

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 December 2020 12:38
To: _WEB_Local Plan
Subject: Additional Housing options consultation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Categories: Consultation response

Dear Local Plan Team

**Stroud District Local Plan Review – Draft Plan – Additional Housing Options
Our reference 331646**

Thank you for allowing Natural England extra time to respond to the additional housing options consultation.

All of the potential options described in the consultation would entail adverse effects on the natural environment themes within our remit (protected landscapes, biodiversity, geodiversity and soils and agricultural land quality). We agree with the uncertainties identified in The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and areas in need of further consideration and assessment identified in the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) report.

We note that the government has now published a partial response to the planning reforms consultation which took place earlier this year (link - https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-the-current-planning-system/outcome/government-response-to-the-local-housing-need-proposals-in-changes-to-the-current-planning-system#_ftn2). This makes it clear that the proposed change to the existing method for assessing local housing need will not proceed further and that instead a focus on England's 20 most populated cities and urban centres will begin.

As a result, while we do not propose to respond in detail to the questions in the additional housing sites consultation, we look forward to working with you further on the ongoing review of the local plan.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Lead Adviser

Planning for a Better Environment – West Midlands Area Team

Mobile – [REDACTED]

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- Stay alert, control the virus, save lives.

We are here to secure a healthy natural environment for people to enjoy, where wildlife is protected and England's traditional landscapes are safeguarded for future generations.

Natural England offers two chargeable services – The Discretionary Advice Service ([DAS](#)) provides pre-application, pre-determination and post-consent advice on proposals to developers and consultants as well as pre-licensing species advice and pre-assent and consent advice. The Pre-submission Screening Service ([PSS](#)) provides advice for protected species mitigation licence applications.

These services help applicants take appropriate account of environmental considerations at an early stage of project development, reduce uncertainty, reduce the risk of delay and added cost at a later stage, whilst securing good results for the natural environment.

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