

Department for Place



Date: 23rd October 2023
Reference: sgc/sdclp/examination

Stroud District Council

By Email
local.plan@stroud.gov.uk

Dear [REDACTED],

Having made duly made comments to the contents of the Draft Stroud District Local Plan during the Regulation 19 period of public consultation between May and July 2021, South Gloucestershire Council welcomes this further opportunity to comment on the technical work steams undertaken by Stroud District Council and published for public consultation on 9th September to 23rd October 2024. We would ask this response is also read alongside our letters of 17th October and 7th December 2023.

As an adjoining authority, Stroud District Council has continued to involve South Gloucestershire Council in the preparation of its new Local Plan on cross boundary matters of strategic importance, which includes the infrastructure required to support the Stroud District Council Local Plan's spatial strategy and housing requirement. In so doing, South Gloucestershire Council is satisfied that Stroud District Council have fully complied with the Duty to Co-operate and the requirement to work constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis with South Gloucestershire Council on cross boundary matters. South Gloucestershire Council would like to formally acknowledge the continued commitment Stroud District Council have made to undertake the further technical work through the preparation and delivery of the Joint Action Plan and supporting meeting forums, during the period of time their Local Plan Examination has been paused.

With regard to the technical papers published for consultation, South Gloucestershire Council has considered these. In replying our response is based on our understanding of the current situation with J14. We do not offer comments on J12 as this is outside of the administrative boundary of South Gloucestershire.

J14 of the M5

South Gloucestershire Council considers that it is now a matter of common ground between both Stroud District Council and South Gloucestershire Council that:

- (1) The planned growth in the Draft Stroud District Council Local Plan is not seeking to commit development in South Gloucestershire Council to help fund the strategic delivery of J14 as set out in reports EB133a and EB133b.

- (2) That the South Gloucestershire Council emerging Local Plan which is expected to progress to Regulation 19 consultation in early 2025, does not require a new junction solution to be brought forward within the plan period.
- (3) That therefore Stroud District Council is not requesting that any of the development proposed by South Gloucestershire Council in its emerging Local Plan should contribute to the 15% local contribution for any future junction replacement costs as required by the Stroud District Council Local Plan.
- (4) That an interim solutions led approach between developer parties and National Highways (NH) to enable the NH holding objections on the planning applications at Charfield has been agreed and the holding objections were lifted on 20th August. These developments help to meet the housing needs of South Gloucestershire and ensure the Council can continue to have a 5 year housing land supply.
- (5) That South Gloucestershire Council Local Plan emerging preferred spatial strategy as set out in the Local Plan Phase 3 consultation: Towards a Preferred Strategy that completed its Regulation consultation in February 2024 has the spatial objective to manage down the need to extend commuting travel distances from more peripheral locations and any dependency on 'big ticket' infrastructure items to deliver housing led proposals, which have not advanced in pathway delivery terms, or we feel present significant risks to being able to do so.
- (6) That should the new junction come forward South Gloucestershire Council would be informed and engaged as necessary to enable it to fully exercise its role as connecting Highway Authority with regard to any impacts on the non-strategic highway network, and in particular on the road(s) over the M5 and proposed works on the B4509 and its junction with the A38.

Accordingly, South Gloucestershire Council would ask that the statement at para 4.2.8 of document EB133B is re-worded to reflect the agreed matters above, and that points 1 to 6 above form the basis of an addendum to the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) between Stroud District Council and South Gloucestershire Council of 8th March 2023.

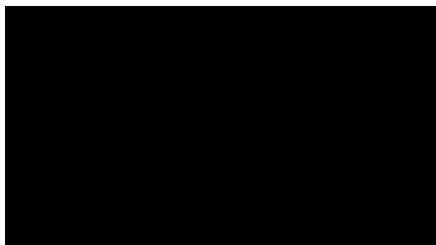
Subject to the above South Gloucestershire Council raises no further in principle objections to the Stroud District Council Local Plan and considers Stroud District Council have appropriately addressed and resolved the issues raised in representations South Gloucestershire Council made to the Reg 19 Stroud District Council Local Plan.

As one of our neighbours, we fully support Stroud District Council efforts to bring forward their own local plan. We would hope that as the Inspectors for the Stroud District Council Local Plan, you will support this objective and can lead the discussion with Stroud District Council to ensure they are able to bring forward a pragmatic plan without further delay. The benefits of doing so would from our perspective clearly outweigh the delay, additional costs, and uncertainty which would be created should it be concluded that the plan could not be progressed to adoption.

Department for Place



Yours sincerely,



Patrick Conroy
Strategic Planning Policy and Specialist Advice Team Manager