

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 27 December 2018 17:18  
**To:** \_WEB\_Local Plan  
**Subject:** comments on Strategy Review

**Categories:** Consultation response

Dear SDC Planners,

It was with interest that I visited the roadshow in The Hub in Minchinhampton earlier in the month.

It did not however give me great confidence when one of the SDC staff members didn't understand a fundamental point about the Local Commons and the town of Minchinhampton in the cows wander through the town !  
Credibility is everything on a roadshow – didn't start off on a good footing - kindly note for future.

A couple of points about Strategy;

1. I was concerned that I could not find reference to how freight may be handled in the area of SDC, Strategic Railway lines pass through the district from the north through Birmingham and south to Bristol and the south west. There is also the east – west route through Stroud linking Cheltenham and Gloucester with Stroud and Swindon and onto Didcot, Reading and London and the South East. All this yet we seem to ignore the option/ opportunity to mention rail usage other than passenger commuting.

There has also been of course the Berkely BNFL (Magnox) freight route and the single line down to Sharpness

The identification of Wisloe as a concentrated development in line with the proposed strategy is located within commuting distance of Cam and Dursley Railway Station, however it would appear that no thought has been given to also make a freight distribution terminal there for, where smaller , modular freight containers could be off loaded and from that point, using smaller electric trucks distribute to the south and central part of District.

With Dursley, Stonehouse, Wotton -u-Edge and Stroud being relatively equidistant from Cam /Dursley Station, surely there must be a Carbon foot print case for starting to eliminate 38/44 Tonne trucks from our communities and distribute more effectively. SDC Planning is keen to consider the impact on the carbon footprint when building houses or extensions, why not the same diligence in the area of major distribution?

Working with Network Rail and key suppliers in the District a study should be undertaken to ascertain the effect of a distribution point, I have mentioned cam and Dursley Station as an example but equally with some of the infrastructure already in place from Berkley Road Junction a SDC distribution point would be feasible with easy access to electric supply for Electric Distribution vehicles.

2. Overall, the plan places much emphasis on Housing and development in order to meet Government targets which have been handed down to SDC.

The plan focuses on centres for housing and possible development for employment and industry which is fine, however it is not possible to accommodate housing and expect the present local infrastructure, retail and commercial businesses to be able to function in a sustainable, efficient and effective manner just on the strength of what housing, retail and commercial developers may supplement the local economy with. This becomes a false economy in both the short and long term and although a tick in the box for the number of Houses built, does nothing for everybody else and if pursued over a number of years will lead to a decline - a retrograde step.

One key omission I believe in the plan is how strategic infrastructure within both the larger and small towns and villages can be effectively underpinned to ensure that there is connectivity within the communities to

retain and further develop vibrant, viable and sustainable communities. The bottom line is that this has to be consciously addressed and funded by the SDC ( a simple example is where roads are built to accommodate housing or by pass a town/ community only to find that the centre of the community suffers and dies). This results in dead, characterless dormitories in which people are expected to be so happy. Many Councils have grabbed land on the basis that they have something to leverage greater loans from for the future, of course at the end of the day land prices normally do one thing – they rise! Would it not be more realistic to start to think more seriously about who is in the District already and use funding to enhance what we have already – as local residents within a specified community we are not able to fund all aspects, but I do believe there needs to be a more open approach by SDC to enhancing present communities.

I trust these comments will be taken into account as you review the Local Plan  
Kind Regards

