of affordable housing could meet local needs in Stroud Valleys but not the whole of the District. Concentration of investment in one area could result in services elsewhere declining due to limited population growth.

Objective 2: Local economy and jobs

This option provides opportunities for the regeneration of the valley bottom which could include the canal corridor. This could see the restoration of a number of historic mill buildings and could help with local regeneration. There is potential for the redevelopment of brownfield sites for mixed use development, enhancing the vitality of this area. Accessibility to local employment opportunities would be less than Strategy Option C in reaching the whole of the District.

Objective 3: Our district's distinctive qualities

The Stroud Valleys area is characterised by its industrial past. The Industrial Heritage Conservation Area (IHCA) protects the historic character of the Frome valley and the Nailsworth valley. Development in this area would have significant impact on the IHCA, not least by placing great pressure on valuable green spaces and gaps. However the impact could be beneficial, as redundant buildings could be brought back into use. Development should be in accordance with the Adopted Conservation Area Management Proposals SPD and Conservation Area Statement.

Objective 4: Transport

There is potential to enhance existing public transport facilities within the area, reducing the need to travel by less sustainable means of transport. For example the Canal could provide improved walking and cycling opportunities. Due to the topography of the valleys, development of this scale would increase the number of vehicles using A419 and minor roads.

Objective 5: Climate Change

As opposed to options A, B and C, which are likely to involve new build housing and employment, Option D could see the reuse of many of the redundant brownfield sites in the Stroud Valleys. Innovative design solutions are promoted within the IHCA (in accordance with design guidance in the Conservation Area Management Proposals SPD) and development within this area would be expected to be energy efficient. However, it may prove less easy to implement more ambitious schemes, such as large scale energy generation or innovative waste solutions, due to the fragmented scale and location of development. There may be issues in terms of mitigating against future flood risks in the valley bottom.

Objective 6: Town centres and rural hinterlands

All sites within this option would have easy accessibility to the services and facilities provided within Stroud Town Centre. Development would support the safety, vitality and viability of Stroud town centre. In facilitating the regeneration of sites along the valley bottom, this option has the ability to support canal restoration, as well as providing physical and functional links to the town and/or local retail centres.

Other comments

This option reflects emerging Regional Spatial Strategy on supporting market and coastal towns.

Development of this scale in the Stroud Valleys could pose traffic problems for the town centre, which would need to be addressed somehow to avoid having to remove traffic from the town centre – which could be costly and could affect passing trade.

Please refer back to Part 1, Chapter 5 for a description of the 6 strategic objectives.

We would be grateful if you would use the Council's response forms to answer these questions. The response form is reproduced in APPENDIX 1. You are welcome to take a copy or turn to page 7 to find out how you can get hold of printed forms.

If you have internet access, please access these questions through our online consultation portal (www.stroud-consult.limehouse.co.uk) – this will greatly ease our efficiency in processing all the responses. Thank you.

PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION:

QD   **What do you think of Strategy Option D?**
Please consider whether you would support this option in very broad terms – you will have the opportunity to tell us which is your preferred strategy later and to comment about the pro's and con's of specific locations.

- Overall, I would broadly support this option
- Overall, I would oppose this option
- I would support this option but with reservations
- I don't feel strongly either way / don't know

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS:
YOU CAN GIVE US SOME MORE DETAIL IF YOU LIKE OR YOU CAN MOVE ON TO THE NEXT OPTION…

Locations:

QD1   Do you **object** to a particular location? Please tell us which one(s) and why.

QD1(a)   If the site(s) you object to were not included, would you be more supportive of this overall strategy?

QD2   Do you **support** a particular location? Please tell us which one(s) and why.

Employment:

QD3   Do you think that this Strategy would be a good thing or a bad thing for employment provision in the District? Please tell us why.

- I think the impact would be broadly positive
- I think the impact would be broadly negative

Climate Change:

QD4   Do you think that this Strategy would be a good thing or a bad thing for the District's ability to adapt to climate change and minimise our contribution to it? Please tell us why.

- I think the impact would be broadly positive
- I think the impact would be broadly negative

Strategy Option E
Town and Country Combination Strategy

*One site of 1000 dwellings at **either** Cam, Eastington, Brimscombe & Thrupp, West of Stonehouse or Whitminster; **and** at least 10 sites of 100 dwellings or less, dispersed across the District to support small towns and larger villages…*

These could be at:

Berkeley, Bisley, Cam, Chalford, Dursley, Eastington, Frampton-on-Severn, Ham & Stone, Hardwicke, Harescombe, Haresfield, Hinton, King's Stanley, Kingswood, Leonard Stanley, Minchinhampton, Moreton Valence, Newtown, North Nibley, Nympsfield, Painswick, Rodborough, Standish, Stonehouse, Stroud, Thrupp, Upton St Leonards, Whiteshill & Ruscombe, Whitminster, Woodchester and Wotton-under-Edge.
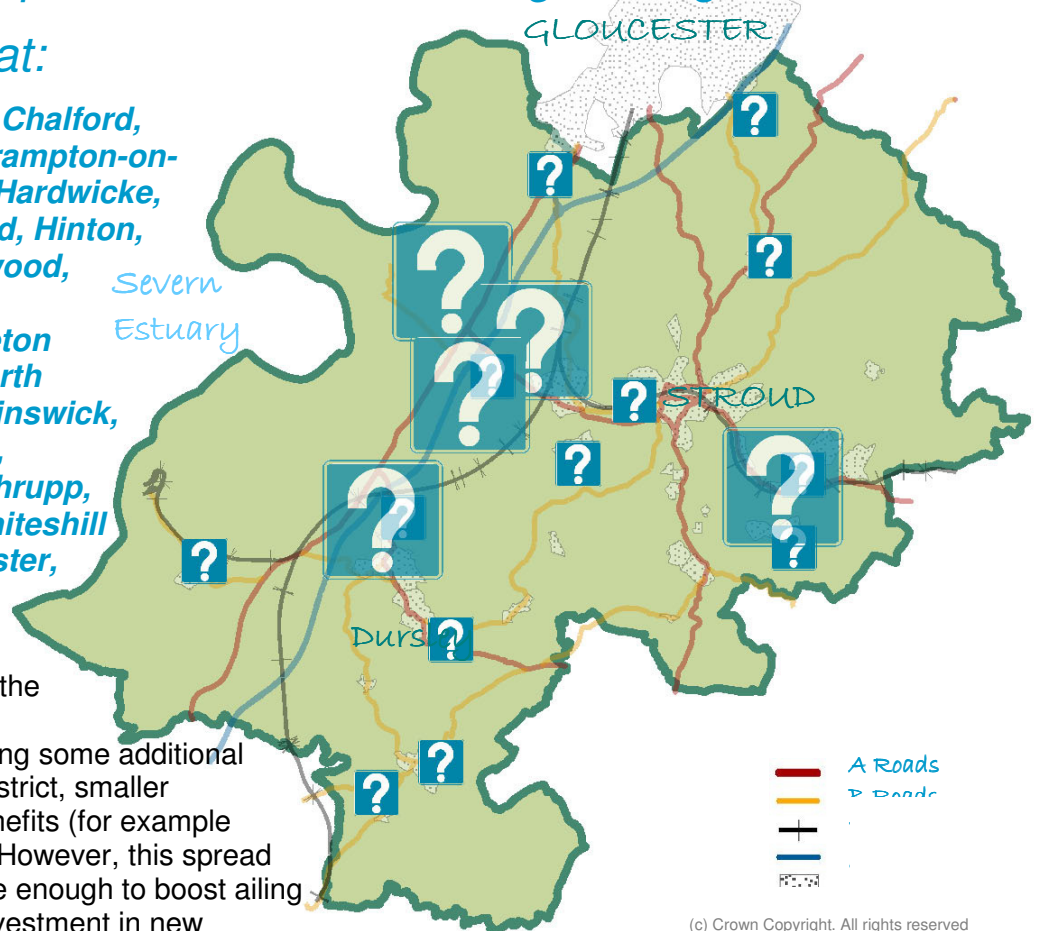
This option offers many of the same benefits and risks as OPTION B. But by spreading some additional development across the district, smaller communities may reap benefits (for example more affordable housing). However, this spread of development may not be enough to boost ailing local services nor make investment in new facilities and infrastructure viable in some of the smaller communities.

GLOUCESTER

Severn Estuary

STROUD

Durs

A Roads
B Roads

Implications for employment provision:

Strategy Option E would consist of one large mixed-use development, where new employment and business premises would be integrated with new housing; plus a series of smaller sites (for the purposes of illustration, these figures assume 10 such sites), where a straight forward ratio of 2 new jobs per new household may prove more difficult to achieve:

|	At each large site:	At the 10 smaller sites:
■ General industrial:	23,800 sq.m at each.	1,190 sq.m per dwelling.
■ General office:	9.050 sq.m at each.	475 sq.m per dwelling.
■ Warehousing & distribution:	25,000 sq.m at each.	1,250 sq.m per dwelling.
■ Retail & leisure:	6,000 sq.m at each.	500 sq.m per dwelling.

E | Town & Country Combination Strategy

*One site of 1000 dwellings at **either** Cam, Eastington, Brimscombe & Thrupp, West of Stonehouse or Whitminster; **and** at least 10 sites of 100 dwellings or less, dispersed across the District to support small towns and larger villages*

Assessment commentary using Climate Change criteria

♻	**Able to use a Renewable Energy source to meet that development's energy demands? It should then ideally look to increase supply to surrounding area (to contribute to self contained communities).**	✔ ❓ Possible limited opportunity for Macro renewable energy scheme. All could be accommodated with Micro potential. Development of this scale may not supply the surrounding area.
🚲	**Would have safe access choices by means other than the private car such as cycling, walking, bus or train?**	✔ **Safe Access:** All should achieve this given scale of development. ✔ ❓ **Bus:** Most are on existing bus routes or have relatively close access to them. Frequency of service may be an issue. ✖ ❓ **Train:** Most require other forms of transport to access stations. ❓ **Cycle:** Cam has limited cycle route access. Brimscombe could utilise the canal towpath; Whitminster and Stonehouse are on national cycle routes Broadly only Cotswold Cluster has limited access to cycle network - however this may have quiet rural lanes.. ✔ ❓ **Walk:** The ability to walk will be destination and/or purpose of journey dependant – e.g. How much to be carried and to where? Larger site should have opportunity to meet most needs through walking. Further assessment will be required on other sites.
🗑	**Has existing and/or potential infrastructure to service the site or area in ways consistent with cutting carbon dioxide emissions and successfully adapting to changes in the local climate?**	❓ All should have some opportunity to change infrastructure through development. Further performance assessment required.
🏘	**Able to build and sustain socially cohesive communities with adequate job opportunities, access to goods and services and appropriate community infrastructure within reasonable distance (600 metres)?**	✔ All have a good opportunity to create socially cohesive communities given scale and nature of change. ❓✔ Difficult to assess jobs but development at the larger scale location could deliver employment to create balanced communities and elsewhere smaller businesses could compliment or enhance existing limited local employment. ❓ Limited in range of existing goods and services available to residents.
🐦	**Development would avoid harm to recognised biodiversity interests and support the capacity of wildlife to adapt to likely changes in the climate in the future?**	✔ ❓ All have a good opportunity to mitigate any biodiversity impacts by off-site works and/or creation of wildlife corridors within the developments. Further assessment will be required though.
🌲	**Can provide realistic opportunities for open space and green infrastructure links and creation of new space? Provides opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and local landscape character?**	✔ ❓ All have good opportunity to provide open space and green infrastructure. All have good opportunity to enhance biodiversity through development. All have potential to mitigate landscape impacts given scale and locations. Further assessment required.

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Able to mitigate against future sea level rises and to future flood risks? It should promote sustainable drainage system use (SuDS).
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<td>
Little or no flood risk? : Larger development sites have rivers within or adjoining them so would be at risk (Zone 2 or above and would require SFRA 2). More scope to find sites at lower risk for smaller sites (within Zone 1: lowest risk category), although some sites likely to be at some degree of flood risk requiring a SFRA 2.

Flood risk taking a/c of climate change: Some could be susceptible to flood risk within the Vale. Further SFRA assessment required.

SuDS: All have a good opportunity to provide SuDS.
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E Town & Country Combination Strategy

*One site of 1000 dwellings at **either** Cam, Eastington, Brimscombe & Thrupp, West of Stonehouse or Whitminster; **and** at least 10 sites of 100 dwellings or less, dispersed across the District to support small towns and larger villages*

How is this strategy likely to perform against our objectives?

Objective 1: Accessible communities

This option could provide affordable housing in each of the eleven locations which are spread across the district. It is more likely to deliver housing where families have support networks and where they want to live and work than some of the other options. The development of 1000 dwellings is likely to facilitate a new primary health care facility, dependent on location. However, the 10 smaller sites could possibly facilitate a contribution towards healthcare. Recreation and leisure facilities are likely to be provided on the large site however the small sites may only have limited scope for these facilities. Although 100 new dwellings may help to support existing rural communities, it may still be necessary for people who live in the smaller areas to travel to access a full range of services including secondary education and shops.

Objective 2: Local economy and jobs

The strategic site of 1000 dwellings could deliver employment opportunities that are integrated with the planned housing; however, the smaller sites of 100 dwellings may be less accessible and attractive to businesses.

Objective 3: Our district's distinctive qualities

Whilst there would be localised impact from concentration of development in one area the effect on the District as a whole could be less than other dispersal options.

Objective 4: Transport

The aim in this Strategy should be to minimise need to travel rather than giving the opportunity to travel. The concentrated element can offer alternatives to the private car but the dispersal element might encourage greater car dependency.

Objective 5: Climate change

The bulk of development would be concentrated on Greenfield sites, contrary to government advice – although locations for the smaller sites are more likely to be found on previously developed land. This strategy could offer similar opportunities to other strategies in terms of its ability to secure energy efficiency through design, minimise the amount of waste produced or mitigate against future flood risks. Like Option B, this strategy could support decentralisation of services such as waste treatment and renewable energy generation at the larger sites. The smaller sites could support smaller scale local and domestic renewable energy initiatives.

Objective 6: Town centres and rural hinterlands

Could support a rural hub to service a limited rural hinterland. PPS 7 "Sustainable Development in Rural Areas" allows small scale development at villages to meet business and community needs and to maintain their vitality. However, there is a need to consider how much development is necessary to maintain existing service viability.

Other comments

Due to the number of dispersed sites it may not be possible to deliver an integrated and complete "package" of infrastructure and services. However, this is likely to be possible on the larger site.

Please refer back to Part 1, Chapter 5 for a description of the 6 strategic objectives.

We would be grateful if you would use the Council's response forms to answer these questions. The response form is reproduced in APPENDIX 1. You are welcome to take a copy or turn to page 7 to find out how you can get hold of printed forms.

If you have internet access, please access these questions through our online consultation portal (**www.stroud-consult.limehouse.co.uk**) – this will greatly ease our efficiency in processing all the responses. Thank you.

PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION:

QE **What do you think of Strategy Option E?**
Please consider whether you would support this option in very broad terms – you will have the opportunity to tell us which is your preferred strategy later and to comment about the pro's and con's of specific locations.

- Overall, I would broadly support this option
- Overall, I would oppose this option
- I would support this option but with reservations
- I don't feel strongly either way / don't know

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS:
YOU CAN GIVE US SOME MORE DETAIL IF YOU LIKE OR YOU CAN MOVE ON TO THE NEXT OPTION…

Locations:

QE1 Do you **object** to a particular location? Please tell us which one(s) and why.

QE1(a) If the site(s) you object to were not included, would you be more supportive of this overall strategy?

QE2 Do you **support** a particular location? Please tell us which one(s) and why.

Employment:

QE3 Do you think that this Strategy would be a good thing or a bad thing for employment provision in the District? Please tell us why.

- I think the impact would be broadly positive
- I think the impact would be broadly negative

Climate Change:

QE4 Do you think that this Strategy would be a good thing or a bad thing for the District's ability to adapt to climate change and minimise our contribution to it? Please tell us why.

- I think the impact would be broadly positive
- I think the impact would be broadly negative

Strategy Option F
Rural Communities Strategy

A 'dispersal' strategy with at least 25 sites spread across a wide range the District's parishes, each site accommodating between 50 to 100 dwellings...

These could be at:

Berkeley, Bisley, Cam, Chalford, Dursley, Eastington, Frampton, Ham & Stone, Hardwicke, Harescombe, Haresfield, Hinton, King's Stanley, Kingswood, Leonard Stanley, Minchinhampton, Moreton Valence, Newport, North Nibley, Nympsfield, Painswick, Rodborough, Standish, Stonehouse, Stroud, Thrupp, Upton St Leonards, Whiteshill & Ruscombe, Whitminster, Woodchester and Wotton-under-Edge.

Dispersal often appears a logical and popular solution for a rural area, where many smaller communities feel they need a boost in order to sustain their local amenities and facilities.

It offers an opportunity to deliver housing (including affordable housing) where people would like the chance to live and work, in established communities, perhaps close to family and their existing support networks.

But this kind of development is unlikely to deliver a complete and integrated "package" of infrastructure and facility improvements alongside new employment opportunities. And as with OPTION E, it is questionable whether this scale of growth can really halt what could be an inevitable decline for some rural communities, nor our reliance on car transport to access jobs and services.

GLOUCESTER

Severn Estuary

STROUD

Dursley

	A Roads
	B Roads
	Railway
	Motorway
	Urban areas

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Implications for employment provision:

This Strategy would see new development split across 25 or more locations, so it is likely to be more difficult to plan for balanced mixed-use developments at each place: some locations may be entirely unsuited to certain forms of employment use.

Theoretically, the following floor-spaces would be needed at each location in order to build sustainable communities:

- General industrial: 2,380 sq.m
- General office: 550 sq.m
- Warehousing & distribution: 2,500 sq.m
- Retail & leisure: 600 sq.m

F Rural Communities Strategy
Dispersal Strategy with at least 25 sites spread across a wide range the District's parishes, each site accommodating between 50 to 100 dwellings
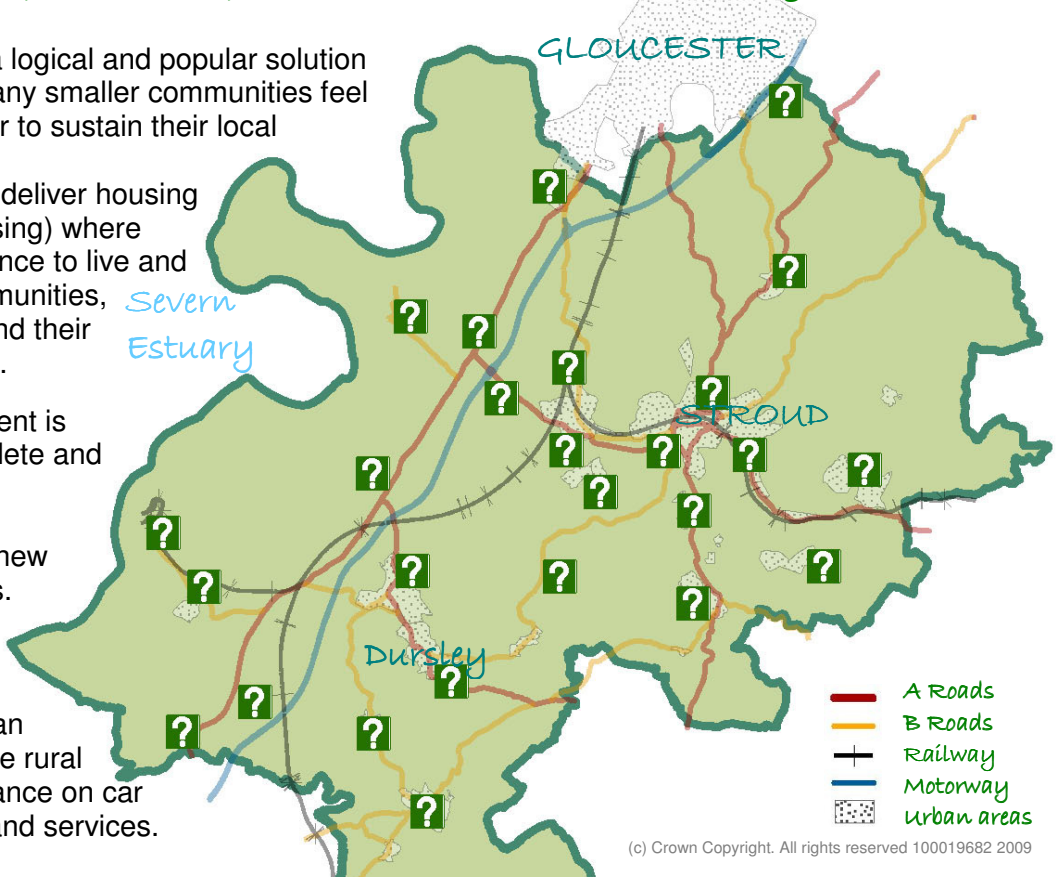
Assessment commentary using Climate Change criteria

	Able to use a Renewable Energy source to meet that development's energy demands? It should then ideally look to increase supply to surrounding area (to contribute to self contained communities).	**?** Limited opportunity for Macro renewable energy scheme. All could be accommodated with Micro potential. Development of this scale unlikely to supply the surrounding area.
	Would have safe access choices by means other than the private car such as cycling, walking, bus or train?	✓ **Safe Access:** All should achieve this given scale of development. **?** **Bus:** Some potential areas are on existing bus routes or in proximity to them. However frequency of service may be an issue. Will require further assessment on a site by site basis. ✗ **?** **Train:** Most areas will require other forms of transport to access stations. **?** **Cycle:** Limited access to cycle network in rural dispersal approach. However a number of sites may benefit from quieter rural roads. ✗ **?** **Walk:** The ability to walk will be destination and/or purpose of journey dependant – e.g. How much to be carried and to where? Further assessment will be required on sites as few small sites have opportunity to meet all needs through walking.
	Has existing and/or potential infrastructure to service the site or area in ways consistent with cutting carbon dioxide emissions and successfully adapting to changes in the local climate?	✓ **?** All have good opportunity to change infrastructure through development. Further performance assessment required.
	Able to build and sustain socially cohesive communities with adequate job opportunities, access to goods and services and appropriate community infrastructure within reasonable distance (600 metres)?	✓ All have a good opportunity to create socially cohesive communities given scale and nature of change. **?** Difficult to assess jobs but development could deliver some employment to create more balanced communities. Smaller businesses could compliment or enhance existing limited local employment. However locational factors and viability may deter some and may limit opportunities to farm diversification for example. ✗ **?** Probably limited range of existing goods and services available to residents currently. Scale of development may only protect existing services.
	Development would avoid harm to recognised biodiversity interests and support the capacity of wildlife to adapt to likely changes in the climate in the future?	✓ All have a good opportunity to mitigate any limited biodiversity impacts by off-site works and/or creation of wildlife corridors given scale of development. Site location considerations may require a further biodiversity assessment in certain places.
	Can provide realistic opportunities for open space and green infrastructure links and creation of new space? Provides opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and local landscape character?	✓ **?** All have opportunity to provide some open space and green infrastructure. All have opportunity to enhance biodiversity through development. All have potential to mitigate landscape impacts given scale. Further assessment may be required at some locations.

<table>
<tr>
<td>
Able to mitigate against future sea level rises and to future flood risks? It should promote sustainable drainage system use (SuDS).
</td>
<td>
✓ **?** **Little or no flood risk? :** Caution: a few sites might have rivers within or adjoining them so would be at risk (Zone 2 or above and would require SFRA 2). But this strategy provides more scope to find small sites at lower risk (within Zone 1: lowest risk category)

? **Flood risk taking a/c of climate change:** Some more could be susceptible to flood risk. Further SFRA assessment required on potential sites if the strategy is selected.

✓ **SuDS:** All have a good opportunity to provide SuDS.
</td>
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</table>

F Rural Communities Strategy
Dispersal Strategy with at least 25 sites spread across a wide range the District's parishes, each site accommodating between 50 to 100 dwellings

How is this strategy likely to perform against our objectives?

Objective 1: Accessible communities

Likely to deliver housing where families have support networks and want to live and work. Scale of development unlikely to deliver a fully integrated and complete "package" of infrastructure and services to resolve known problems. However, the question must be asked: will this strategy merely delay the longer term decline of these settlements? Small sites may only have limited scope for health facilities. Although new dwellings may help to support existing rural communities, it may still be necessary for people who live in the smaller areas to travel to access a full range of services including secondary education and shops. The Council may not be able to afford to pay for service improvements to support the strategy without other funding sources being available. How will this strategy work with the general trend for greater centralisation and economies of scale, which tend to be preferred by many service providers?

Objective 2: Local economy and jobs

Development of this scale could support diversification of farm businesses and provide an opportunity for greater home working – although our District currently has problems with the availability of broadband in places. Unlikely to address existing housing / employment imbalances. The smaller sites may be less accessible and attractive to businesses, and this strategy might not guarantee the right kinds of premises in the right places… meaning that effectively a separate strategy for employment distribution would be needed, which defeats the goal of sustainable living-working communities to a large extent.

Objective 3: Our district's distinctive qualities

With the scale of development proposed, this Strategy could be accommodated within or adjacent to existing settlements. Subject to high design standards, smaller scale developments may be more comfortably accommodated without harm to the character and distinctiveness of the majority of the District. However, the impact would be spread across the district and felt by many communities and landscapes.

Objective 4: Transport

The aim in this Strategy should be to minimise need to travel rather than giving the opportunity to travel. Encourages greater car dependency with the need to travel to access a full range of services including secondary education and shops.

Objective 5: Climate change

Development would probably involve a mix of Greenfield and Brownfield sites: it is unlikely that enough previously developed land could be found to accommodate all this development in so many locations; some edge-of-village sites might be needed. This strategy could offer similar opportunities to other strategies in terms of its ability to secure energy efficiency through design, minimise the amount of waste produced or mitigate against future flood risks. Unlikely to provide support for decentralisation of services such as waste treatment. Could support small scale local renewable energy initiatives, but the scale of development may limit such ambitions.

Objective 6: Town centres and rural hinterlands

Supports rural hubs that service rural hinterlands. PPS 7 "Sustainable Development in Rural Areas" allows small scale development at villages to meet business and community needs and to maintain their vitality. However there is a need to consider how much development is necessary to maintain existing service viability.

Other comments

Risk of non-delivery due to site viability considerations. The smaller scale and sporadic nature of this Strategy will provide less certainty to development industry in terms of delivery; as well as public concern about which sites should be delivered. Small scale sites are more susceptible to potential non-delivery with tighter margins and less resources to deliver them. This may have implications for adequate infrastructure provision. This strategy would require careful implementation if community aspirations and demands are to be realised.

Please refer back to Part 1, Chapter 5 for a description of the 6 strategic objectives.

We would be grateful if you would use the Council's response forms to answer these questions. The response form is reproduced in APPENDIX 1. You are welcome to take a copy or turn to page 7 to find out how you can get hold of printed forms.

If you have internet access, please access these questions through our online consultation portal (www.stroud-consult.limehouse.co.uk) – this will greatly ease our efficiency in processing all the responses. Thank you.

PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION:

QF   **What do you think of Strategy Option F?**
Please consider whether you would support this option in very broad terms – you will have the opportunity to tell us which is your preferred strategy later and to comment about the pro's and con's of specific locations.

- Overall, I would broadly support this option
- Overall, I would oppose this option
- I would support this option but with reservations
- I don't feel strongly either way / don't know

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS:
YOU CAN GIVE US SOME MORE DETAIL IF YOU LIKE OR YOU CAN MOVE ON TO THE NEXT OPTION…

Locations:

QF1   Do you **object** to a particular location? Please tell us which one(s) and why.

QF1(a) If the site(s) you object to were not included, would you be more supportive of this overall strategy?

QF2   Do you **support** a particular location? Please tell us which one(s) and why.

Employment:

QF3   Do you think that this Strategy would be a good thing or a bad thing for employment provision in the District? Please tell us why.

- I think the impact would be broadly positive
- I think the impact would be broadly negative

Climate Change:

QF4   Do you think that this Strategy would be a good thing or a bad thing for the District's ability to adapt to climate change and minimise our contribution to it? Please tell us why.

- I think the impact would be broadly positive
- I think the impact would be broadly negative

Strategy Option G
Dispersal Strategy

Focussing on a wide range of small sites. At least 40 sites of 10 to 50 dwellings, distributed amongst the District's parishes…

These could be at:

Alkington, Berkeley, Bisley, Cam, Chalford, Dursley, Eastington, Frampton, Fretherne, Hamfallow, Ham & Stone, Hardwicke, Harescombe, Haresfield, Hillesley and Tresham, Hinton, King's Stanley, Kingswood, Leonard Stanley, Longney, Minchinhampton, Moreton Valence, North Nibley, Nailsworth, Nympsfield, Painswick, Pitchcombe, Rodborough, Slimbridge, Standish, Stinchcombe, Stonehouse, Stroud, Thrupp, Upton St Leonards, Whiteshill & Ruscombe, Whitminster, Woodchester and Wotton-under-Edge.
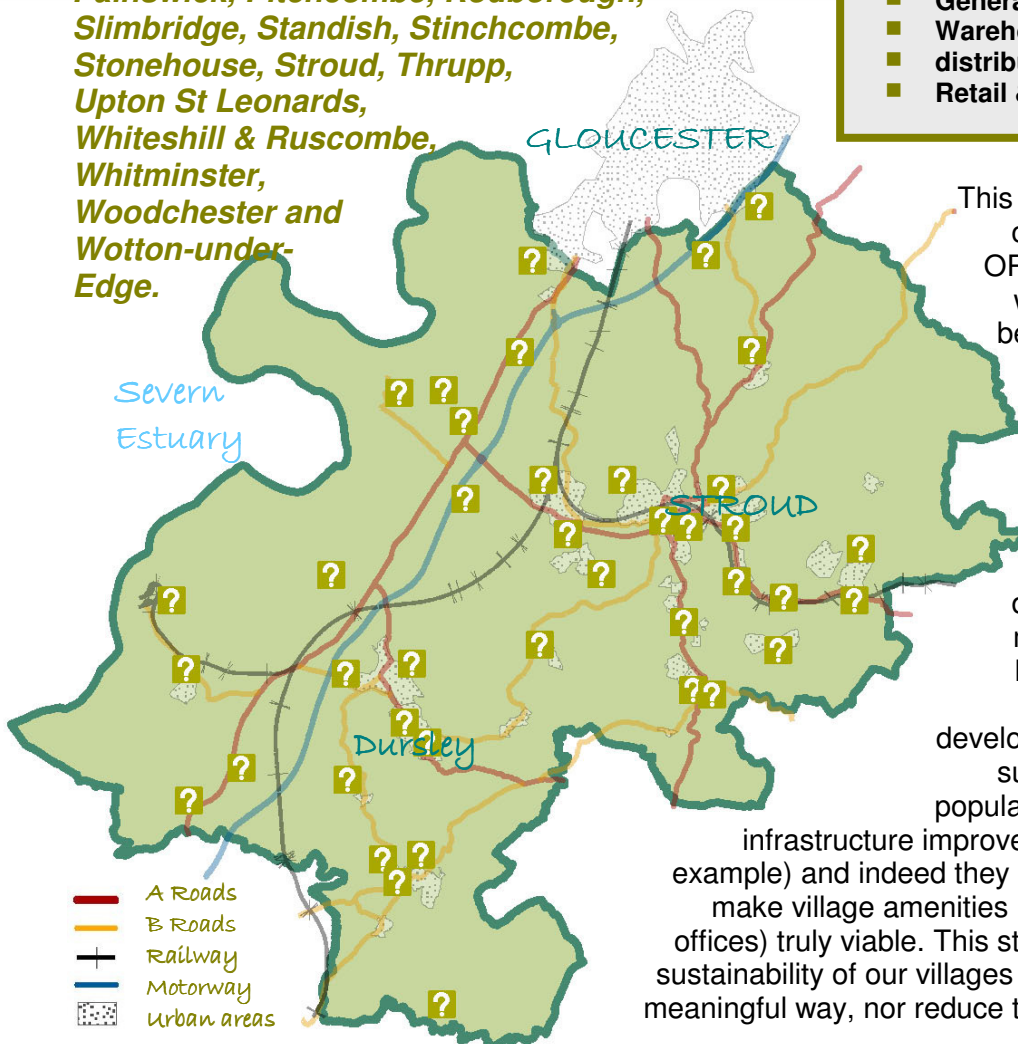
Implications for employment provision:

It is likely to be difficult to plan for balanced mixed-use developments at each place: some locations may be entirely unsuited to certain forms of employment use. Theoretically, the following floorspaces would be needed at each location if the strategy is to build sustainable communities. In reality, though, achieving an overall balance of two new jobs per new household might require a separate strategy for employment distribution at other locations.

- General industrial: 1,156 sq.m
- General office: 475 sq.m
- Warehousing & distribution: 1,250 sq.m
- Retail & leisure: 300 sq.m

This Strategy would take the idea of dispersal even further than OPTION F. Many communities would be affected, potentially benefiting from new affordable housing. Such small scale development could be designed to integrate well with each settlement's character and appearance.

But sites on previously developed ("brownfield") land may be hard to find, so some locations might face edge-of-settlement or "greenfield" development. It is also unlikely that such small increases in village populations would justify significant infrastructure improvements (new bus services for example) and indeed they may not even be sufficient to make village amenities (such as pubs, shops or post offices) truly viable. This strategy might not improve the sustainability of our villages and small settlements in any meaningful way, nor reduce the district's car dependency.

GLOUCESTER

Severn Estuary

STROUD

Dursley

A Roads
B Roads
Railway
Motorway
Urban areas

G *Dispersal Strategy*
Focussing on a wide range of small sites. At least 40 sites of 10 to 50 dwellings, distributed amongst the District's parishes

Assessment commentary using Climate Change criteria

↻	**Able to use a Renewable Energy source to meet that development's energy demands? It should then ideally look to increase supply to surrounding area (to contribute to self contained communities).**	✗ ❓ Little opportunity for Macro renewable energy scheme. Some could be accommodated with Micro potential. Development of this scale unlikely to supply the surrounding area.
🚲	**Would have safe access choices by means other than the private car such as cycling, walking, bus or train?**	❓ **Safe Access:** All should achieve this given limited scale of development. ✗ ❓ **Bus:** Few may be on existing bus routes. Also proximity issues and frequency of services. Will require greater assessment on site by site basis if proceeded with. ✗ ❓ **Train:** Most will require other forms of transport to access stations. Will require greater assessment on site by site basis if proceeded with. ❓ **Cycle:** Limited access to cycle network in rural dispersal approach. However a number of sites may benefit from quieter rural roads. ✗ ❓ **Walk:** The ability to walk will be destination and/or purpose of journey dependant – e.g. How much to be carried and to where? Further assessment will be required on sites as few small sites have opportunity to meet all needs through walking.
🗑	**Has existing and/or potential infrastructure to service the site or area in ways consistent with cutting carbon dioxide emissions and successfully adapting to changes in the local climate?**	✗ ❓ Little opportunity to change infrastructure through development taking account of limited scale of development to benefit a wider area. Further performance assessment required.
🏘	**Able to build and sustain socially cohesive communities with adequate job opportunities, access to goods and services and appropriate community infrastructure within reasonable distance (600 metres)?**	✓ All have a good opportunity to complement existing socially cohesive communities given scale and nature of change. ✗ ❓ Difficult to assess jobs but development could deliver some limited employment. Smaller businesses could compliment or enhance existing limited local employment. However locational factors and viability may deter some and will probably limit opportunities to farm diversification for example. . ✗ ❓ Limited in range of existing goods and services available to residents.
🐦	**Development would avoid harm to recognised biodiversity interests and support the capacity of wildlife to adapt to likely changes in the climate in the future?**	✓ All have a good opportunity to mitigate any limited biodiversity impacts by off-site works and/or creation of wildlife corridors given scale of development. Site location considerations may require a further biodiversity assessment in certain places.

	Can provide realistic opportunities for open space and green infrastructure links and creation of new space? Provides opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and local landscape character?	**?** Limited opportunity to provide open space and green infrastructure but quality of surrounds and access should mitigate this. All have good opportunity to enhance biodiversity through development. All have potential to mitigate landscape impacts given scale. Further assessment required.
	Able to mitigate against future sea level rises and to future flood risks? It should promote sustainable drainage system use (SuDS).	✓ **?** **Little or no flood risk? :** Caution: a few sites might have rivers within or adjoining them so would be at risk (Zone 2 or above and would require SFRA 2). But this strategy provides more scope to find small sites at lower risk (within Zone 1: lowest risk category)
		✓ **?** **Flood Zone taking a/c of climate change:** Few could be susceptible to flood risk. Most okay. Further SFRA assessment required on potential sites if the strategy is selected.
		✓ **SuDS:** All have a good opportunity to provide SuDS.

G Dispersal Strategy
Focussing on a wide range of small sites. At least 40 sites of 10 to 50 dwellings, distributed amongst the District's parishes

How is this strategy likely to perform against our objectives?

Objective 1: Accessible communities

Likely to deliver housing where families have support networks and want to live and work. Scale of development most unlikely to deliver a fully integrated and complete "package" of infrastructure and services to resolve known problems. Small sites may only have limited scope for health facilities. Although new dwellings may help to support existing rural communities, it may still be necessary for people who live in the smaller areas to travel to access a full range of services including secondary education and shops. Questionable whether this small scale strategy will provide an opportunity to create robust self contained communities in the longer term: would it merely delay the longer term decline of these settlements? Unlikely that the Council will be able to afford to pay for service improvements to support the strategy without other funding sources being available. How will this strategy work with the general trend for greater centralisation and economies of scale, which tend to be preferred by many service providers?

Objective 2: Local economy and jobs

Development of this scale could support diversification of farm businesses and provide an opportunity for greater home working – although our District currently has problems with the availability of broadband in places. Unlikely to address existing housing / employment imbalances. The smaller sites may be less accessible and attractive to businesses, and this strategy might not guarantee the right kinds of premises in the right places… meaning that effectively a separate strategy for employment distribution would be needed, which defeats the goal of sustainable living-working communities to a large extent.

Objective 3: Our district's distinctive qualities

With the scale of development proposed, this Strategy could be accommodated within or adjacent to existing settlements. Subject to high design standards, smaller scale developments may be more comfortably accommodated without harm to the character and distinctiveness of the majority of the District. However, the impact would be spread across the district and felt by many communities and landscapes.

Objective 4: Transport

The aim in this Strategy should be to minimise need to travel rather than giving the opportunity to travel. Encourages greater car dependency with the need to travel to access a full range of services including secondary education and shops.

Objective 5: Climate change

Development would probably involve a mix of Greenfield and Brownfield sites: it is unlikely that enough previously developed land could be found to accommodate all this development in so many locations; some edge-of-village sites might be needed. This strategy offers some potential to secure energy efficiency through design, minimise the amount of waste produced or mitigate against future flood risks, but it is unlikely to provide support for decentralisation of services such as waste treatment. Could support small scale local renewable energy initiatives, but the scale of development may limit such ambitions.

Objective 6: Town centres and rural hinterlands

Supports rural hubs that service rural hinterlands. PPS 7 "Sustainable Development in Rural Areas" allows small scale development at villages to meet business and community needs and to maintain their vitality. However there is a need to consider how much development is necessary to maintain existing service viability: development on this scale might not be enough to provide the boost needed.

Other comments

This strategy poses the greatest potential risk of non-delivery due to site viability considerations. The smaller scale and sporadic nature of this Strategy would provide less certainty to development industry in terms of delivery, as well as public concern about which sites would be developed. Small scale sites are more susceptible to potential non-delivery with tighter margins and less resources to deliver them. This may have implications for adequate infrastructure provision. This strategy runs a significant risk of disappointing in terms of community aspirations and demands.

We would be grateful if you would use the Council's response forms to answer these questions. The response form is reproduced in APPENDIX 1. You are welcome to take a copy or turn to page 7 to find out how you can get hold of printed forms.

If you have internet access, please access these questions through our online consultation portal (www.stroud-consult.limehouse.co.uk) – this will greatly ease our efficiency in processing all the responses. Thank you.

PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION:

QG **What do you think of Strategy Option G?**
Please consider whether you would support this option in very broad terms – you will have the opportunity to tell us which is your preferred strategy later and to comment about the pro's and con's of specific locations.

- Overall, I would broadly support this option
- Overall, I would oppose this option
- I would support this option but with reservations
- I don't feel strongly either way / don't know

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS:
YOU CAN GIVE US SOME MORE DETAIL IF YOU LIKE OR YOU CAN MOVE ON TO THE NEXT OPTION…

Locations:

QG1 Do you **object** to a particular location? Please tell us which one(s) and why.

QG1(a) If the site(s) you object to were not included, would you be more supportive of this overall strategy?

QG2 Do you **support** a particular location? Please tell us which one(s) and why.

Employment:

QG3 Do you think that this Strategy would be a good thing or a bad thing for employment provision in the District? Please tell us why.

- I think the impact would be broadly positive
- I think the impact would be broadly negative

Climate Change:

QG4 Do you think that this Strategy would be a good thing or a bad thing for the District's ability to adapt to climate change and minimise our contribution to it? Please tell us why.

- I think the impact would be broadly positive
- I think the impact would be broadly negative

We will take account of whatever emerges as a result of this consultation and we will continue to refine the alternatives until there is a clear "preferred option". This will be subject to further consultation later in the year. Whilst this document explores seven alternative spatial strategies, the eventual preferred strategy could well be a combination of parts of these alternative options. They are not necessarily mutually exclusive.

Having looked at all the strategy options, tell us whether you have a favourite.

We would be grateful if you would use the Council's response forms to answer these questions. The response form is reproduced in APPENDIX 1. You are welcome to take a copy or turn to page 7 to find out how you can get hold of printed forms.

If you have internet access, please access these questions through our online consultation portal (www.stroud-consult.limehouse.co.uk) – this will greatly ease our efficiency in processing all the responses. Thank you.

PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION:

Q2. **Which of the seven options is your preferred strategy?**
Please select your top three options. Please mark your favourite with a '1', your second favourite with a '2' and your third favourite with a '3'.

- Strategy A: Concentrated Growth Point Strategy
- Strategy B: Concentrated Development Strategy
- Strategy C: Cluster Strategy
- Strategy D: Stroud Valleys Strategy
- Strategy E: Town & Country Combination Strategy
- Strategy F: Rural Communities Strategy
- Strategy G: Dispersal Strategy

THIS IS AN OPTIONAL QUESTION:

Q3. **Employment strategy:**

Given the need to address climate change and reduce out-commuting, what sort of approach should we take to identify and secure employment land throughout the district?
Please consider which of the following you think would be preferable. Please select your top three options. Mark your favourite with a '1', your second favourite with a '2' and your third favourite with a '3'.

- Rely on employment allocations already identified in the Local Plan?
- Rely on protected Key Employment sites already identified in the Local Plan?
- Make better use of existing Local Plan Key Employment sites?
- Provide new employment locations, integral with any proposed strategic housing site?
- Provide new employment locations adjacent to any proposed strategic housing site?
- Seek new employment allocations independent of housing sites?
- Seek new employment allocations at selected settlements? (please name them)

THIS IS AN OPTIONAL QUESTION:

Q4. **Call for employment sites:**

In order to deliver our employment strategy in conjunction with new housing across the district, we need to be aware of as many sites as possible that are potentially suitable for employment uses. If you own or represent a site that you consider **suitable, available** and **deliverable**, please contact us with the following information:

- your contact details
- a map, showing site location and extent
- the site area (hectares)
- site ownership
- current land use
- indicative employment floorspace and proposed use(s)
- It would also be helpful if you can indicate which of the alternative strategies you consider your site would best fit with

Part 3:
Policy Proposals

7. Policy Proposals

7.1   Some of the policies in the Core Strategy will only be drawn up after a preferred strategy option has been selected. However, we are proposing a number of policies that we consider should apply whatever option is taken forward. These have been drawn from a review of national government Planning Policy Statements (PPSs), Regional Spatial Strategy policies and feedback from our earlier consultation on the issues facing the District.

7.2   Preliminary proposals about what policy areas should be covered, and how they might be tackled, are set out below for comment. In addition, we would like your views about whether we have missed anything. Is there any policy or issue that we haven't covered, which you believe should be in place to inform future spatial planning choices in the District?

As you read through this section, have a think about the following:

? *Do these policy proposals successfully address the District's priorities?*

? *And do they offer a realistic means of meeting our obligations and fulfilling our vision for the future?*

What do you think of each of the policy proposals?

Please use the consultation response form or online consultation portal to tell us what you think about each policy proposal (do you broadly support it, oppose it or have reservations about it?), or you can get into a bit more detail about how they might be amended and whether we have missed anything specific.

We would be grateful if you would use the Council's response forms to answer the questions in this section. If you have internet access, please access these questions through our online consultation portal (**www.stroud-consult.limehouse.co.uk**) **– this will greatly ease our efficiency in processing all the responses. Thank you.**

1.   Sustainable Design and Construction

Policy CP1 – District Response to climate change, natural resource use and wider environmental issues

All developments must incorporate features that reduce the consumption of natural resources and help deliver a low carbon, energy neutral and climate change resilient District, unless it can be demonstrated that doing so is not technologically practicable, would make the scheme unviable or impose excessive costs on occupiers. Developments are expected to:-

A)   Achieve the BREEAM "excellent" standard or an equivalent quality assured scheme, with a strong emphasis on energy, water and materials. These requirements will be met through:
(a) Energy and water efficiency,
(b) Sustainable construction materials, and,
(c) Waste reduction.

B) for residential schemes achieve at least Level 4 of the Code for Sustainable home

c)   Achieve carbon neutrality for both regulated and estimated unregulated emissions. This may be met through a combination of (A) and (B) above, with any shortfall being met by financial contributions to enable residual carbon emissions to be offset elsewhere in the District.

Supporting Text

7.3   This is a policy response at the heart of the Stroud LDF to tackle some of the causes and impacts of climate change, natural resource use and wider environmental issues at the local level. Sustainable construction can be defined as creating or renewing buildings so that they reduce or avoid adverse impacts on the built and natural environment. The UK Strategy for more sustainable construction 'Building a Better Quality of Life' (DEFRA 2004) suggests a number of key themes that include designing for minimising waste, efficient construction, minimising energy consumption in construction and use, not polluting, preserving and enhancing biodiversity, conserving water resources, and respecting people. The Council believes that sustainable design and construction standards should be set at a level commensurate with the challenge of climate change, reducing natural resource use and minimising environmental impact.

7.4   PPS1, PPS22, regional planning guidance and recent Government Statements all highlight the importance of setting high environmental design standards for new developments in tackling the causes of climate change, reducing resource use and their impact on the environment. The Council would like to achieve zero carbon and BREEAM Excellent development. A zero carbon development is one that achieves zero net carbon emission from energy use on site, on an annual basis. The government have strongly urged local authorities, through the guidance given in PPS22 to set ambitious policies for the percentage of energy in new developments to come from on-site renewable energy generation. The Government has stated their long-term ambition is to move towards carbon

neutral developments. Any remaining emissions from a development will need to be offset in order to make developments carbon neutral. This will be through a financial contribution and/or off-site renewable energy facilities, energy efficiency schemes and tree planting.

7.5　All developments are encouraged to be zero carbon and meet the BREEAM Excellent standard. To achieve this and provide flexibility for developers this policy relies on a combination of:

(A)　The Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) standard;

(B)　A minimum of 10% carbon reduction target through inclusion of on-site renewable energy technologies within new development.

7.6　The Council's preferred approach is to deliver zero carbon growth through (A) and (B). The Department for Trade and Industry definition of a zero carbon development is one that achieves zero net carbon emissions from energy use on site, on an annual basis. However, developments which cannot meet this objective because of economic viability or technological barriers can:

(C)　Through financial contributions or carbon offsetting from residual carbon emissions deliver carbon neutral developments.

7.7　A carbon neutral development means one with no net additional carbon or carbon dioxide emissions from a building or activity, other than those that are balanced by savings in emissions elsewhere, through carbon offsetting.

7.8　The Building Research Establishments Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) is a flexible and widely recognised quality assured scheme that independently assesses the environmental performance of buildings. It has formed the basis for the Code for Sustainable Homes that the Government has produced and has been adopted and implemented by the Housing Corporation and English Partnerships in many of their developments.

7.9　The BRE administers two environmental rating schemes: Code for Sustainable Homes for residential and BREEAM for non-residential developments. Environmental performance is expressed on a scale of pass to excellent, covering issues such as energy, pollution, health and well-being, water, materials, ecology and management. The BREEAM is used as a policy decision making tool because it covers a wide range of sustainability issues within a simplified score and allows the flexibility for developers to meet the target specified how they want. The Council will expect the achievement of a BREEAM/Code for Sustainable Homes rating to be supported by a commitment to achieve certification under an appropriate scheme at the detailed design stage. Applicants will be expected to use the BREEAM/Code for Sustainable Homes guidance at the earliest opportunity in their design process.

7.10　Stroud District is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of present and future climate change. Flooding is a barrier to growth and we therefore need to mitigate the causes of climate change by making developments energy efficient and zero carbon. The whole life cycle of a building – from construction, through occupation and renovation, to eventual demolition – requires major resource inputs. These include energy, water, timber and aggregates. There is considerable potential to reduce these inputs, reduce their ecological 'footprint' and often reduce costs for developers and occupants.

7.11　**Indicators**

1.　Monitoring of planning applications

7.12 **Delivery**

1. Through development management with the implementation of the policies of this Core Strategy and related LDF documents.
2. Through negotiations with developers and the use of appropriate developer contributions.
3. Through proactive work by the Council's Sustainable Energy and Regeneration projects

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? QUESTION CP1:

What do you think of this policy proposal?

Please use the consultation response form or online consultation portal to select one of the following responses. If you wish, you can also comment on how it could be amended.

- Overall, I would broadly support this policy proposal
- Overall, I would oppose this policy proposal
- I would support this proposal but with reservations
- I don't feel strongly either way / don't know

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2. Vibrant and Inclusive Communities

Policy CP2 a – Vibrant and Inclusive Communities

To ensure that new development contributes to the provision of sustainable and inclusive communities (including the provision of community facilities) to meet identified long term needs, planning permission will be granted for proposals that address the requirements of:

a) An ageing population, particularly in terms of housing, health and wellbeing;

b) Children, young people and families, including the co-ordination of services to meet their needs;

c) People with special needs, including those with a physical, sensory or learning disability or problems accessing services; and

d) The specific identified needs of minority groups in the District.

Proposals will need to demonstrate that:

i) The accommodation proposed is to meet the needs of those with an existing long standing family, educational or employment connection to the area; and

ii) The site is located either within or adjacent to an identified settlement boundary in order to maximise the possibilities for social inclusion and sustainable patterns of living.

Supporting Text

7.13 Communities will only be sustainable where they are fully inclusive and deliver the necessary standards of services and facilities. Proposals for any specific part of the community should take account of relevant legislation. Development proposals should contribute towards meeting the needs of all sections of the community and help to encourage social cohesion. The Council recognises that household size and associated needs varies across social and ethnic groups. The Council recognises that addressing the needs of young people includes those in the care of the County Council due to their vulnerability. Some of the issues in planning for changes in the demography of the District are set out in the evidence base accompanying the LDF. Community facilities include development for health (including preventative social care and community support services), education, play and leisure or culture together with libraries, village/community halls and religious buildings. It also includes burial sites.

7.14 **Indicators**

1. Monitoring of planning applications

7.15 **Delivery**

1. Through the development control process

2. By working closely with agencies providing community facilities such as the Primary Care Trust, NHS Trust and Gloucestershire County Council.

3. By working in partnership with Town and Parish Councils to identify local community needs.

Policy CP2 b – Vibrant and Inclusive Communities

Planning permission for proposals that would result in the loss of sites and premises currently or last used for provision of facilities, services, leisure or cultural activities for the community will only be granted if:

a) An alternative facility to meet local needs is available, or will be provided, at an equally accessible location within the vicinity; or

b) In the case of existing recreational or amenity open space, existing recreational facilities within an area of open space will be significantly enhanced by redevelopment of an appropriate proportion of the whole open space.

Supporting Text

7.16 The loss of community facilities or land allocated for such purposes will be resisted, unless there is no longer a need for the land or building in any form of community use, or there is an acceptable alternative means of meeting such need. Where an applicant is seeking to demonstrate that there is no longer a need for the land or building in any form of community use, they will need to have undertaken a thorough community needs assessment. Further advice on this will be provided in the DPDs

7.17   **Indicators**

Amount of land or buildings currently or previously in community use lost to other uses

7.18   **Delivery**

1. Through the development control process

2. Through involvement in the community planning process to understand local needs

3. By working closely with agencies providing community facilities such as the Primary Care Trust, NHS Trust and Gloucestershire County Council.

7.19   Community facilities are defined as including:

1. Public halls (including Community/ Youth Centres)
2. Church halls
3. Schools
4. Non-residential education and training centres
5. Places of worship
6. Libraries
7. Day nurseries
8. Crèches
9. Health centres
10. Clinics
11. Consulting rooms (including doctor's surgeries and dental practices)
12. Museums, art galleries and exhibition halls
13. Public houses

? QUESTION CP2a:

What do you think of this policy proposal?

Please use the consultation response form or online consultation portal to select one of the following responses. If you wish, you can also comment on how it could be amended.

- Overall, I would broadly support this policy proposal
- Overall, I would oppose this policy proposal
- I would support this proposal but with reservations
- I don't feel strongly either way / don't know

? QUESTION CP2b:

What do you think of this policy proposal?

Please use the consultation response form or online consultation portal to select one of the following responses. If you wish, you can also comment on how it could be amended.

- Overall, I would broadly support this policy proposal
- Overall, I would oppose this policy proposal
- I would support this proposal but with reservations
- I don't feel strongly either way / don't know

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3.   Developing the Right Homes in the Right Place

Policy CP3 – Developing the Right Homes in the Right Place

Provision will be made for at least 9,100 net additional dwellings for the period 1 April 2006 until 31 March 2026. Planning permission should be granted for residential development providing a mix and balance of densities, dwelling types, tenures and sizes. Affordable housing must reflect the sizes and types that meet the proven needs of people who are not able to compete in the general housing market.

Development proposals will be required to demonstrate how they have responded to policy requirements through the submission of Design and Access Statements, clear and informative plans, elevations and street scenes and where required Masterplans, Development Briefs, Concept Statements and Design Codes.

(In the event that overall requirements change as a result of final revisions to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West, or that actual completion rates diverge from expected rates, later phases of development of some of the provision above may be delayed or brought forward according to the circumstances.)

Supporting Text

7.20   Provision will be made for the number of additional dwellings required in the Regional Spatial Strategy. However, we will monitor building rates to ensure the careful release of land. Strategic sites are identified in Policy Individual housing sites will be identified in a separate Site Allocations Development Plan Document.

7.21   **Indicators**

1.   Number of new dwellings built.

2.   Number of homeless people in the district.

7.22   **Delivery**

1.   Through site allocations in the Core Strategy and, if necessary, Site Allocations DPD.

2.   Through the preparation of development briefs.

3.   Working with house builders.

?   QUESTION CP3:

What do you think of this policy proposal?

Please use the consultation response form or online consultation portal to select one of the following responses. If you wish, you can also comment on how it could be amended.

- Overall, I would broadly support this policy proposal
- Overall, I would oppose this policy proposal
- I would support this proposal but with reservations
- I don't feel strongly either way / don't know

4. Affordable Housing

Policy CP4 – Affordable Housing

(Policies to be added here in relation to location can only be added at preferred options stage – refer back to the strategy options section)

Planning permission will be granted for residential development providing a mix and balance of densities, dwelling types, tenures and sizes seamlessly integrated with existing development or proposed mixed-use development. Affordable housing should reflect the sizes and types that meet the proven needs of people who are not able to compete in the general housing market as well as reflecting the dwelling sizes and design in the proposed development.

All residential proposals of at least 4 dwellings (net) or capable of providing 4 dwellings (net) covering a net site area of at least 0.16 ha will provide at least 40% of the net additional units proposed as affordable dwellings, where viable.

The Council will negotiate the tenure, size and type of affordable units on a site by site basis having regard to housing needs, site specifics and other factors.

Supporting Text

7.23   It is important that new residential development meets the identified housing needs in the District. This means providing the right mix of dwelling sizes and tenures, including affordable housing. The Council has already undertaken a Housing Needs Survey in February 2009 and a Housing Market Assessment which highlights the need for affordable housing as well as for market housing. Affordable housing is residential accommodation required for those households who cannot afford to access housing suitable for their needs on the open market. of a suitable size and type. Affordability is expected to worsen over the next 20 years increasing the impetus for a greater supply of affordable housing within the County.

7.24   In summary the housing needs survey and strategic housing market assessment show that:

Annual new housing requirement 2006 -2026   **455**

Annual net need for new affordable housing   **264**

7.25   These figures imply that 58% of all new builds should be affordable. The current economic climate and viability aspects could necessitate a more realistic figure being adopted. Government policy allows authorities to negotiate for a proportion of affordable housing in new developments. The Government allows authorities to make the case for lower thresholds locally. The Council believes that both the very high level of housing need and the limited supply of land for housing, justifies a lower threshold for securing affordable than the expected national standard. There is also scope for higher percentages of affordable housing provision. Therefore in accordance with the Regional Strategy, the Council will require at least 40% of dwellings to be affordable in all housing schemes greater than the thresholds sets out. Other than in exceptional circumstances, affordable housing provision should be made on site. The District Council as housing authority will also support the

purchase of existing homes and making these affordable where appropriate and economic. The Council will also support the buying of land, including compulsory purchase, on which affordable homes could be built.

7.26 **Indicators**

1. Annual number of affordable housing completions.

2. Provision of proportion of affordable housing on qualifying residential schemes.

3. Number of people classed as homeless or in temporary accommodation.

7.27 **Delivery**

1. Through negotiations with house builders.

2. Development Policies Development Plan Document.

3. Through working with Registered Social Landlords, house builders, the South West Regional Housing Body, and other agencies (including looking at the potential of Council build).

QUESTION CP4:

What do you think of this policy proposal?

Please use the consultation response form or online consultation portal to select one of the following responses. If you wish, you can also comment on how it could be amended.

- Overall, I would broadly support this policy proposal
- Overall, I would oppose this policy proposal
- I would support this proposal but with reservations
- I don't feel strongly either way / don't know

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5. Broad Location of New Housing Development

Policy CP5 – Location of New Housing Development

(Policies to be added here in relation to location can only be added at preferred options stage – refer back to the strategy options section)

Residential development proposals will need to:

1. Be built at an appropriate housing density identified through SHLAA where that does not harm the character, appearance or environment of the site or its surroundings or to the amenity of occupiers of nearby properties;

2. Be readily accessible by public transport, bicycle and foot to shopping and

employment opportunities, key services and community facilities or contribute towards provision of new sustainable transport infrastructure to serve the area;

3. Have a layout, access, parking, landscaping and community facilities that are appropriate to the site and its surroundings;

4. Relate to new job opportunities at a ratio of 2 job opportunities per proposed dwelling, preferably available within 2km radius from where the houses are to be provided.

5. Provide for renewable or low carbon energy sources in association with the proposed development; and

6. Enable provision of infrastructure in ways consistent with cutting carbon dioxide emissions and adapting to climate change and its consequences.

Existing employment sites will continue to be safeguarded unless they are allocated for other purposes in the Core Strategy or a future L.D.F. document.

Supporting Text

7.28   Priority has been given to locating development within communities, normally within defined built-up area boundaries, primarily through the reuse of previously-developed land (including the reuse or conversion of existing buildings). Appropriate density assumptions for use in assessing housing potential are likely to be of the order of those set out below. The SHLAA analysis of recent achieved and permitted densities indicates the densities in the District in the table below.

7.29   New development is generally located and designed close to existing transport nodes, particularly public transport routes and interchanges, and convenient links to safe pedestrian and cycle routes. As set out in other proposed Core Policies, developments or land releases will be expected to contribute to community infrastructure, including transport. Limited provision is made for small scale extensions (to be determined) and other smaller towns or villages to meet identified local needs and assist in the evolution of these communities by enabling development that does not fundamentally undermine the qualities which make them or their countryside setting unique and special. Beyond this provision, permission will only exceptionally be granted where additional local, social or economic needs arise or where development would result in substantial environmental enhancement, compatible with the character of the location.

SHLAA Density matrix by accessibility and site type					
Dwellings per hectare	**In Urban Area**	**Edge of Urban Area**	**In smaller town or larger village**	**Edge of smaller town or larger village**	**Small village or rural area**
Within 400m of town centre (Category 1a sites)	100	-	-	-	-
Within 400m of other retail/service centres within Stroud Urban Area (Category 1b sites)	60	50	-	-	-
Within 400m of a high frequency bus stop and bus stop less than 1 mile from retail/service centre OR within 400m of railway station (Category 2 sites)	50	50	45	45	45
More than 400m from a high frequency bus stop and bus stop less than 1 mile from retail/service centre (Category 3 sites)	45	45	40	40	40
Within 400m of a high frequency bus stop and bus stop more than 1 mile from retail/ service centre. (Category 4 sites)	45	45	40	40	30
More than 400m from a high frequency bus stop and bus stop more than 1 mile from retail/service centre. (Category 5 sites)	40	40	30	30	30

7.30 **Indicators**

1. Amount of new development on brownfield sites.

2. Amount of new development within 400 metres of a bus stop.

7.31 **Delivery**

1. Development Control process.

> ## ？ QUESTION CP5:
>
> **What do you think of this policy proposal?**
>
> Please use the consultation response form or online consultation portal to select one of the following responses. If you wish, you can also comment on how it could be amended.
>
> ■ Overall, I would broadly support this policy proposal
> ■ Overall, I would oppose this policy proposal
> ■ I would support this proposal but with reservations
> ■ I don't feel strongly either way / don't know

6. Travellers and Gypsies

7.32 The Council has an identified need for gypsy and traveller sites until 2011in the District from the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment process and the emerging South West Regional Spatial Strategy. ODPM Circular 01/06 highlights the important role played by the LDF in taking account of the need for Gypsy and Traveller sites. The DCLG 2009 Progress Report on Gypsy and Traveller Policy states that "the Core Strategy should set out appropriate criteria for the location of Gypsy and Traveller sites." Core strategies provide greater certainty to local communities, and a clearer picture on how development, including Gypsy and Traveller sites, will be managed. Key criteria for the location of Gypsy and Traveller sites should guide the allocation of sites in any relevant allocations Development Plan Document, as well as directing the consideration of individual planning applications.

Policy CP6 – Gypsy, Travelling Showpeople and Traveller Pitch Requirements

The Council must be satisfied that a need for site provision exists locally and is clearly demonstrated and that the proposal represents an adequate way of meeting this established need set out in the current Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. If the need cannot be met at any existing suitable sites the following location criteria will apply:

- The proposal will not have a significant detrimental impact on neighbouring residential amenity or other land uses;
- The site has safe and satisfactory vehicular and pedestrian access to the surrounding principal highway network
- The site is situated in a suitable location in terms of local amenities and services including schools, shops, health services, libraries and other community facilities; and
- The site will enable vehicle movements, parking and servicing to take place, having regard to the number of pitches/plots and their requirements as well as enabling access for service and emergency vehicles.

Occupation of a site will be restricted to gypsies, travellers or travelling showpeople and may be limited to a temporary period and/or for the benefit of named occupiers.

Supporting Text:

7.33 Government policy indicates that authorities should seek to provide for the housing needs of a range of specific groups including gypsies and travellers. The Housing Act 2004 also requires local authorities to take account of the needs of travelling people and to create strategies to meet those needs. The locational requirements of gypsies are not normally the same as for other forms of residential development. The key test alongside various environmental factors is whether there is a proven need for the site to meet the needs of gypsies residing in or resorting to the area. The immediate need in the District should be met through anticipated planning applications adjoining existing Gypsy and Travelling Showpeople sites. Should a need for further sites be identified longer term, through an updated GTAA study or using a 3% compound growth requirement per annum required by RSS policy GT1 and/or GT2 proposals will be considered for planning permission provided that they comply with this policy: In terms of site provision identification and sustainability, local planning authorities are encouraged to consider locations outside existing settlements, but within a reasonable distance of local services and facilities. Applicants must also comply with other relevant policies, particularly those relating to landscape character, flood risk and design.

7.34 **Indicators**

1. Number of gypsies and travellers on official sites.

2. Number of gypsies and travellers on sites with and without planning permission.

3. Number of gypsies and travellers on roadsides and open land.

7.35 **Delivery**

1. Up to date Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment.

2. Working with partners across the county.

3. Engaging gypsies and travellers in the formulation of policies and allocation of sites.

? QUESTION CP6:

What do you think of this policy proposal?

Please use the consultation response form or online consultation portal to select one of the following responses. If you wish, you can also comment on how it could be amended.

- Overall, I would broadly support this policy proposal
- Overall, I would oppose this policy proposal
- I would support this proposal but with reservations
- I don't feel strongly either way / don't know

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7.   Bringing in the Right Jobs in the Right Places

7.36   The District Council will work with partner organisations to promote prosperity, regeneration and quality of employment opportunity in the area. Strategic provision for new employment land will be set out in the Core Strategy and any other locations will be set out in the Site Allocations Development Plan Document if necessary.

Policy CP7 – New Employment Development

Permission will be granted for industrial or business development, or for the expansion or intensification of existing industrial or business uses, provided that the proposals would:

1.   Be of a type and scale of activity that does not harm the character, appearance or environment of the site or its surroundings or to the amenity of occupiers of nearby properties;

2.   Be readily accessible by public transport, bicycle and foot or contribute towards provision of new sustainable transport infrastructure to serve the area;

3.   Have a layout, access, parking, landscaping and facilities that are appropriate to the site and its surroundings;

4.   Provide for renewable or low carbon energy sources in association with the proposed development; and

5.   Enable provision of infrastructure in ways consistent with cutting carbon dioxide emissions and adapting to changes in climate (including SuDS).

Existing employment sites will be safeguarded unless new proposals are put forward that intensify the employment use of the site, supported by enabling development if necessary. In any event on these sites a minimum of two jobs should be provided in addition to those currently on site for each new dwelling where such mixed uses are proposed.

Supporting Text

7.37   In addressing the employment needs of the district, land that provides for jobs in the business use, general industrial use and storage/distribution use categories (defined in the Use Classes Order 1987 and its subsequent amendments as B1, B2 and B8 uses) respectively together with "Sui Generis" industrial uses is important to the functioning of the District's economy. However, it is recognised that job opportunities are provided through many other activities in the district. For example, tourism, retailing, health care, education and leisure facilities are significant employment generators. It is this wider view of employment that forms the basis for consideration in the proposals relating to economic growth in the emerging Core Strategy.

7.38   Unlike proposed house building, information about jobs and employment floor space required to be provided in Stroud up to 2026 is not specified in the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West. It indicates that provision should be made for around 41,700 jobs across

the Gloucester-Cheltenham Housing Market Area of which Stroud forms a part. However, this is not translated into employment land figures for the Stroud district. Instead emphasis is placed on local reviews of employment land in order to assess local needs in terms of the quantum, type and location of future employment land supply. We completed an *Employment Land Review (ELR)* in 2007 which draws local issues together and suggests an employment led strategy for Stroud. It is important to ensure that any housing growth is coupled with the delivery of significant employment development of the right type to help stem out-commuting.

7.39   In Stroud we aim to provide sustainable economic development policies that have regard to both strategic and local business needs, and aim to facilitate a flexible supply of land moving towards a low carbon economy. There is imbalance between the number of jobs available in the district and the size of the workforce. Fewer jobs are available locally than the number of available workers. Also the type of job generally available does not readily match the broad skills of the workforce. These factors lead to considerable movement of workers out of the district to other places of employment and this in turn increases carbon emissions and traffic congestion.

7.40   The ELR suggests that Stroud needs to attract more knowledge based industries to enable greater employment opportunities for the highly skilled and well qualified workforce. The district already has a reputation for environmental technology and creative media skills that should also be built upon. A range of sites in locations that are accessible to the existing and proposed labour supply should be provided, but with a focus on urban areas in order to reduce longer distance out-commuting from the district. To redress the jobs deficiency in the district and enable all who live here that are available for work the opportunity to find local jobs, a target of providing a minimum of 2 jobs per new dwelling is considered appropriate.

7.41   Stroud is predominantly a rural district however and it is recognised that employment growth will also take place away from traditional business parks and industrial estates – for example through the diversification of the rural economy, and the growth of leisure and tourism and home working. Appropriate proposals to make provision for jobs in these areas will be supported.

7.42   Due to the topography of the district and relatively poor west – east access away from the M5 motorway corridor, it is difficult to find appropriate new land for general industrial and storage or distribution uses (Use classes B2 and B8). Significant areas of employment land were protected from alternative uses in the 2005 Stroud District Local Plan. However, with the national decline in manufacturing particularly impacting on Stroud as an area based on traditional industries, many of these employment areas are relatively run down and need regeneration. Many of them are suitable for a renaissance in new guises. The area requires more jobs and the more intensive use of much of this land for higher density employment development, coupled where appropriate with some residential development, is a potential way forward.

7.43   **Indicators**

1.   Annual amount of business floorspace (gross new floorspace by business use class and;

2.   Net changes to floorspace).

3.   Annual loss of business land to other non-business Uses (total land area lost by B use class and by type of non-business use developed).

4.   Number of jobs.

7.44 **Delivery**

1. Through the Site Allocations Development Plan Document.

2. Through negotiations with developers and the use of appropriate developer contributions.

3. Through proactive work by the Council's Regeneration Team.

4. Through working with key business agencies such as the South West Regional Development Agency, the Learning Skills Council, Chamber of Trade and Commerce and local business organisations.

? QUESTION CP7:

What do you think of this policy proposal?

Please use the consultation response form or online consultation portal to select one of the following responses. If you wish, you can also comment on how it could be amended.

- Overall, I would broadly support this policy proposal
- Overall, I would oppose this policy proposal
- I would support this proposal but with reservations
- I don't feel strongly either way / don't know

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8. High Quality and Sustainable Development

Policy CP8 – High Quality Development

The District Council will work with partner organisations to achieve high quality sustainable development by ensuring that development achieves the following:

1. Sustainable construction techniques, including facilities for the recycling of water and waste, and measures to minimise use of, and/or produce, energy;

2. No unacceptable levels of air, noise, water, light or soil pollution or exposure to unacceptable risk from existing or potential sources of pollution;

3. Adequate water supply, foul drainage and sewage capacity to serve the development and satisfactory provision of other utilities, transport and community infrastructure;

4. No increased risk of flooding, including of the development itself;

5. An appropriate and well-mannered design and appearance, compatible with the surroundings, including the local topography, built environment and heritage

6. No adverse affect on the amenities of neighbouring occupants;

7. Retention of important landscape features, nature conservation interests,

existing trees, hedgerows and other natural features;

8. Contribution to a sense of place both in the buildings and spaces themselves and in the way in which they integrate with their surroundings including appropriate landscaping, open space and amenity space;

9. A design and layout that assists crime prevention and community safety;

10. Efficiency in terms of land use, achieving higher development densities in locations that are more accessible by public transport and other non-car modes;

11. It is not prejudicial to the development of a larger area in a comprehensive manner;

12. Safe, convenient and attractive accesses on foot and by cycle and suitable connections with existing footways, bridleway, cycleways, local facilities and public transport; and

13. It is located near essential services and has good transport links to services by means other than motor car.

Development proposals will be required to demonstrate how they have responded to the above criteria through the submission of Design and Access Statements, clear and informative plans, elevations and street scenes and where required Masterplans, Development Briefs, Concept Statements and Design Codes.

Supporting Text

7.45   Every building and development project in Stroud, whether it is for a new house, office block, car park, retail store, or whatever, will have to be designed and constructed to the highest quality so that it is an asset to the environment in its widest sense. Development in the District will be required to satisfy the quality development checklist set out above in order to ensure that development is sustainable, addresses climate change factors, achieves high standards of design and layout and contributes to a sense of place-making. In transport terms, we seek to reduce the impact of roads and traffic and the policy requires that layouts and design provide convenient access via footways, cycle paths and, wherever possible, public transport to shops and services that provide for everyday needs, reducing the need to travel locally by car.

7.46   **Indicators**

1. Design Awards.

2. Number of proposals which result in clean-up of contaminated sites.

3. Number of development proposals which include flood risk assessment.

4. Number of rivers in the District meeting river quality targets.

5. Number of developments incorporating renewable energy components.

6. Number of developments incorporating water/energy efficient measures.

7. Number of developments built to BREEAM/Ecohome standard.

8. Number of homes built on previously developed land.

7.47   **Delivery**

1.   Site allocations development plan document.

2.   Site development briefs.

3.   The development control process.

4   Village design statements.

5.   Close liaison with key agencies, local communities and businesses.

6.   Appropriate use of the District Council's own land holding and land acquisition powers.

7.   Through comprehensive regeneration projects.

?   QUESTION CP8:

What do you think of this policy proposal?

Please use the consultation response form or online consultation portal to select one of the following responses. If you wish, you can also comment on how it could be amended.

- Overall, I would broadly support this policy proposal
- Overall, I would oppose this policy proposal
- I would support this proposal but with reservations
- I don't feel strongly either way / don't know

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9.   Developers' Contributions and Community Infrastructure

Policy CP9 – Developers' Contributions, Community Facilities and Green Infrastructure

Where implementation of a development would, in the opinion of the District Council, create a need to provide additional or improved infrastructure, amenities or facilities or would exacerbate an existing deficiency in their provision, the developer will be expected to make up that provision. Where the developer is unable to make such provision, the District Council may require the developer to make a proportionate contribution to the overall cost of such provision.

Various types of contribution will be used, including the following:

1. In-kind contributions and financial payments.

2. Phased payments and one-off payments.

3. Maintenance payments.

4. Pooled contributions.

5. A combination of the above.

Supporting Text

7.48   In order to create sustainable communities, we wish to ensure that the necessary infrastructure is put in place to address community needs and ensure that transport improvements take place to address the traffic and travel consequences of new development. Community needs include affordable housing, education, healthcare facilities, leisure activities, community facilities and open space. While Planning has in the past addressed the needs of physical infrastructure ensuring roads sewers and electricity Green Infrastructure (GI) has not been planned for in a co-ordinated manner. GI is defined in the RSS and consists of strategic networks of accessible multifunctional sites (including parks woodland, informal open spaces, nature reserves and historic sites) as well as linkages (such as river corridors and greenways). These contribute to people's well-being and together comprise a coherent managed resource responsive to evolving conditions. In Gloucestershire there is already the AONB in the east of the County which can be considered to fulfil this role, whilst in the east there could be a Strategic Green Infrastructure asset broadly correlating with the wash lands of the river Seven and the tributaries that flow into it. This is under discussion at present within the County and with some Statutory Bodies.

7.49   ### Indicators

1.   Value of contributions to community infrastructure received through S106 planning obligations

2.   Number of schemes resulting in improved community facilities

7.50   ### Delivery

1.   Development policies development plan document.

2.   Site allocations development plan document.

3.   More detailed guidance S106 planning documents.

4.   Site development briefs.

5.   The development control process.

6.   Close liaison with key agencies, local communities and businesses.

7.   Appropriate use of the Council's own land holding and land acquisition powers.

8.   Close and coordinated work with through the local transport plan.

9.   Through comprehensive regeneration projects.

? QUESTION CP9:

What do you think of this policy proposal?

Please use the consultation response form or online consultation portal to select one of the following responses. If you wish, you can also comment on how it could be amended.

- Overall, I would broadly support this policy proposal
- Overall, I would oppose this policy proposal
- I would support this proposal but with reservations
- I don't feel strongly either way / don't know

10.   Maintaining the Quality of Rural Life

Policy CP10a – Maintaining a Quality Living and Working Countryside

In order to protect the separate identity of settlements and the quality of the Stroud District countryside, proposals outside identified settlement boundary limits will not be permitted except where:

1. It contributes to diverse and sustainable farming enterprises within the District, or in the case of other countryside based enterprises and activities, it contributes and/or promotes recreation in, and enjoyment of the countryside; and

2. It does not lead to excessive encroachment or expansion of development away from the original buildings; and

3. It is contained within suitably located buildings which are appropriate for conversion, or in the case of replacement buildings would bring about environmental improvement; or

4. In the case of extensions to dwellings, does not result in inappropriate increases in the scale, form or footprint of the original building;

5. In the case of replacement dwellings the proposal must:

    (i) Bring about environmental improvements; or

    (ii) Not result in inappropriate increases in the scale, form or footprint of the original building.

6. In the case of essential community facilities, they cannot be accommodated within the identified settlement boundary or through the re-use/replacement of an existing building;

7. It provides affordable housing to meet identified rural community needs for those with an existing family or employment connection. Any such development will provide affordable housing in perpetuity and must contribute to the maintenance of sustainable, mixed, inclusive rural communities.

Policy CP10b – Maintaining the Quality of Rural Life

The vitality of rural towns and villages shall be managed by:

1.   Supporting the retention of local community facilities and shops selling basic foods and locally sourced products;

2.   Identifying the opportunities for provision of rural affordable housing schemes where there is a proven need;

3.   Supporting and helping to implement rural transport initiatives that improve accessibility and help to protect rural character;

4.   Facilitating appropriate rural and farm diversification ;

5.   Ensuring that new development respects the special character and sense of place in villages and hamlets;

6.   Protecting the open countryside and in particular the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty from inappropriate development;

7.   Protecting international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity and seeking improvements in biodiversity through new development and other initiatives

8.   Permitting development of new retail floor space to meet local needs within defined settlements.

Supporting Text

7.51   Preventing the proliferation of development in areas away from existing settlement boundary limits is important, as they are not generally well located for the facilities and services their users need. In the Stroud countryside, proposals for additional development outside settlement boundary limits are likely to lead to increased use of the private car as the rural areas are poorly served by other transport modes. Such development would be contrary to national advice. Proposals may be able to address deficiencies in accessibility to services through contributions in line with Policy CP9. The countryside in some locations may be important to avoid the coalescence of towns and villages and to retain their individual character. These areas should be protected to retain visual and physical separation.

7.52   In accordance with national and regional policies, the Council will facilitate and promote sustainable patterns of development and sustainable communities in rural areas. The policies above are intended to sustain, enhance and, where appropriate, revitalise country towns and villages (including through the provision of affordable housing) and for strong, diverse, economic activity, whilst maintaining local character and a high quality environment.

7.53   Proposals for agricultural workers dwellings will need to demonstrate that they comply with these policies and PPS7. Community facilities include development for health (including preventative social care and community support services), cemeteries, education, play and leisure or culture together with libraries, village/community halls, public houses and religious buildings. The Council recognises the role of leisure and recreational activities (that do not require significant buildings) to support small rural communities. To ensure these policies are relevant and effective, we will work with parish and town councils, rural communities and businesses to establish their needs and priorities.

7.54   The role of local centres will be maintained to ensure they provide an appropriate range of facilities and services which serve each town, community or rural hinterland. Development in these centres should not seek to serve residents outside their hinterland or catchments' area, although some centres may also serve passing trade. Local centres and parades should be maintained and protected, in order to ensure all residents in the District have access to a basic range of small shops and services of a local nature.

7.55   **Indicators**

1.   Number and type of rural diversification schemes permitted.

7.56 **Delivery**

1. Development Policies and Site Allocations DPDs

2. Through the development control process

3. Work with the local communities, especially parish councils, and a wide range of agencies such as the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council.

4. Preparation by local communities of parish plans and local design statements and involvement in the grassroots community planning process

5. Through the Cotswold AONB

6. Through close working with national agencies and local agencies and wildlife groups

---

? QUESTION CP10a:

What do you think of this policy proposal?

Please use the consultation response form or online consultation portal to select one of the following responses. If you wish, you can also comment on how it could be amended.

- Overall, I would broadly support this policy proposal
- Overall, I would oppose this policy proposal
- I would support this proposal but with reservations
- I don't feel strongly either way / don't know

? QUESTION CP10b:

What do you think of this policy proposal?

Please use the consultation response form or online consultation portal to select one of the following responses. If you wish, you can also comment on how it could be amended.

- Overall, I would broadly support this policy proposal
- Overall, I would oppose this policy proposal
- I would support this proposal but with reservations
- I don't feel strongly either way / don't know

11. Landscape and Townscape Character

> **Policy CP11 – Maintaining the Quality of the Landscape and Historic Townscapes**
>
> Permission for development should be granted where:
>
> 1. There is little or no adverse effect on the landscape and historic townscape character of the District, including the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, important habitat and biodiversity features, public viewpoints, the settlement pattern and/or local vernacular;
>
> 2. There are measures to ensure that landscape and historic townscape character areas are enhanced

Supporting Text

7.57   Policy CP8 – seeks to achieve high quality sustainable development and CP10b seeks to avoid development in unsustainable locations. This policy complements these to ensure that development can integrate with the character of the area. The provision of public and private amenity space contributes to the character of the built environment in the District. All development can impact on the overall character of the area. Consequently, it is vital that the Council minimises any adverse impacts. Each town, village and hamlet together with the countryside between them has its own unique character and setting. This has been illustrated in Village Design Statements produced in the District. Proposals for development must acknowledge this to ensure that the distinctiveness of different parts of the District is maintained in line with PPS1 (paragraph 13 iv). The Council through the designation of and review of Conservation Areas will recognise the distinctive architectural and historic character of parts of the District. The results of the Stroud District Landscape Character Assessment clearly illustrate that the individual character of the landscape is potentially at risk from a wide range of impacts, ranging from wilful destruction or neglect through to more subtle suburbanising effects. The issues consultation feedback illustrated that there is a clear desire to protect and enhance the landscape of the District.

7.58   **Indicators**

1.   Monitor the number of planning applications allowed in areas of landscape and townscape importance
2.   Number of applications refused on design grounds

7.59   **Delivery**

1.   Development control process
2.   Through site allocations and the use of brownfield sites

? QUESTION CP11:

What do you think of this policy proposal?

Please use the consultation response form or online consultation portal to select one of the following responses. If you wish, you can also comment on how it could be amended.

- Overall, I would broadly support this policy proposal
- Overall, I would oppose this policy proposal
- I would support this proposal but with reservations
- I don't feel strongly either way / don't know

12. Managing Travel Demand and Widening Choice of Transport

Policy CP12 – Demand Management and Sustainable Travel Measures

Planning permission should be granted for schemes that:

a) Provide for a variety of forms of transport as alternatives to the car to allow more sustainable choices;

b) Are located where there are, or will be, at the time of development choices in the mode of transport available and which minimise the distance people need to travel;

c) Improve the existing infrastructure network, including road, rail and public transport, facilities for pedestrians and cyclists, including provision for those with reduced mobility, and other users;

d) Provide appropriate vehicular parking, having regard to car ownership;

e) Mitigate any adverse effects upon the transport network that arise from the development proposed;

f) Enhance road safety; and

g) Do not cause highway problems or lead to traffic related environmental problems.

Development proposals shall be consistent with and contribute to the implementation of the agreed transport strategy set out in the Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan.

Supporting Text

7.60   Whilst the car is, and will continue to be, an important part of the transport strategy, its role has to be set against the following factors:

1. The average trip length to work by car increased by 27% from 11km to 14km (Travel to Work Census Data 2001);

2. A quarter of all car journeys are less than two miles in length (National Travel Survey);

3. All road users represented 92% of modal use (expressed in billion passenger kilometres in UK). Cars, vans and taxis represented 84% of modal use. (Department of Transport, Transport Statistics 2008)

4. Traffic delays cost the country £20bn per year (CBI);

5. Carbon dioxide emissions from road transport in Britain in 2001 were 31 million tonnes (RAC).

7.61   The council's policy remains to seek to reduce the need to travel by locating complementary uses close to each other and seeking the improvement of public transport systems, pedestrian and cycling facilities whilst reducing the impact of the use of vehicular traffic in terms of both congestion and carbon emissions.

7.62   **Indicators**

1. ECC Indicator 18 – changes to peak period traffic flows to urban areas.

2. ECC Indicator 19 – mode share of journeys to school. Increase in proportion of journeys to work by walking, cycling and public transport.

3. ECC indicator 7, reliability of journey times on selected routes, on interurban journeys.

4. ECC indicator 8, reliability of journey times on selected routes, on radial routes into town.

5. ECC indicator 24, change in area wide vehicle km.

7.63   **Delivery**

1. Gloucestershire County Council.

2. Developers.

3. Central Government

QUESTION CP12:

What do you think of this policy proposal?

Please use the consultation response form or online consultation portal to select one of the following responses. If you wish, you can also comment on how it could be amended.

- Overall, I would broadly support this policy proposal
- Overall, I would oppose this policy proposal
- I would support this proposal but with reservations
- I don't feel strongly either way / don't know

13. Cycling and Walking

> **Policy CP13 – Encouraging healthy lifestyles through cycling and walking**
>
> The District Council will support and encourage the enhancement of cycle and footway infrastructure across the District aimed at providing a network of safe walking and cycle routes between and within population centres.
>
> To encourage this, where new development has an impact on the demand for cycle and walking facilities, we propose to seek contributions to secure new provision or the enhancement of existing routes and facilities. Should such facilities be required, we will encourage their development in safe, well-lit areas where there will be an increased sense of safety for all users.

Supporting Text

7.64   The Council's policies seek to achieve a District which people choose to travel in ways that benefit their health and the environment by working with communities and many other organisations. Such an approach can also encourage greater use of public transport in an integrated manner. It is important that the Council reduce the environmental and resource impacts of transport and enable people to choose active modes of travel more often.

7.65   If we are to achieve a significant modal shift towards walking and cycling it is essential that high quality networks are established. These need to be planned from the earliest stages of the development process, thereby avoiding the poor facilities that have sometimes come along as an afterthought.

7.66   The Council will work with other organisations on transport initiatives. For example, TravelSmart initiatives run by Sustrans elsewhere in the Country have succeeded in reducing car use by 10-14% wherever it has operated whilst also increasing levels of walking, cycling and public transport use. It delivers measurable and sustained change by encouraging people to make a few changes to their daily travel choices when and where it suits them best.

7.67   Any cycle and walking infrastructure should be consistent with national advice and cycle infrastructure should be commensurate with use by an unaccompanied twelve year old child in terms of safety and quality.

7.68   **Indicators**

1.   Accessibility of the site to the cycle network, looking for a high quality standard for the network that would successfully pass an audit of Cycle and Walking Review, as set out by Living Streets/Sustrans /Institution of Highways Engineers, or subsequently approved standards.

7.69   **Delivery**

1.   By developer's contributions.
2.   Gloucestershire County Council.

? QUESTION CP13:

What do you think of this policy proposal?

Please use the consultation response form or online consultation portal to select one of the following responses. If you wish, you can also comment on how it could be amended.

- Overall, I would broadly support this policy proposal
- Overall, I would oppose this policy proposal
- I would support this proposal but with reservations
- I don't feel strongly either way / don't know

14. Biodiversity

Policy CP14 – Biodiversity and Geological Conservation

Sites designated as of importance for nature conservation and geological understanding at an international or national level will be conserved and enhanced and inappropriate development will be resisted.

Development:

A) Which may harm county designated sites (Key Wildlife Sites (KWS) & Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) in Gloucestershire), whether directly or indirectly, or

B) Which may harm habitats or species of principle importance in England for nature conservation, veteran trees or features of the landscape that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna (including wildlife and river corridors), whether directly or indirectly, or

C) That compromises the implementation of the national, regional, county biodiversity and geodiversity action plans

will be only permitted if it has been clearly demonstrated that the need for the proposal outweighs the need to safeguard the nature conservation importance, and that no alternative site that would result in less or no harm is available which will meet the need, and:

   i) Mitigation measures can be put in place to prevent damaging impacts; or

   ii) Appropriate compensation measures to offset the scale and kind of losses are provided.

The degree of protection given will be appropriate to the status of the site in terms of its international or national or local importance.

Supporting Text

7.70   The conservation of sites designated as important to nature conservation, habitats or species of principle importance in England for nature conservation (see footnote 8 to PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation) and features of the landscape that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna are essential for the maintenance of the area's biodiversity and the quality of life of the District's residents.

7.71   All developments should take account of the biodiversity and geology interest, and where possible developments should contribute to the enhancement of the District's biodiversity and geological understanding. The Gloucestershire Biodiversity Action Plan highlights targets where proposals can contribute towards their achievement. Information on biodiversity within the District can be obtained from the Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records (GCER). There are currently three Local Geodiversity Action Plans which cover the County available from the Gloucestershire Geology Trust, Geological Records Centre.

7.72   Further details on the level of protection appropriate to habitats or species of principle importance are detailed in PPS9 (including the accompanying Good Practice Guide) and ODPM Circular 06/2005. Where a proposal is likely to have a significant effect upon a protected European or International site, the Council will expect the applicant to supply sufficient information to demonstrate how these impacts will be avoided.

7.73   In the future the boundaries of Key Wildlife Sites will be amended through the considerations of the Gloucestershire Wildlife Sites Partnership. The Gloucestershire Biodiversity Partnership and Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records advise on the boundaries of Key Wildlife Sites including deletions, additions and amendments. Consequently, they may change from those currently defined in the Stroud District Local Plan Proposals Maps under Policy NE3. Where a proposal is likely to have a significant effect upon a European or *Natura 2000* site, the authority will expect the applicant to supply it with sufficient information to demonstrate how these impacts will be avoided.

7.74   The hierarchy of protection afforded to biodiversity interests will be considered. To assist consideration the following examples are given. Where the need for a development that affects a Site of Special Scientific Interest, it will be deemed to outweigh the need to safeguard the nature conservation interest where the development has clear and demonstrable social or economic benefits of national importance. Similarly the need for a development that affects local Key Wildlife Sites, habitats or, species of principal importance in England for nature conservation, ancient woodland, veteran trees or features of the landscape that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna will only be deemed to outweigh the need to safeguard the nature conservation interest where the development has clear and demonstrable social or economic benefits of a regional or national importance..

7.75   ### Indicators

    1.   Performance against National Indicator 197 on Biodiversity.

    2.   Condition of and/or gains or losses of International, National or Local Wildlife Sites in the District.

7.76   ### Delivery

    1.   Development Control process.

2. Implementing in partnership with partner groups, local authorities, organisations and national agencies, the South West Biodiversity Action Plan and the Gloucestershire Biodiversity Action Plan.

3. Appropriate land management of the Council's estate holdings and assets.

4. Through the Cotswold AONB Conservation Board work.

? **QUESTION CP14:**

What do you think of this policy proposal?

Please use the consultation response form or online consultation portal to select one of the following responses. If you wish, you can also comment on how it could be amended.

- Overall, I would broadly support this policy proposal
- Overall, I would oppose this policy proposal
- I would support this proposal but with reservations
- I don't feel strongly either way / don't know

Have we covered all the issues?

7.77 Whichever policies ultimately end up being included in the Core Strategy, and whatever form the finally take, they will be quite high level and 'strategic'. The idea of the Local Development Framework is that the Core Strategy sits at the heart of a network of planning policy documents. It will set the overall direction of future growth and development in the District, while a range of supporting documents ('Development Plan Documents' and 'Supplementary Planning Documents') will add detail to the strategic policies. In the future, there might be documents dedicated to topics such as landscape and biodiversity, area action plans, design guidance or developer contributions for example. So we still have plenty of scope to address a wide range of detailed policy issues and specific matters of implementation outside of the Core Strategy.

7.78 But can you think of anything 'strategic' that we have missed? Are the policy topics covered here the right ones?

? **THIS QUESTION IS OPTIONAL:**

Q5. **Have we missed anything?**

Please use the consultation response form or online consultation portal to tell us if you think there is an important strategic matter that is not covered by any of these policy proposals.

Part 4: Appendices

1. Consultation Questions and Response Form

This appendix sets out all the questions that are posed throughout the consultation document. There are two ways that you can get your responses to us:

1. Using our consultation portal:

If you have internet access, you can access the questions online and submit your comments to us directly without having to fill in a response form – which will help us to save paper and save time.

[go to **www.stroud.gov.uk/core** and follow the links to our consultation portal]

2. Using paper forms:

- You can print out consultation response forms from our website or take a photocopy from this APPENDIX.

- If you are unable to print out a form from our website or take a photocopy, please phone 01453 754143 or email your details to core@stroud.gov.uk and we can send you a copy in the post. Copies may be available from public libraries across the district and town and parish council offices that open to the public. You can also pick up forms at our exhibition roadshows (see APPENDIX 6 for dates and venues).

- Please return your completed form to the following address by the end of the day on **Monday 22nd March 2010**.

Core Strategy
Stroud District Council
Ebley Mill
Westward Road
Stroud
Glos.
GL5 4UB

If you choose to attach any separate sheets of comments, please make sure that each comment is clearly referenced to the question you are answering. Thank you.

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL
www.stroud.gov.uk

Your district
Your future

Your details

Thank you for taking part. Please fill out this page with your personal information. Your details won't be used for any purpose other than this consultation, and to help us keep you up to date with progress if you want us to. Please note we will not process anonymous responses.

Would you like to be kept informed and notified about future stages of consultation?

[Please tick one of the boxes below. You can contact us and get yourself added or removed from our contact list at any point if you change your mind]

Yes please ➢ ☐

No thank you ➢ ☐

Your name

Title ☐   name ☐

Company name or organisation (if relevant): ☐

Your address   [this information will not be made public]

Postcode ☐

Please help us to save paper and save time. We would like to be able to keep in touch via email wherever possible.

Your email address ☐
Your phone number ☐

About you   [this information will not be made public]
Are you male ➢ ☐   Aged under 18 ➢ ☐
Or female ➢ ☐   18 – 29 ➢ ☐
                          30 – 49 ➢ ☐
Ethnic group   50 – 65 ➢ ☐
Do you consider yourself to be…   Over 65 ➢ ☐

White British ☐
White other ☐   **Disability**
Black or Black British ☐   I consider myself to be disabled
Asian or Asian British ☐
Mixed ethnicity ☐   Yes ➢ ☐
Romany Gypsy ☐
Other ☐   No ➢ ☐

Consultation Response Form **page 1**

Core Strategy Consultation response form:
Alternative Strategies for shaping the future of Stroud District

Please complete and return this form by Monday 22nd March 2010

Core Strategy, Stroud District Council, Ebley Mill, Westward Road, Stroud, Glos. GL5 4UB

email   core@stroud.gov.uk

phone   01453 754092 for additional copies of this form
              01453 754143 for other core strategy queries or large print, foreign language or Braille versions of the consultation documents

Find more information or answer these questions online at
www.stroud.gov.uk/core

Strategy Option A

QA. PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION:

What do you think of Strategy Option A?

Please consider whether you would support this option in very broad terms – you will have the opportunity to tell us which is your preferred strategy later and to comment about the pros and cons of specific locations.

Overall, I would broadly support this option

Overall, I would oppose this option

I would support this option but with reservations

I don't feel strongly either way / don't know

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE OPTIONAL:
YOU CAN GIVE US SOME MORE DETAIL IF YOU LIKE OR YOU CAN MOVE ON TO THE NEXT STRATEGY…

Locations:

QA1. Do you **object** to a particular location? Please tell us which one(s) and why (you can use the reverse of this sheet to add more detail or attach a separate sheet if you wish)

If you responded to Question QA (top of this page) with either "OPPOSE" or "SUPPORT WITH RESERVATIONS", please answer the following question. Otherwise, please move on to QB2.

QA1(a). If the site(s) you object to were not included, would you be more supportive of this overall strategy?

No, I would still feel the same about it overall

Yes, I would broadly support this option

Yes, I would support this option more but I would still have some other reservations

Locations:

QA2. Do you **support** to a particular location? Please tell us which one(s) and why (you can use the reverse of this sheet to add more detail or attach a separate sheet if you wish)

Employment:

QA3. Do you think that this Strategy would be a good thing or a bad thing for employment provision in the District?

I think the impact would be broadly positive

I think the impact would be broadly negative

Please tell us why:

Climate Change:

QA4. Do you think that this Strategy would be a good thing or a bad thing for the District's ability to adapt to climate change and minimise our contribution to it?

I think the impact would be broadly positive

I think the impact would be broadly negative

Please tell us why:

Strategy Option B

QB. PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION:

What do you think of Strategy Option B?

Please consider whether you would support this option in very broad terms – you will have the opportunity to tell us which is your preferred strategy later and to comment about the pros and cons of specific locations.

Overall, I would broadly support this option

Overall, I would oppose this option

I would support this option but with reservations

I don't feel strongly either way / don't know

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE OPTIONAL:
YOU CAN GIVE US SOME MORE DETAIL IF YOU LIKE OR YOU CAN MOVE ON TO THE NEXT STRATEGY…

Locations:

QB1. Do you **object** to a particular location? Please tell us which one(s) and why (you can use the reverse of this sheet to add more detail or attach a separate sheet if you wish)

If you responded to Question QB (top of this page) with either "OPPOSE" or "SUPPORT WITH RESERVATIONS", please answer the following question. Otherwise, please move on to QB2.

QB1(a). If the site(s) you object to were not included, would you be more supportive of this overall strategy?

No, I would still feel the same about it overall

Yes, I would broadly support this option

Yes, I would support this option more but I would still have some other reservations

Locations:

QB2. Do you **support** to a particular location? Please tell us which one(s) and why (you can use the reverse of this sheet to add more detail or attach a separate sheet if you wish)

Employment:

QB3. Do you think that this Strategy would be a good thing or a bad thing for employment provision in the District?

I think the impact would be broadly positive

I think the impact would be broadly negative

Please tell us why:

Climate Change:

QB4. Do you think that this Strategy would be a good thing or a bad thing for the District's ability to adapt to climate change and minimise our contribution to it?

I think the impact would be broadly positive

I think the impact would be broadly negative

Please tell us why:

Strategy Option C

QC. PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION:

What do you think of Strategy Option C?

Please consider whether you would support this option in very broad terms – you will have the opportunity to tell us which is your preferred strategy later and to comment about the pros and cons of specific locations.

Overall, I would broadly support this option

Overall, I would oppose this option

I would support this option but with reservations

I don't feel strongly either way / don't know

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE OPTIONAL:
YOU CAN GIVE US SOME MORE DETAIL IF YOU LIKE OR YOU CAN MOVE ON TO THE NEXT STRATEGY…

Locations:

QC1. Do you **object** to a particular location? Please tell us which one(s) and why (you can use the reverse of this sheet to add more detail or attach a separate sheet if you wish)

If you responded to Question QC (top of this page) with either "OPPOSE" or "SUPPORT WITH RESERVATIONS", please answer the following question. Otherwise, please move on to QC2.

QC1(a). If the site(s) you object to were not included, would you be more supportive of this overall strategy?

No, I would still feel the same about it overall

Yes, I would broadly support this option

Yes, I would support this option more but I would still have some other reservations

Locations:

QC2. Do you **support** to a particular location? Please tell us which one(s) and why (you can use the reverse of this sheet to add more detail or attach a separate sheet if you wish)

Employment:

QC3. Do you think that this Strategy would be a good thing or a bad thing for employment provision in the District?

I think the impact would be broadly positive

I think the impact would be broadly negative

Please tell us why:

Climate Change:

QC4. Do you think that this Strategy would be a good thing or a bad thing for the District's ability to adapt to climate change and minimise our contribution to it?

I think the impact would be broadly positive

I think the impact would be broadly negative

Please tell us why:

Strategy Option D

QD. PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION:

What do you think of Strategy Option D?

Please consider whether you would support this option in very broad terms – you will have the opportunity to tell us which is your preferred strategy later and to comment about the pros and cons of specific locations.

Overall, I would broadly support this option ☐

Overall, I would oppose this option ☐

I would support this option but with reservations ☐

I don't feel strongly either way / don't know ☐

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE OPTIONAL:
YOU CAN GIVE US SOME MORE DETAIL IF YOU LIKE OR YOU CAN MOVE ON TO THE NEXT STRATEGY…

Locations:

QA1. Do you **object** to a particular location? Please tell us which one(s) and why (you can use the reverse of this sheet to add more detail or attach a separate sheet if you wish)

If you responded to Question QD (top of this page) with either "OPPOSE" or "SUPPORT WITH RESERVATIONS", please answer the following question. Otherwise, please move on to QD2.

QD1(a). If the site(s) you object to were not included, would you be more supportive of this overall strategy?

No, I would still feel the same about it overall ☐

Yes, I would broadly support this option ☐

Yes, I would support this option more but I would still have some other reservations ☐

Locations:

QD2. Do you **support** to a particular location? Please tell us which one(s) and why (you can use the reverse of this sheet to add more detail or attach a separate sheet if you wish)

Employment:

QD3. Do you think that this Strategy would be a good thing or a bad thing for employment provision in the District?

I think the impact would be broadly positive ☐

I think the impact would be broadly negative ☐

Please tell us why:

Climate Change:

QD4. Do you think that this Strategy would be a good thing or a bad thing for the District's ability to adapt to climate change and minimise our contribution to it?

I think the impact would be broadly positive ☐

I think the impact would be broadly negative ☐

Please tell us why:

Strategy Option E

QE. PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION:

What do you think of Strategy Option E?

Please consider whether you would support this option in very broad terms – you will have the opportunity to tell us which is your preferred strategy later and to comment about the pros and cons of specific locations.

Overall, I would broadly support this option

Overall, I would oppose this option

I would support this option but with reservations

I don't feel strongly either way / don't know

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE OPTIONAL:
YOU CAN GIVE US SOME MORE DETAIL IF YOU LIKE OR YOU CAN MOVE ON TO THE NEXT STRATEGY…

Locations:

QE1. Do you **object** to a particular location? Please tell us which one(s) and why (you can use the reverse of this sheet to add more detail or attach a separate sheet if you wish)

If you responded to Question QE (top of this page) with either "OPPOSE" or "SUPPORT WITH RESERVATIONS", please answer the following question. Otherwise, please move on to QE2.

QE1(a). If the site(s) you object to were not included, would you be more supportive of this overall strategy?

No, I would still feel the same about it overall

Yes, I would broadly support this option

Yes, I would support this option more but I would still have some other reservations

Locations:

QE2. Do you **support** to a particular location? Please tell us which one(s) and why (you can use the reverse of this sheet to add more detail or attach a separate sheet if you wish)

Employment:

QE3. Do you think that this Strategy would be a good thing or a bad thing for employment provision in the District?

I think the impact would be broadly positive

I think the impact would be broadly negative

Please tell us why:

Climate Change:

QE4. Do you think that this Strategy would be a good thing or a bad thing for the District's ability to adapt to climate change and minimise our contribution to it?

I think the impact would be broadly positive

I think the impact would be broadly negative

Please tell us why:

Strategy Option F

QF. PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION:

What do you think of Strategy Option F?

Please consider whether you would support this option in very broad terms – you will have the opportunity to tell us which is your preferred strategy later and to comment about the pros and cons of specific locations.

Overall, I would broadly support this option

Overall, I would oppose this option

I would support this option but with reservations

I don't feel strongly either way / don't know

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE OPTIONAL:
YOU CAN GIVE US SOME MORE DETAIL IF YOU LIKE OR YOU CAN MOVE ON TO THE NEXT STRATEGY…

Locations:

QF1. Do you **object** to a particular location? Please tell us which one(s) and why (you can use the reverse of this sheet to add more detail or attach a separate sheet if you wish)

If you responded to Question QF (top of this page) with either "OPPOSE" or "SUPPORT WITH RESERVATIONS", please answer the following question. Otherwise, please move on to QF2.

QF1(a). If the site(s) you object to were not included, would you be more supportive of this overall strategy?

No, I would still feel the same about it overall

Yes, I would broadly support this option

Yes, I would support this option more but I would still have some other reservations

Locations:

QF2. Do you **support** to a particular location? Please tell us which one(s) and why (you can use the reverse of this sheet to add more detail or attach a separate sheet if you wish)

Employment:

QF3. Do you think that this Strategy would be a good thing or a bad thing for employment provision in the District?

I think the impact would be broadly positive

I think the impact would be broadly negative

Please tell us why:

Climate Change:

QF4. Do you think that this Strategy would be a good thing or a bad thing for the District's ability to adapt to climate change and minimise our contribution to it?

I think the impact would be broadly positive

I think the impact would be broadly negative

Please tell us why:

Strategy Option G

QG. PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION:

What do you think of Strategy Option G?

Please consider whether you would support this option in very broad terms – you will have the opportunity to tell us which is your preferred strategy later and to comment about the pros and cons of specific locations.

Overall, I would broadly support this option ☐

Overall, I would oppose this option ☐

I would support this option but with reservations ☐

I don't feel strongly either way / don't know ☐

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE OPTIONAL:
YOU CAN GIVE US SOME MORE DETAIL IF YOU LIKE OR YOU CAN MOVE ON TO THE NEXT SECTION…

Locations:

QG1. Do you **object** to a particular location? Please tell us which one(s) and why (you can use the reverse of this sheet to add more detail or attach a separate sheet if you wish)

[ ]

If you responded to Question QG (top of this page) with either "OPPOSE" or "SUPPORT WITH RESERVATIONS", please answer the following question. Otherwise, please move on to QG2.

QG1(a). If the site(s) you object to were not included, would you be more supportive of this overall strategy?

No, I would still feel the same about it overall ☐

Yes, I would broadly support this option ☐

Yes, I would support this option more but I would still have some other reservations ☐

Locations:

QG2. Do you **support** to a particular location? Please tell us which one(s) and why (you can use the reverse of this sheet to add more detail or attach a separate sheet if you wish)

[ ]

Employment:

QG3. Do you think that this Strategy would be a good thing or a bad thing for employment provision in the District?

I think the impact would be broadly positive ☐

I think the impact would be broadly negative ☐

Please tell us why:

[ ]

Climate Change:

QG4. Do you think that this Strategy would be a good thing or a bad thing for the District's ability to adapt to climate change and minimise our contribution to it?

I think the impact would be broadly positive ☐

I think the impact would be broadly negative ☐

Please tell us why:

[ ]

A Vision for Stroud District to 2026

Q1. THIS IS AN OPTIONAL QUESTION:

What do you think of the vision set out in Chapter 4?

Please consider whether you would support this vision by selecting one of these responses:
(if you want to comment on possible amendments, please attach a separate sheet)

Overall, I would broadly support this vision

Overall, I would oppose this vision

I would support this vision but with reservations

I don't feel strongly either way / don't know

The seven Strategy Options

Q2. PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION:

Which of the seven options is your preferred strategy?

Having looked at all the strategy options, please tell us whether you have a favourite.
Please select your top three options: mark your favourite with a '1', your second favourite with a '2' and your third favourite with a '3'.

Strategy A: Concentrated Growth Point Strategy

Strategy B: Concentrated Development Strategy

Strategy C: Cluster Strategy

Strategy D: Stroud Valleys Strategy

Strategy E: Town & Country Combination Strategy

Strategy F: Rural Communities Strategy

Strategy G: Dispersal Strategy

Employment Strategy

Q3. THIS IS AN OPTIONAL QUESTION:

Given the need to address climate change and reduce out-commuting, what sort of approach should the Council take to identify and secure employment land throughout the district?

Please consider which of the following you think would be preferable. Please select your top three options: mark your favourite with a '1', your second favourite with a '2' and your third favourite with a '3' :

Rely on employment allocations already identified in the Local Plan?

Rely on protected Key Employment sites already identified in the Local Plan?

Make better use of existing Local Plan Key Employment sites?

Provide new employment locations integral with any proposed strategic housing sites?

Provide new employment locations adjacent to any proposed strategic housing site?

Seek new employment allocations independent of housing sites?

Seek new employment allocations at selected settlements

Please name them here:

Q4. CALL FOR EMPLOYMENT SITES:

Please tick here if you have attached site details with this form

In order to deliver our employment strategy in conjunction with new housing across the district, we need to be aware of as many sites as possible that are potentially suitable for employment uses. If you own or represent a site that you consider **suitable, available** and **deliverable**, please contact us with this information:
1. your contact details; 2. a map showing site location and extent; 3. the site area (in hectares); 4. site ownership; 5. current land use; 6. indicative floorspace and proposed use(s); 7. if possible, an indication which of the alternative strategies you consider the site would best fit in with.

Proposed policies

Q5. THIS IS AN OPTIONAL QUESTION:

Have we missed anything from our policy proposals?

Are the policy topics covered in draft policies CP1-CP15 the right ones? Please tell us if you think there is an important strategic matter that is not covered by any of them. (if there is not sufficient space here to comment on possible amendments, please attach a separate sheet)

Proposed policies

QUESTION CP1.   **RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE, NATURAL RESOURCE USE AND WIDER ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

What do you think of this policy proposal?

I would support it ☐   **I would oppose it** ☐

I would support it but with reservations ☐   **I don't feel strongly either way / don't know** ☐

If you would like to comment on how it could be improved, please attach a separate sheet.

QUESTION CP2a.   **VIBRANT AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES**

What do you think of this policy proposal?

I would support it ☐   **I would oppose it** ☐

I would support it but with reservations ☐   **I don't feel strongly either way / don't know** ☐

If you would like to comment on how it could be improved, please attach a separate sheet.

QUESTION CP2b.   **VIBRANT AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES**

What do you think of this policy proposal?

I would support it ☐   **I would oppose it** ☐

I would support it but with reservations ☐   **I don't feel strongly either way / don't know** ☐

If you would like to comment on how it could be improved, please attach a separate sheet.

Proposed policies

QUESTION CP3.

DEVELOPING THE RIGHT HOMES IN THE RIGHT PLACES

What do you think of this policy proposal?

I would support it ☐   **I would oppose it** ☐

I would support it but with reservations ☐   **I don't feel strongly either way / don't know** ☐

If you would like to comment on how it could be improved, please attach a separate sheet.

QUESTION CP4.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

What do you think of this policy proposal?

I would support it ☐   **I would oppose it** ☐

I would support it but with reservations ☐   **I don't feel strongly either way / don't know** ☐

If you would like to comment on how it could be improved, please attach a separate sheet.

QUESTION CP5.

LOCATION OF NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

What do you think of this policy proposal?

I would support it ☐   **I would oppose it** ☐

I would support it but with reservations ☐   **I don't feel strongly either way / don't know** ☐

If you would like to comment on how it could be improved, please attach a separate sheet.

Proposed policies

QUESTION CP6.

GYPSY, TRAVELLING SHOWPEOPLE AND TRAVELLER PITCH REQUIREMENTS

What do you think of this policy proposal?

I would support it ☐   **I would oppose it** ☐

I would support it but with reservations ☐   **I don't feel strongly either way / don't know** ☐

If you would like to comment on how it could be improved, please attach a separate sheet.

QUESTION CP7.

NEW EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT

What do you think of this policy proposal?

I would support it ☐   **I would oppose it** ☐

I would support it but with reservations ☐   **I don't feel strongly either way / don't know** ☐

If you would like to comment on how it could be improved, please attach a separate sheet.

QUESTION CP8.

HIGH QUALITY DEVELOPMENT

What do you think of this policy proposal?

I would support it ☐   **I would oppose it** ☐

I would support it but with reservations ☐   **I don't feel strongly either way / don't know** ☐

If you would like to comment on how it could be improved, please attach a separate sheet.

Proposed policies

QUESTION CP9.
DEVELOPERS' CONTRIBUTIONS AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

What do you think of this policy proposal?

I would support it ☐   I would oppose it ☐

I would support it but with reservations ☐   I don't feel strongly either way / don't know ☐

If you would like to comment on how it could be improved, please attach a separate sheet.

QUESTION CP10a.
MAINTAINING A QUALITY LIVING AND WORKING COUNTRYSIDE

What do you think of this policy proposal?

I would support it ☐   I would oppose it ☐

I would support it but with reservations ☐   I don't feel strongly either way / don't know ☐

If you would like to comment on how it could be improved, please attach a separate sheet.

QUESTION CP10b.
MAINTAING THE QUALITY OF RURAL LIFE

What do you think of this policy proposal?

I would support it ☐   I would oppose it ☐

I would support it but with reservations ☐   I don't feel strongly either way / don't know ☐

If you would like to comment on how it could be improved, please attach a separate sheet.

Proposed policies

QUESTION CP11.
MAINTAING THE QUALITY OF THE LANDSCAPE AND HISTROCI TOWNSCAPES

What do you think of this policy proposal?

I would support it ☐   I would oppose it ☐

I would support it but with reservations ☐   I don't feel strongly either way / don't know ☐

If you would like to comment on how it could be improved, please attach a separate sheet.

QUESTION CP12.
TRAVEL DEMAND MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL MEASURES

What do you think of this policy proposal?

I would support it ☐   I would oppose it ☐

I would support it but with reservations ☐   I don't feel strongly either way / don't know ☐

If you would like to comment on how it could be improved, please attach a separate sheet.

QUESTION CP13.
ENCOURAGING HEALTHY LIFESTYLES THROUGH CYCLING AND WALKING

What do you think of this policy proposal?

I would support it ☐   I would oppose it ☐

I would support it but with reservations ☐   I don't feel strongly either way / don't know ☐

If you would like to comment on how it could be improved, please attach a separate sheet.

Proposed policies

QUESTION CP14.   BIODIVERSITY AND GEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION

What do you think of this policy proposal?

I would support it ☐   **I would oppose it** ☐

I would support it but with reservations ☐   **I don't feel strongly either way / don't know** ☐

If you would like to comment on how it could be improved, please attach a separate sheet.

Parish Clusters

Q6. PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION:

Do you live or work in Stroud District? Please tell us which of the parish clusters you are principally based in:

Berkeley cluster ☐   **Stroud Valleys** ☐

Cam/Dursley cluster ☐   **Stonehouse cluster** ☐

Cotswold ☐   **Wotton cluster** ☐

Gloucester Fringe ☐   **I am based outside the District** ☐

Severn Voice ☐

Please have a look at the map (right), which shows how the parishes have been grouped for consultation purposes. We are hoping that this clustering of parishes will help us to build up a picture of the sorts of issues and options that most concern or appeal to communities in different parts of the district. It would be very helpful if you would tick whichever location you most strongly identify yourself with (whether that is where you live or where you work).

Thank you for taking part…

Please make sure you fill in your personal details before you return your form: we will not be processing anonymous responses.

All consultation responses will be published on our online consultation portal once processed. ONLY YOUR NAME, YOUR COMPANY NAME/ORGANISATION (IF RELEVANT) AND YOUR PARISH CLUSTER WILL BE MADE PUBLIC alongside your answers.

If you choose to attach any separate sheets with written comments, please ensure that each comment is clearly numbered/referenced to the question you are answering.

Gloucester Fringe

Hardwicke, Haresfield, Harescombe, Brookthorpe-with-Whaddon, Upton St Leonards

Stonehouse Cluster

Stonehouse, Standish, Eastington, Frocester, Leonard Stanley, Kings Stanley

Severn Voice

Arlingham, Fretherne with Saul, Frampton on Severn, Whitminster, Moreton Valence, Longney, Elmore

Cotswold

Painswick, Bisley-with-Lypiatt, Miserden, Cranham, Pitchcombe

Stroud Valleys

Stroud, Whiteshill & Ruscombe, Randwick, Cainscross, Rodborough, Brimscombe & Thrupp, Chalford, Minchinhampton, Woodchester, Nailsworth, Horsley

Berkeley Cluster

Berkeley, Ham & Stone, Alkington, Hamfallow, Hinton, Slimbridge

Cam / Dursley Cluster

Dursley, Cam, Coaley, Stinchcombe, Uley, Nympsfield, Owlpen

Wotton Cluster

Wotton-under-Edge, North Nibley, Kingswood, Alderley, Hillesley & Tresham

2. Evidence base and background papers

A2.1   We have been collecting facts and figures and gathering opinions over a long period of time, and we will continue to do so over the next year. This is what is known as the "evidence base": it's what helps us to identify the district's current and future needs, as well as obligations (like having to provide a certain number of new homes over a particular period).

A2.2   The Council has published a series of background papers to accompany the Alternative Strategies consultation. These cover a range of issues and provide more technical or detailed information than is contained in the consultation document itself. They also provide links to the various published sources of evidence on which the development of the housing and employment options has been based.

A2.3   These background papers can be downloaded from the Council's website or are available from the Council in hard copy at a charge to cover photo copying and postage/packing.

A2.4   They are also available at public libraries throughout the District, as well as town and parish council offices that open to the public, the Tourist Information Centre at the Stroud Subscription Rooms and the customer service centre at the Council Offices, Ebley Mill.

A2.5   These documents are intended principally as background information to support the main Alternative Strategies consultation document; they do not form part of the consultation as such. However, should you wish to make comments on the contents of this document, please write to the Planning Strategy team or email core@stroud.gov.uk

The papers are listed in table A.2.1 below.

District Profile: a Portrait of Stroud District
This Profile has been compiled to provide a factual and statistical background to Stroud District and contains key social, economic and demographic data for the administrative area.
Stroud District and Climate Change
Key issues and impacts of climate change in relation to Stroud District.
Housing Land Availability
This report sets out the assessment of the housing land supply position within the District.
Employment and Economic Growth in Stroud District
This report sets out the policy context for economic growth and employment, statistics and an assessment of the economy relating to the District.
Alternative Strategies consultation: how we developed the seven Strategy Options
This paper provides detail about the development of the 8 housing options contained within the Alternative Strategies Consultation.
Summary Guide to our Evidence Studies
This document provides a brief summary of a number of background studies that have been undertaken to inform and provide the evidence base for the Core Strategy. (e.g. SHMA, HNS, SHLAA, Employment Study, Retail and Town centres Study, SFRA, Open Spaces)
Infrastructure Position Statement
This document provides an audit of position summaries for the principal infrastructure providers serving Stroud District.
Summary of townscape analysis and urban design strategies
This document provides a summary guide to the visioning and design framework documents that have been undertaken for Stroud, Dursley, Nailsworth, Stonehouse and Berkeley.
Rural Settlement Classification
This paper explains the methodology used to classify rural settlements and used to inform Housing and Employment Options in the Alternative Strategies Consultation.
Preliminary Habitat Regulations Screening
Draft screening of the Core Strategy under the provisions of the Habitat Regulations.
Issues consultation report (Summary of responses to the Key Issues Consultation (spring 2009)
Findings from our key issues consultation (Spring 2009)
Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment
Assessment carried out on the District's Council's 'Alternative Strategies' stage of the Core Strategy preparation.

Table A.2.1: list of evidence base background papers published alongside the Alternative Strategies

3. The New Planning System Explained

A.3.1 The Council agreed a Local Plan for Stroud in 2005. It sets out policies to promote new uses on particular sites, and to guide new development. However, Government legislation in 2004 means it will need to be replaced with a new-style planning system, the Local Development Framework. The saved policies of the Local Plan will still be used to determine planning applications and inform other council decisions which relate to land–use planning until documents in the new Local Development Framework are in place. The main differences between the old and the new system are set out below.

a) Greater scope, covering more aspects of the way we live

Stroud's Local Development Framework will cover a broader range of issues than the Local Plan, including all spatial issues. These are matters that involve the use of land and the movement of people and access to opportunities. It is not limited to things that are controlled by the District Council, so working with partners and other agencies will be vital. There is also more emphasis on planning and developing in a sustainable way. Sustainable development is about meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs. It is based on four principles:
(i) Addressing community needs;
(ii) Creating quality places;
(iii) Using natural resources carefully; and
(iv) Maintaining a prosperous economy.

All documents in the framework must have a Sustainability Appraisal (as set out in Government and European legislation) to ensure that sustainable development underpins all that we trying to achieve. We have prepared a scoping report setting out the sustainability objectives for appraising proposals and baseline information and issues and our working Sustainability Appraisal assesses the policies and options against the sustainability objectives. This has helped to inform the preparation of this draft Core Strategy. The Sustainability Appraisal will become more detailed as we do more work on the strategy.

b) More public involvement

There is now more public consultation throughout the process. We will be consulting on different parts of the Framework over the next few years and we will explain the purpose and relationship of these different documents so that you can respond to the right consultation at the right time. This paper is the second stage in the production of the core strategy. In the first stage, we asked people about the important issues. The responses have helped us draw up the alternative strategies. There will be another stage when we will be asking for comments, but the closer we get to the final Core Strategy, the less we will be able to change things.

c) Loose-leaf format

Instead of being produced in one document, the Framework will consist of a folder of different documents. This will make it easier to keep things up-to-date. We have set out more information in our Local Development Scheme on the Council's website, at www.stroud.gov.uk. The main policies will be contained in documents known as Development Plan Documents. The first of these was our Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) which sets out how the Council will involve the community in preparing plans. The second of these is this Core Strategy. We have also prepared Supplementary Planning Documents on affordable housing and management proposals for the Industrial heritage Conservation Area

A.3.2 We need to make good progress on the Core Strategy before pressing on with other documents that deal with sites for housing, employment and other land uses and policies that will be used when making decisions about planning applications.

4. The Issues explained

A.4.1   Chapter 4 in Part 1 of this document summarises the main issues we have considered, and explains how these have fed into strategic priorities and objectives for the Core Strategy. Here we have listed the issues and comments that we have examined in defining what the main issues are for Stroud District. We have considered national planning rules, regional plans, the strategies of other organisations and the views of the community we are planning for. We have also gathered a lot of information and evidence about the characteristics of the District, the opportunities, possibilities and concerns.

Issues from National Planning Guidance/Statements

The Core Strategy must be consistent with national planning policy guidance covering a range of topics. The main guidance notes that concern us are listed below.

The full text of these documents can be found on the Government's website at www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planning/planningpolicyguidance/planningpolicystatements/

Planning Policy Statement No.	Title	Date
PPS1	General Policy and Principles	31.01.05
PPS3	Housing	29.11.06
PPG4	Industrial and Commercial Development and Small Firms	10.11.92
PPS6	Planning for Town Centres	21.03.05
PPS7	Planning for Sustainable Development in Rural Areas	03.08.04
PPG8	Telecommunications	23.08.01
PPS9	Planning for Biodiversity & Geological Conservation	16.08.04
PPS10	Planning for Sustainable Waste Management	21.07.05
PPS 11	Regional Spatial Strategies	07.09.04
PPS12	Local Spatial Planning	04.06.08
PPG13	Transport	20.04.01
PPG14	Development on Unstable Land	30.04.90
PPG15	Planning and the Historic Environment	14.09.94
PPG16	Archaeology and Planning	21.11.09
PPG17	Planning for Open Space, Sport & Recreation	24.07.02
PPS22	Renewable Energy	10.08.04
PPS23	Planning and Pollution Control	03.11.04
PPG24	Planning and Noise	03.10.94
PPS25	Development and Flood Risk	07.12.06

A.4.2   Some matters of detail that are set out in national planning guidance will be dealt with in parts of the Local Development Framework that we are yet to prepare (including Development Plan Documents and Supplementary planning Documents). However, the Core Strategy will need to consider the following 'strategic' issues:

Issues for the Core Strategy taken from PPGs and PPSs	
1	**Design quality** Planning high quality inclusive design in the layout of new developments and individual buildings in terms of function and impact over the lifetime of the development. (PPS1, PPS3)
2	**Inclusiveness and community cohesion** Taking account of the needs and problems of all the community, including requirements relating to age, sex, ethnic background, religion, disability or income; reducing social inequalities; and helping all to have good access in terms of location and physical access to jobs, education, shops, leisure, health and community facilities (PPS1);
3	**Healthier communities** Ensuring that development supports health and well being by making provision for physical activity development and healthier communities (PPS1, PPS12, PPG17);
4	**Our built heritage and our natural environment** Protecting and enhancing the District's biodiversity, natural habitats, the historic environment, townscape and landscape (PPS1, PPS7, PPS9, PPG15, PPG16, PPG20);
5	**"Brownfield" development** Planning for the re-use of previously-developed land (including underused) on suitably located land and buildings to achieve the Government target of at least 60% brownfield development thereby supporting urban regeneration initiatives (PPS1, PPS3, PPS7,PPG13);
6	**The quality and character of places** Delivery of safe, healthy and attractive places to live and work, which protect and enhance the quality, local distinctiveness, character and amenity value of the countryside and urban areas as a whole (PPS1, PPS3);
7	**Climate Change** Mitigate the effects of, and adaptation to, climate change through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the use of renewable energy to tackle air quality and pollution, land contamination, noise and light pollution (PPS1, PPS10, PPS22, PPS23, PPS24);
8	**Farming and the rural economy** Recognising the important and varied roles of agriculture and supporting appropriate farm-related development, including diversification in a rural District (PPS7);
9	**Transport** Reducing dependence on the car and promoting alternative modes of transport to support communities and business (PPS1, PPG3, PPG4 and PPG13);
10	**Town centres** Managing town centres (including the evening and night time economy) and supporting the hierarchy and network of other retail centres (PPS6, PPG13);
11	**Flooding and flood risk** Avoiding new development in areas at risk of flooding and sea-level rise as well as accommodating natural hazards and the impacts of climate change (PPS1, PPG14, PPS25);
12	**Employment provision and mix** Providing opportunities for a diverse range of industrial and commercial development (PPS1, PPG4);

	Issues for the Core Strategy taken from PPGs and PPSs
13	**Sustainable living and conserving resources**
	Prudent use of natural resources and the minimising the need to consume new resources. The need to plan for this through securing resource- and energy-efficient buildings, community heating schemes, combined heat and power schemes, small scale renewable and low carbon energy schemes, reducing waste and increasing its re-use, recycling, composting and energy recovery initiatives, the sustainable use of water resources and use of sustainable drainage systems (PPS1, PPS10, PPS22, PPS23, PPS25)
14	**Contaminated land**
	Using development as an opportunity to deal with contamination and bring land back to beneficial use (PPS23);

Issues in the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)

The South West RSS (Secretary of State's proposed changes 2008)

The RSS for the South West includes sub-regional policies. The Stroud district falls under the Gloucester-Cheltenham sub-region. For this area the plan suggests that its economy should grow and diversify. The level of housing provision planned for must be consistent with forecast household and job growth.

The Stroud Local Development Framework must be in general conformity with the developing South West RSS Plan. Conformity with the regional strategy will be one of the tests used by the Planning Inspector who will assess whether our Core Strategy is sound.

The South West Assembly published the draft South West RSS for consultation in June 2006. An Independent Panel held an Examination in Public about the draft RSS between April and July 2007, and their report setting out recommendations to change the draft RSS was published in January 2008. The Secretary of State considered the Panel report and published Proposed Changes to the draft RSS for further consultation in July 2008. The final form of the regional plan is currently awaited.

A.4.3   The economy and population have been growing for at least the last 20 years. There is a wealth of attributes that support the high quality of life that attracts people to the region. The economy of the region is generally buoyant, attracting labour, although the jobs on offer are not always attractive to younger people, many of whom leave the region. The South West benefits from a number of vibrant cities and towns which contribute significantly to the region's economic performance, culture and distinctiveness. Investment over the last decade has transformed the core of many of the region's towns into more attractive retail and cultural centres, increasingly enjoyed by residents and visitors.

A.4.4   The natural landscapes and historic environment are highly valued. The beauty of the natural environment is complemented by a range of cultural and historic strengths. These factors are crucial to the attractiveness of the South West and help to explain why 26 million visitors a year choose to come here. There are real strengths within the South West's economy that build on these characteristics, for example aerospace, marine, creative industries, environmental technologies, tourism and the food and drink sectors. Sound stewardship of this heritage is vital but the high environmental qualities of the region should be seen as a major contributor to quality of life and a direct or indirect source of employment for many people, rather than a constraint on development. Among the English regions, the South West has the highest percentage of land classified as 'rural'. Similarly, a relatively high percentage of the population of the South West lives in rural districts (about 56%).

Planning authorities and other agencies are urged to conserve and enhance the natural, historic and built environment and protect and enhance nationally and internationally designated areas, including important areas of countryside and coastline.

A.4.5 Maintaining reliable and resilient connections between the South West and the rest of the UK (particularly London and the South East) and international markets beyond, has been identified in the RES as the most important transport factor affecting the performance of the regional economy. The terms reliable and resilient are key here. Resilience in this context is the ability of air, rail, road and ferry networks to return to normal service patterns following incidents or disruptions. Making best use of existing transport networks, targeting new infrastructure to unlock pinch points to improve the reliability and resilience of journey times, and maximising opportunities to achieve reductions in the growth of road traffic are essential to ensuring that the transport system functions effectively and is able to support the aims and planned outcomes of the RSS and RES. Within the South West region there are two corridors of national importance; the London - South Wales (via Bristol) corridor and the Exeter - Birmingham (via Bristol) corridor, which include the M4, M5, the Great Western Main Rail Line and the Cross Country Network Rail Line to Birmingham. They provide the Region's main links to London, the Midlands and South Wales. These corridors also provide access to the Port of Bristol, Bristol/Exeter Airports and to Heathrow Airport.

A.4.6 The corridor between Swindon and Gloucester/Cheltenham includes the A417/A419 and the Kemble/Stroud rail link. This corridor provides an important link between Swindon, Gloucester and Cheltenham and to London and the Midlands beyond. It plays an important role in supporting the economic and housing growth expected at these Strategically Significant Cities and Towns.

A.4.7 Education and training are essential to support success in an increasingly knowledge-driven economy. Without the necessary skills, individuals could be excluded from benefiting from growth in these sectors and could fail to gain access to rewarding employment. The RES highlights lack of basic skills as a key issue, but intermediate and vocational skills should not be overlooked.

A.4.8 The region's economy is noted for its relative diversity with many strong businesses in a variety of sectors, but in general terms the region's productivity lags. Businesses will be subject to increasing competitive and structural pressures over the timescale of the RSS. It is important that a supportive planning framework is created so as to ensure that the region's businesses can continue to grow and develop. This is likely to demand different responses in different contexts. For example, in urban locations redevelopment and mixed use development needs to cater for new and emerging sectors such as creative industries. Opportunities offered by regeneration schemes, in locations with regeneration companies and elsewhere, will be an important ingredient in catering for this potential. Equally, harnessing the opportunities offered by proximity to key knowledge intensive institutions such as the region's seven universities, hospitals and higher and further education institutions will help to develop the knowledge driven economy. The establishment and expansion of these institutions elsewhere in the region could provide a stimulus for economic activity. LDDs should make adequate provision enabling 'spin offs' and businesses related to these bodies to develop through the identification of sites for 'science parks', technology centres and incubator units.

A.4.9 It is recognised that jobs and houses need to be in balance to avoid increasing commuting and more affordable housing will help to deal with the skills shortage by providing more employees.

A.4.10   Each authority has its own individual development requirements to be delivered and Stroud will not be expected to deliver more in order to meet another district's shortfall. The Local Development Framework process will determine which directions of growth should be taken forward and in what proportions.

In summary, we believe that the key issues for Stroud that come out of the draft South West Plan are as follows:

Issues for the Core Strategy taken from the South West RSS
1 **New housing**   How we provide for 9,100 houses in Stroud District (455 houses per annum) with at least 35% of them affordable. 3,500 of these should be located in two areas south of Gloucester
2 **Economic growth**   How we can achieve growth in accordance with the Regional Economic Strategy rate of 3.2% taking account of many factors, including national economic prospects and the delivery of infrastructure. There should be a 20 year supply of employment land for varying types of employment (including health, leisure, tourism and education); sites that are accessible and reduce the need for travel.
3 **CO_2 emissions and renewable energy**   How we seek to ensure that new development is sustainable with at least a 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets. The South West has a range of renewable energy installations using wind, hydro, solar and biomass resources, but in 2005 only about 3% of the region's electricity demand was met by these methods. The RSS sets Gloucestershire a target for the generation of power from renewable sources of 40 – 50 MWe by 2010 and 850 MWe across the region by 2020.
4 **Sustainable communities**   How we provide sustainable communities where there is access to employment, transport nodes, shopping and cultural facilities.
5 **"Brownfield" development**   How, in a rural district, we can seek to ensure that at least 50% of new development for housing is provided on previously developed land.
6 **Road traffic and transport**   How will we reduce road traffic in a rural District to accord with RSS aims.
7 **Essential infrastructure**   Planning for essential infrastructure, making sure it is provided in a timely way without placing a burden on the council tax.
8 **Town centres**   How do we seek to improve the vitality and viability of our town centres with a mix of uses that include housing and cultural facilities.
9 **Our natural environment**   How do we seek to promote the understanding and enjoyment of the natural environment whilst conserving and enhancing the landscape qualities and biodiversity interest
10 **Flooding and flood risk**   How we can seek to minimise flood risk along coastal and river/watercourse locations and ensure new development takes account of climate change and the increasing risk of flooding.
11 **Local distinctiveness, cultural and built heritage**   How we plan to preserve or enhance the distinctive qualities of our towns and villages, to maintain the high quality and diverse character of the south west region. What makes our area special and gives it its particular "sense of place"?

Issues in the Community Strategy

The Stroud District Interim Sustainable Communities Strategy 2008

The Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) is a long term plan to improve the quality of life for everyone in Stroud District, both now and in the future. It sets the overall vision for the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the area based on local needs. At the heart of the strategy is the recognition that social problems are multifaceted and can only be fixed by agencies working together and pooling their knowledge and resources.

This overarching strategy for Stroud District and provides a tool for guiding the work of all the organisations and thematic partnerships involved in Stroud District Local Strategic Partnership or LSP. Stroud District LSP, is responsible for the development and delivery of the SCS, though Stroud District Council is under the statutory duty to make sure it is done.

The original Stroud District Community Strategy (2004) set out an ambitious agenda for improving housing opportunities, access to services and rural transport infrastructure, as well as creating wealth, health and well being and reducing crime and the fear of crime.

The new strategy emphasises the idea of creating a District that improves the quality of life for both current and future generations. It supports the principles of sustainable development which are:

(1) living within our environmental limits
(2) creating a strong, healthy and just society
(3) achieving a sustainable economy
(4) promoting good governance, and
(5) providing resilient infrastructure.

A.4.11   Stroud District Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) is one of more than 360 LSP's in England and one of 45 in the South West region. They provide the forum for collectively reviewing and steering public resources by identifying priorities through Sustainable Community Strategies. But LSPs are not statutory bodies. Therefore all target-setting and consequent financial or contractual commitments proposed by LSPs must be formalised through the relevant local authority or through one of the other LSP partners.

A.4.12   Underpinning and supporting the LSP are various thematic partnerships such as the Stroud Safer Stronger Community Partnership (SSSCP – previously called Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP)), which are responsible for tackling specific agendas and delivering service improvements. The Government's expectation is that the LSP should be the 'partnership of partnerships', working through a manageable number of thematic partnerships to deliver the priorities contained in the Sustainable Community Strategy, with the strong support of the main budget-holding public agencies and co-ordinated by Stroud District Council. The membership of Stroud District LSP brings together local public, private, community and voluntary organisations.

A.4.13   The Local Development Framework is a key component in delivering the community strategy. It should provide a long-term spatial vision and express those elements of the community strategy that relate to the development and use of land. The Stroud Sustainable Community Strategy is an overarching strategy for the District. It draws on and influences

future plans from all key local organisations and encompassing community aspirations to identify what issues are priorities. It sets out how services can be improved and delivered in ways that increase the environmental, social and economic well being of the District. There are several reasons to why an interim strategy was developed for Stroud District. Crucially, some key work needed to underpin the SCS, e.g. ways to engage the wider community in shaping services, and developing a robust response locally to creating a robust and flexible economy, were being developed. To avoid delay and to allow this work to come to fruition, the interim Sustainable Community Strategy was published.

A.4.14   Community strategies and local development frameworks can both pool knowledge of community needs and linking them should give economies of scale in terms of sharing resources to carry out tasks such as monitoring, sustainability appraisal etc.

A.4.15   The Stroud District SCS has eight 'themes', as follows not listed in any preference or particular order:

- Help People Put Crime into Perspective
- Help People Live within Environmental Limits
- Helping To Develop a Robust and Flexible Local Economy
- Tackling Persistent Health Problems and Supporting Older People
- Finding Affordable Homes in Strong Communities
- A Focus on Children and Young People
- High Quality Places and Spaces
- Accessing Services

A.4.16   The following aspects in the community strategy have spatial implications and therefore constitute a further set of issues for the LDF to try to address:

Issues for the Core Strategy taken the Sustainable Communities Strategy
1   **Renewable energy generation**   Allocating land for commercial scale renewable energy (electricity and heat) installations and infrastructure
2   **Accessible locations**   Identifying sustainable locations to reduce vehicle use and improving accessibility to excellent local social, health and care facilities for all
3   **Sustainable land use**   Making an efficient and appropriate use of land within clear sustainable community guidelines
4   **Waste minimisation and recycling**   Ensuring that waste minimisation and recycling opportunities are integrated into communities and ensuring that land is allocated for the appropriate kinds of residual waste treatment
5   **Healthy transport for sustainable communities**   Promoting a mix of uses in new developments and existing developments that reduces the need for car dependency and makes provision for physical activity including walking, cycling and public transport
6   **Lifetime homes**   Promoting the provision of "lifetime homes" that can be adapted as people age and which can adapt to the impacts of climate change

	Issues for the Core Strategy taken the Sustainable Communities Strategy
7	**Flooding and flood risk** Minimising flood risk through Sustainable drainage and location of new developments
8	**Our natural environment** Conserving recognised biodiversity and landscape quality and helping flora and fauna to adapt to climate change
9	**Farming and food production** Protecting agricultural enterprises for local food production and encouraging adaptation to the impacts of climate change and peak oil
10	**Employment premises** Providing sufficient land to provide a range of flexible premises attractive to growing local businesses and new businesses that wish to relocate to the District, with an emphasis on strengthening office / service provision
11	**Employment premises** Promoting adaptable employment space that is responsive to changing needs and technological advances
12	**Tourism** Enabling 'green' tourism developments and ensuring continued and sustainable investment into our tourism infrastructure which reflects the need to reduce carbon emissions
13	**Improving the sustainability of the District** Reducing out-commuting and ensuring the District maintains its rural identity by helping market towns develop to serve local needs and by building appropriate links with urban Gloucestershire
14	**Affordable housing** Ensuring adequate affordable housing informed by the Gloucestershire Housing Market Assessment

Issues in Other Plans and Strategies

Issues in Other Plans and Strategies

Local planning authorities are required to take account of the principles and characteristics of other relevant strategies and programmes when preparing their frameworks. These include strategies for education, health, social inclusion, waste, biodiversity, recycling, environmental protection, regeneration, the economy, housing, community development, and transport. It is also important to consider the recently adopted local plan and to roll forward appropriate proposals.

Stroud District Local Plan (2005)

A.4.17 The local plan makes provision for 9,400 dwellings between 1991 and 2011, 100 hectares of land for employment uses, a transport interchange at Stroud Station, encouraging Sharpness Port as a tri-modal interchange facility, allocating development locations which support public transport provision as well as cultural and leisure facilities, and seeking to reduce the overall need to travel (journey length and number).

A.4.18 Important issues from other strategies are included as part of the Evidence Base (see APPENDIX 2).

Issues from Public Consultation

> **In Spring 2009, we carried out a consultation exercise with our stakeholders, looking at issues that are likely to influence the formulation of a Core Strategy for our district. This public consultation sought both to raise awareness about the Local Development Framework process and to invite comments on key issues facing Stroud District, and what our options might be for addressing those issues.**

A.4.19   The consultation consisted principally of a **discussion paper** entitled *Your District Your Future – Shaping the future of Stroud District*, which presented a selection of 19 'key issues' that are likely to be important in the development of a Core Strategy for the district; together with a **questionnaire** (made available online and as a printed document): *Your District Your Future – 20 questions that will help to shape the future of Stroud District.* The questionnaire was based around key issues from the discussion paper; it also presented a series of options (typically 5 or 6 per issue), which the Core Strategy might pursue as a means of addressing those issues. Participants were also invited to suggest their own 'key issues' or possible options.

A.4.20   Both the discussion paper and questionnaire were structured around the following 19 'Key Issues', which were drawn from our evidence base and from other relevant strategies and plans (see preceding pages):

The Key Issues we consulted on	
Overarching Issues:	
Issue 1	Improving the image of the District and its towns
Issues relating to economy, employment and infrastructure:	
Issue 2	Providing for job opportunities across the District
Issue 3	Achieving a better transport system to help reduce CO_2 emissions
Issue 4	Improving the vitality and viability of our town centres
Issue 5	Developing the tourism potential of the District
Issue 6	Supporting and capitalising on the District's artistic and cultural assets
Issues relating to homes and sustainable communities:	
Issue 7	Meeting the District's identified future housing needs
Issue 8	Maintaining and improving the sustainability of our villages
Issue 9	Improving provision of facilities for young people
Issue 10	Meeting the needs of an increasingly elderly population
Issue 11	Meeting the District's need for sports facilities
Issue 12	Achieving social inclusion and active communities, where community initiatives are the norm
Issues relating to our environment and surroundings:	
Issue 13	Conserving and enhancing Stroud District's countryside and biodiversity
Issue 14	Protecting and enhancing our historic environment
Issue 15	Contributing to the provision of renewable and low-carbon energy generation in the District
Issue 16	Minimising waste generation and increasing recycling
Issue 17	Ensuring that the Cotswold canals restoration plays a positive role in the District's future
Issue 18	Providing resilience to flood risk
Issue 19	Meeting the District's need for green and open space

Table A.4.1: The 19 'Key Issues' from the discussion paper and questionnaire (consultation Spring 2009)

Data analysis

A.4.21 A total of 238 'admissible' (i.e. relevant and non-offensive) representations were received; this included 204 people who took part in the questionnaire (although not everyone answered every single question).

A.4.22 The results of the questionnaire and a discussion of their implications, together with a complete record of all written comments received, can be seen in full in our *Core Strategy Key Issues Consultation Report* (August 2009), which is available online (www.stroud.gov.uk/core). Individual responses are also archived on the Council's consultation portal: http://stroud-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal.

Question 20: Priorities for the district's Core Strategy

A.4.23 Question 20 asked participants to prioritise the 19 issues. They were required to pick out 5 that they believed should be among the Core Strategy's top priorities, and 5 that they believed should be low priorities for the Core Strategy. Responses to this question were as follows:

How people prioritised the 19 'Key Issues' (Question 20):

A	Issues relating to Economy, Employment and Infrastructure
B	Issues relating to Homes and Sustainable Communities
C	Issues relating to Our Environment and Surroundings
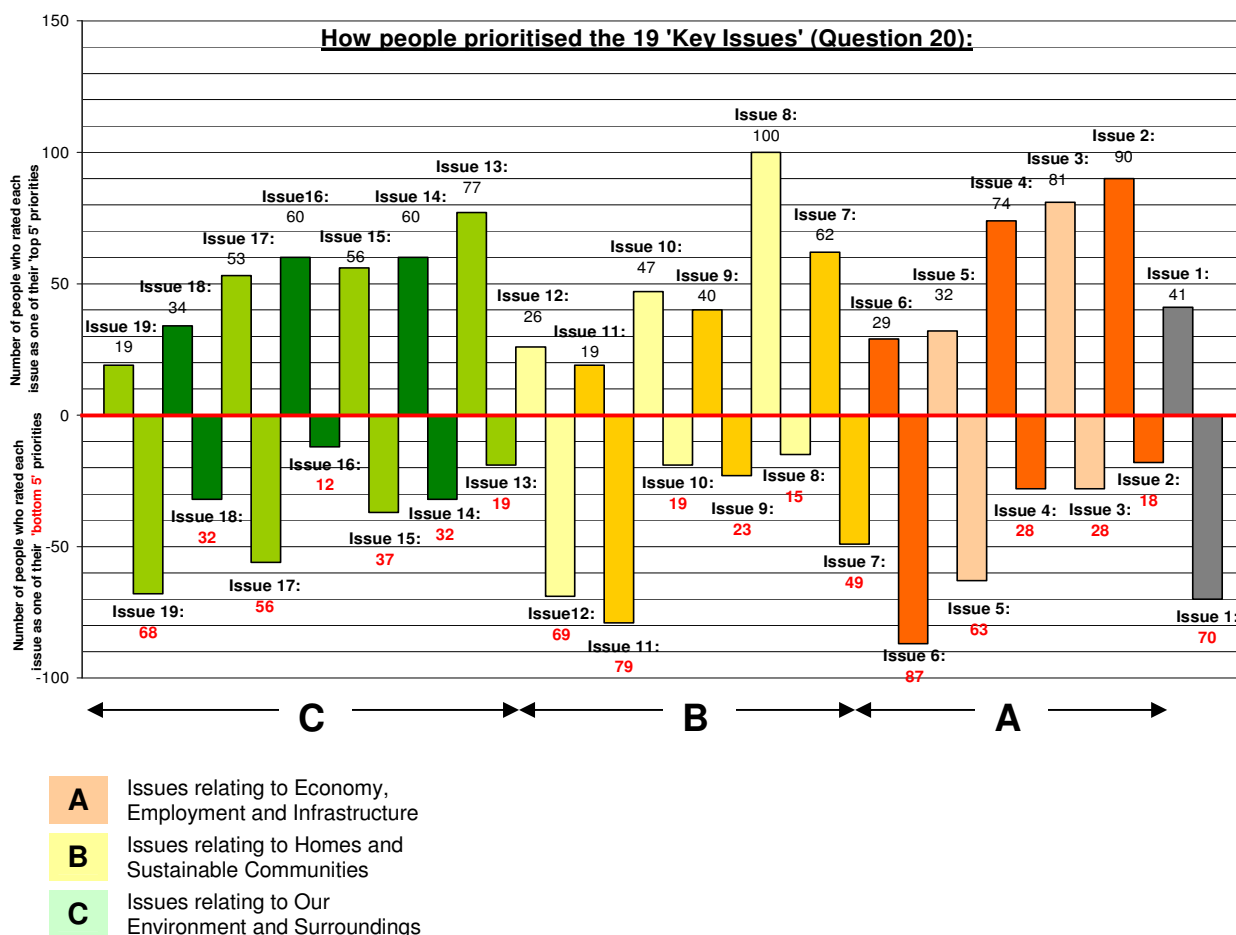
A.4.24 These were the issues that were most frequently selected by participants as one of their 'Top 5' priorities for the Core Strategy:

Top 10 most popular issues		
Rank	**Issue**	
1st	**Issue 8**	Maintaining and improving the sustainability of our villages
2nd	**Issue 2**	Providing for job opportunities across the District
3rd	**Issue 3**	Achieving a better transport system to help reduce CO$_2$ emissions
4th	**Issue 13**	Conserving and enhancing Stroud District's countryside and biodiversity
5th	**Issue 4**	Improving the vitality and viability of our town centres
6th	**Issue 7**	Meeting the District's identified future housing needs
Joint 7th	**Issue 14**	Protecting and enhancing our historic environment
Joint 7th	**Issue 16**	Minimising waste generation and increasing recycling
9th	**Issue 15**	Contributing to the provision of renewable and low-carbon energy generation in the District
10th	**Issue 17**	Ensuring that the Cotswold canals restoration plays a positive role in the District's future

Table A.4.2: The most popular choices for the Core Strategy's "Top 5" priority issues

A.4.25 However, this does not take account of negative responses (i.e. people that felt certain issues should be *low* priorities). By subtracting the number of 'negative' (Bottom 5) votes that each issue received from the number of 'positive' (Top 5) votes it got, it was possible to put the 19 issues into an overall ranking, from the highest 'popular' priority to the lowest. The methodology for this ranking is explained in the *Core Strategy Key Issues Consultation Report,* together with the complete table of 19 issues. The 'Top 10' emerged as follows:

Top 10 overall priorities		
Rank	**Issue**	
1st	**Issue 8**	Maintaining and improving the sustainability of our villages
2nd	**Issue 2**	Providing for job opportunities across the District
3rd	**Issue 13**	Conserving and enhancing Stroud District's countryside and biodiversity
4th	**Issue 3**	Achieving a better transport system to help reduce CO$_2$ emissions
5th	**Issue 16**	Minimising waste generation and increasing recycling
6th	**Issue 4**	Improving the vitality and viability of our town centres
Joint 7th	**Issue 10**	Meeting the needs of an increasingly elderly population
Joint 7th	**Issue 14**	Protecting and enhancing our historic environment
9th	**Issue 15**	Contributing to the provision of renewable and low-carbon energy generation in the District
10th	**Issue 9**	Improving provision of facilities for young people

Table A.4.3: The ten overall priorities for the Core Strategy, as defined by the results from Question 20

Issues for the Core Strategy to prioritise, taken from Public Consultation results

A total of twelve issues appear in the two sets of 'top ten' issues; eight of them appear in both tables and the same four issues top both lists:

The four top issues:
- Maintaining and improving the sustainability of our villages
- Providing for job opportunities across the District
- Achieving a better transport system to help reduce CO_2 emissions
- Conserving and enhancing Stroud District's countryside and biodiversity

Other Issues that appear in both lists:
- Improving the vitality and viability of our town centres
- Protecting and enhancing our historic environment
- Minimising waste generation and increasing recycling
- Contributing to the provision of renewable and low-carbon energy generation in the District

Issues that appear in one of the lists:
- Meeting the District's identified future housing needs
- Meeting the needs of an increasingly elderly population
- Ensuring that the Cotswold canals restoration plays a positive role in the District's future
- Improving provision of facilities for young people

Questions 1-19: options for how the Core Strategy might address the Issues

A.4.26   Questions 1-19 looked at potential options associated with each of the 19 Key Issues. Between 4 and 9 options were suggested for each issue, making a total of 102 options. Participants were also invited to make their own suggestions. Participants were asked to assess the merits of each option, giving each a score of between 1 and 5, where: 1= essential, 2= very important/desirable, 3= neither desirable nor undesirable, 4= not important/undesirable and 5= very undesirable/to be discouraged.

A.4.27   The *Core Strategy Key Issues Consultation Report* sets out the results for the various options associated with each of the Key Issues, showing which were the preferred and which the least popular. The report also discusses some of the implications of these results, as well as participants' comments and suggestions.

A.4.28   Table 13 in the Consultation Report sets out all the options from the questionnaire, ordered from the highest scoring to the lowest. Obviously this kind of overall 'ranking' is not meaningful in terms of putting the options into a serious order of priority for the Core Strategy: 'easy' and more palatable options naturally tended to score more highly.

A.4.29   But it is nevertheless interesting to look at the kinds of issues and themes that the most popular options were concerned with, and what their main aims, impacts and indirect effects might be. This can be enlightening about participants' own concerns, preoccupations and priorities.

👍 The themes and aims that proved popular

Looking at **the 25 highest scoring options**, the themes and aims that tended to recur most were:

- Mainstreaming "green" concerns; enabling/encouraging "eco" initiatives and progressing the carbon reduction agenda
- Protecting and enhancing the district's natural environment, landscape and biodiversity
- Improving design quality (particularly in terms of complementing, respecting and enhancing local character; but also 'future-proofing' buildings and places: adapting to long term needs and demands)
- Maintaining and improving the provision of services and facilities; and ensuring that these are accessible (particularly in villages and rural areas)
- Enabling and encouraging recycling; Minimising waste (from household rubbish to large scale construction industry waste; even the reduction of vacant/disused buildings and land)
- Adapting to our ageing population; ensuring that facilities, services and accommodation are sufficient and suitable for elderly people

Other issues that arise in relation to the 'top 25' options include:

- Adaptation to climate change
- Flooding
- Communities and social inclusion
- Transport and accessibility
- Heritage
- Local character and individuality/distinctiveness
- Opportunities associated with the Cotswold Canals restoration
- 'Special' housing needs (e.g. affordable housing and accommodation for elderly people).
- Health and fitness
- Village 'sustainability' (principally in terms of services and facilities)
- Meeting the needs of young people

👎 The themes and aims that proved unpopular

By contrast, **the 'bottom 25' (the options perceived to be most undesirable or unimportant)** tended to relate to aims and issues such as:

- Growth and expansion (both physical and economic)
- Identifying land for development (whether for housing, employment or other uses; and whether in urban areas, town centres, villages or on 'greenfield' land)
- House building (whether in urban areas, town centres, villages or on 'greenfield' land)
- Tackling town centre vitality and viability (through development, changes of use, alterations to car parking/vehicular access/public spaces etc)
- Opportunities for generating employment – principally where this would involve the identification of sites for development

Other issues that arise in relation to the 'bottom 25' options include:

- Transport and accessibility
- Car parking and traffic control
- Village 'sustainability' (principally in terms of growth or new development)
- Provision of services and facilities
- Design quality (concerns seem to relate to terms such as "landmark" and "exciting")
- Local distinctiveness and character (in terms of options that were perceived as likely to challenge, erode or change our district's character)
- "Green"/"eco" initiatives (concerns seem to relate to initiatives that might limit personal freedoms/choice; or to obtrusive forms of development)

[Results derived from Table 13 of the Core Strategy Key Issues Consultation Report]

Conclusions

A.4.30 The analysis of responses to the various options suggested in the Questionnaire provides a useful overall steer for the Core Strategy and seems to support the results from Question 20, which suggest that the Core Strategy should place climate change, the "green agenda", local distinctiveness and care for our high quality natural and built environment at its heart.

A.4.31 However, despite the high priority accorded them in Question 20, these results also highlight the fact that some tough decisions will have to be faced when it comes to addressing some of the Key Issues – in particular:

- Improving the vitality and viability of our town centres
- Maintaining and improving the sustainability of our villages
- Meeting the District's identified future housing needs
- Providing for job opportunities across the District

A.4.32 Most of the options in the questionnaire that made some reference to growth or expansion, finding land for development and, in particular, housing development and 'greenfield' development, scored amongst the lowest of all the options. All the suggested housing options scored within the 25 most unpopular options.

5. How the Strategic Objectives relate to other measures and priorities

A.5.1   Taking account of the issues set out in Appendix 4 and Part 1 of this document, we have drawn up six principal objectives for the core strategy. The six objectives are set out in Part 1, Section 5 of this document.

A.5.2   As part of the process of producing a Core Strategy, we are required to produce a Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA), to inform the evolution and development of our strategy. This is available along with other supporting documents and background papers (see APPENDIX 1). It is important to note that these six principal objectives differ from those that sit within the SA/SEA and which form part of the wider analysis set out in that document. They do, however, share numerous linkages and common features.

A.5.3   The SEA/SA objectives, the identified key issues, and their synthesis with regional and national advice in the District (with weighting) are set out in Tables A5.1 – A5.3 below. We have looked at the relationships between these different objectives and issues and have developed a series of six overarching 'strategic' planning objectives, which we propose will help to achieve our vision.

A.5.4   The relationship between the six proposed strategic objectives and the earlier evidence gathering work is shown in Table A5.4.

Table A5.1 - The 19 'Key Issues'	
These are from our Key Issues discussion paper (consultation Spring 2009)	
Issue 1	Maintaining and improving the sustainability of our villages
Issue 2	Providing for job opportunities across the District
Issue 3	Conserving and enhancing Stroud District's countryside and biodiversity
Issue 4	Achieving a better transport system to help reduce CO_2 emissions
Issue 5	Minimising waste generation and increasing recycling
Issue 6	Improving the vitality and viability of our town centres
Issue 7	Meeting the needs of an increasingly elderly population
Issue 8	Protecting and enhancing our historic environment
Issue 9	Contributing to the provision of renewable and low-carbon energy generation in the District
Issue 10	Improving provision of facilities for young people
Issue 11	Meeting the District's identified future housing needs
Issue 12	Providing resilience to flood risk
Issue 13	Ensuring that the Cotswold canals restoration plays a positive role in the District's future
Issue 14	Improving the image of the District and its towns
Issue 15	Developing the tourism potential of the District
Issue 16	Achieving social inclusion and active communities, where community initiatives are the norm
Issue 17	Meeting the District's need for green and open space
Issue 18	Supporting and capitalising on the District's artistic and cultural assets
Issue 19	Meeting the District's need for sports facilities

Table A5.2 - The Core Strategy SEA/SA objectives

Strategic Environmental Assessment / Sustainability Appraisal Objectives 2009

(a) To meet the challenge of a growing and aging population

(b) To encourage social inclusion, equity, the promotion of equality and respect for diversity

(c) To maintain and improve the community's health with accessible healthcare for residents

(d) To increase levels of physical activity, especially among the young

(e) To support a strong, diverse vibrant and sustainable local economy within its environmental limits

(f) To maintain and enhance employment opportunities within the District to meet both current and future needs

(g) To promote traffic reduction and encourage more sustainable alternative forms of transport

(h) To restore, manage and promote the canal towpaths as part of the sustainable transport infrastructure

(i) To reduce crime and anti-social behaviour

(j) To provide affordable and decent housing to meet local needs

(k) To reinforce local distinctiveness, local environmental quality and amenity through the conservation and enhancement of the built and cultural heritage

(l) To implement energy efficiency through building design to maximise the re-use of land and buildings, recycle building materials and use renewable sources of energy

(m) To implement strategies that help mitigate global warming and adapt to unavoidable climate change within the District

(n) To ensure the air quality continues to improve

(o) To protect and enhance soil quality

(p) To maintain and enhance the quality and quantity of ground and surface waters

(q) To manage and reduce risk of flooding in new and existing development

(r) Create, protect, enhance, restore and connect habitats, species and/or sites of biodiversity or geological interest

(s) To conserve and enhance landscapes and townscapes

(t) To provide access to the countryside and appropriate land for leisure and recreation use

(u) To minimise the amount of waste produced, maximise the amount of material that is reused or recycled, and seek to recover energy from the largest proportion of the residual material

Table A5.3 – Key issues

Synthesis of the Key Core Strategy Issues (Spring 2009) and the overarching issues from national and regional planning statements, evidence and advice (refer to chapter 4)

(i) Addressing Climate change through mitigation, adaptation and carbon reduction

(ii) Meeting housing need and affordability with lifetime design

(iii) Providing employment and economic growth

(iv) Village/Rural Centre sustainability

(v) Transport and accessibility

(vi) Built and Natural Environment: character, quality and local distinctiveness

(vii) Town centre vitality and viability

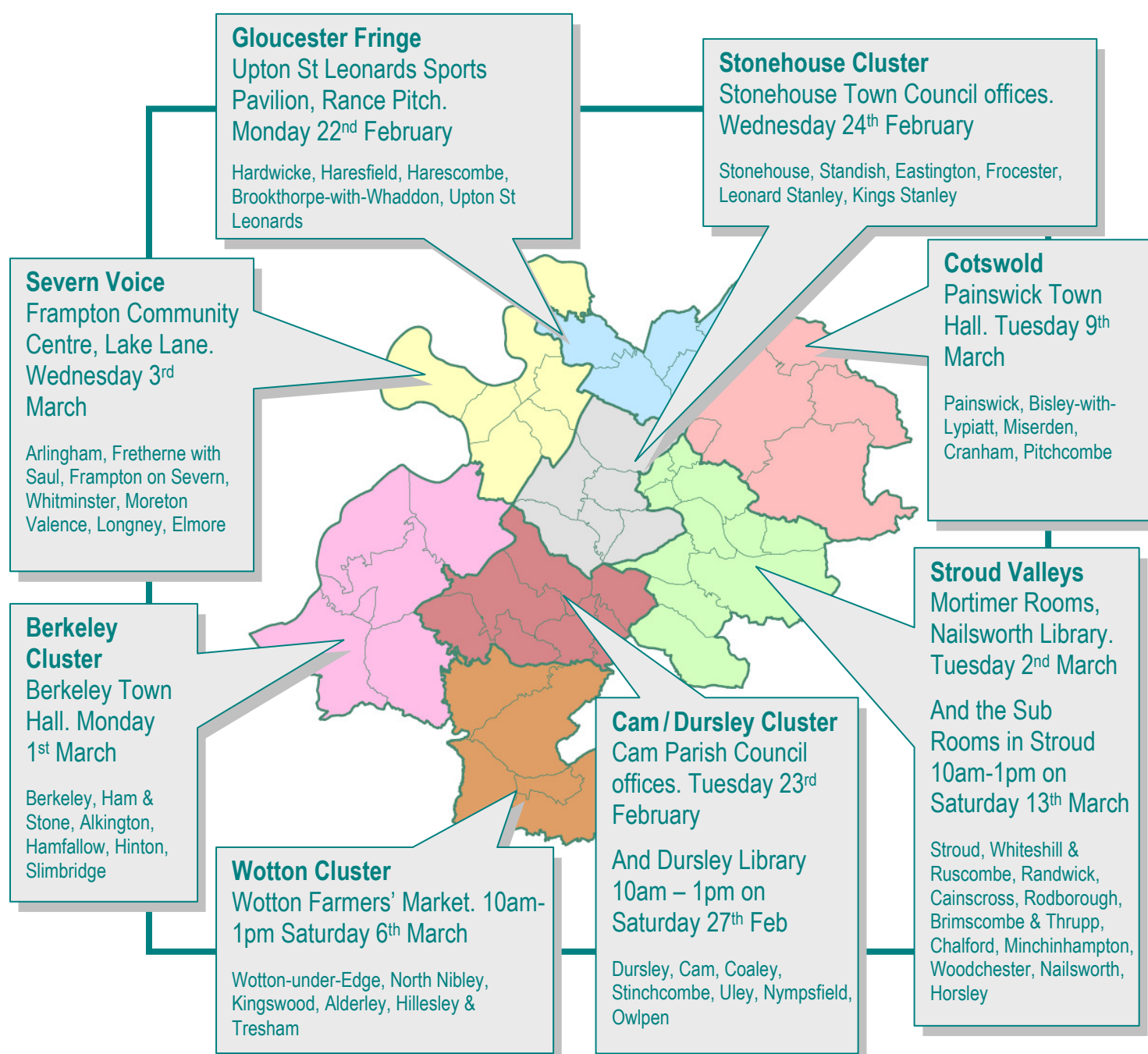(viii) Adapting to our ageing population

Table A5.4 - Relationship between the Core Strategy objectives, the SA objectives and other issues

Proposed Core Strategy Objectives	Relationship to SEA/SA Objectives (See Table 7.1b)	Relationship to the 19 District Issues (See Table 7.1a)	Relationship to Core Strategy Synthesis Issues (See Table 7.1c)
Maintaining and improving the accessibility of our villages with: - healthcare for all residents - affordable and decent housing for local needs - active social, leisure and recreation opportunities - youth and adult learning opportunities.	(a), (c), (d), (f), (g), (h), (j) & (t)	1, 7, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17, 19	(ii), (iv), (v), (vii), (viii)
Support a strong, diverse vibrant local economy that provides balanced economic growth coupled with enhanced job opportunities across the District.	(b), (e) & (f)	1, 2, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18	(iii), (iv), (v), (vii)
Conserving and enhancing Stroud District's distinctive qualities based on landscape, townscape and biodiversity.	(e), (h), (k), (m), (n), (o), (p), (r), (s) & (t)	1, 3, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18	(i), (iv), (vi),
Promoting healthier alternatives to the use of the private car and seeking to reduce CO$_2$ emissions by using new technologies and encouraging an integrated transport system to improve access to local goods and services.	(d), (e), (g), (h) & (m)	1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 14, 17, 19	(i), (ii), (iv), (v), (viii)
Promote a development strategy that mitigates global warming and adapts to climate change by: - securing energy efficiency through building design - maximises the re-use of buildings and recycling of building materials - minimises the amount of waste produced and seeks to recover energy - promoting the use of brownfield land - minimises future flood risks and recycles water resources.	(a), (e), (j), (l), (m) & (u)	1, 5, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14	(i), (ii), (iii), (iv)
Improving the safety, vitality and viability of our town centres which link to and support their rural hinterland's needs.	(a), (b), (c), (d), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (m) & (q)	4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18	(i), (iv), (v), (vii), (viii)

6. Consultation events: dates and venues

A.6.1   We are holding drop-in sessions and exhibitions around the district during February and early March. You'll be able to chat to officers working on the Core Strategy and find out more about the issues affecting the district. Copies of all the documents we have published in connection with this consultation will be available to view and you can pick up consultation response forms there too.

A.6.2   There will be an event in each of these parish clusters. You can come along to any one of these, but we are hoping that this grouping will help to us build up a picture of the particular issues and options that most concern different parts of the district. You can drop in at any time between 3pm and 7pm (or between 10am and 1pm for the Saturday events). We are also holding a special exhibition and forum for local businesses at the council offices, Ebley Mill (date to be confirmed). Please contact us for more information.

Gloucester Fringe
Upton St Leonards Sports Pavilion, Rance Pitch. Monday 22nd February

Hardwicke, Haresfield, Harescombe, Brookthorpe-with-Whaddon, Upton St Leonards

Stonehouse Cluster
Stonehouse Town Council offices. Wednesday 24th February

Stonehouse, Standish, Eastington, Frocester, Leonard Stanley, Kings Stanley

Severn Voice
Frampton Community Centre, Lake Lane. Wednesday 3rd March

Arlingham, Fretherne with Saul, Frampton on Severn, Whitminster, Moreton Valence, Longney, Elmore

Cotswold
Painswick Town Hall. Tuesday 9th March

Painswick, Bisley-with-Lypiatt, Miserden, Cranham, Pitchcombe

Berkeley Cluster
Berkeley Town Hall. Monday 1st March

Berkeley, Ham & Stone, Alkington, Hamfallow, Hinton, Slimbridge

Wotton Cluster
Wotton Farmers' Market. 10am-1pm Saturday 6th March

Wotton-under-Edge, North Nibley, Kingswood, Alderley, Hillesley & Tresham

Cam / Dursley Cluster
Cam Parish Council offices. Tuesday 23rd February

And Dursley Library 10am – 1pm on Saturday 27th Feb

Dursley, Cam, Coaley, Stinchcombe, Uley, Nympsfield, Owlpen

Stroud Valleys
Mortimer Rooms, Nailsworth Library. Tuesday 2nd March

And the Sub Rooms in Stroud 10am-1pm on Saturday 13th March

Stroud, Whiteshill & Ruscombe, Randwick, Cainscross, Rodborough, Brimscombe & Thrupp, Chalford, Minchinhampton, Woodchester, Nailsworth, Horsley

Core Strategy Consultation:
Alternative Strategies for shaping the future of Stroud District
8th FEBRUARY – 22nd MARCH 2010

This is the main 'Alternative Strategies' consultation document. It is a discussion paper, which looks at seven alternative spatial strategies and proposed policies. You can see this online at **www.stroud.gov.uk/core** and at the following locations during their normal opening hours:

- Town and parish council offices that open to the public: Berkeley, Cainscross, Cam, Chalford, Dursley, Minchinhampton, Nailsworth, Painswick, Rodborough, Stonehouse, Stroud, Wotton-under-Edge

- Public libraries at Berkeley, Brockworth, Dursley, Nailsworth, Minchinhampton, Painswick, Quedgeley, Stonehouse, Stroud, Wotton-under-Edge

- The customer service centre at Stroud District Council offices, Ebley Mill. There are computers for public internet access here as well.

- The Tourist Information Centre at the Subscription Rooms, Stroud

You can print out **consultation response forms** from our website or take a photocopy from APPENDIX 1 of this document. Please return your completed form to the address given on the back of this document by Monday 22nd March 2010.

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