



Public Document Pack STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices • Ebley Mill • Ebley Wharf • Stroud • GL5 4UB
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01 September 2021

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Environment Committee will be held on **THURSDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2021** in the Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Ebley Wharf, Stroud at **7.00 pm**

Kathy O'Leary
Chief Executive

Please Note: The meeting is being held in the Council Chamber at Stroud District Council and will be streamed live on the Council's [YouTube Channel](#). A recording of the meeting will be published onto the [Council's website](#). The whole of the meeting will be recorded except where there are confidential or exempt items, which may need to be considered in the absence of press and public.

Due to current Covid-19 regulations a maximum of 6 members of public will be permitted in the Council Chamber at any one time, if you would like to attend this meeting please contact democratic.services@stroud.gov.uk.

AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES**
To receive apologies of absence.
2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**
To receive declarations of interest.
3. **MINUTES (Pages 3 - 6)**
To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2021.
4. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**
The Chair of the Committee will answer questions from members of the public submitted in accordance with the Council's procedures.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF QUESTIONS Noon on Monday, 6 Septmeber 2021

Questions must be submitted to the Chief Executive, Democratic Services,
Ebley Mill, Ebley Wharf, Stroud and can be sent by email to
Democratic.services@stroud.gov.uk

5. **DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN (Pages 7 - 26)**
This report presents the draft Council Plan which sets out the council's priorities and objectives for the next five years.
6. **GLOUCESTERSHIRE STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND (Pages 27 - 62)**
To approve the Gloucestershire Statement of Common Ground.
7. **BUDGET MONITORING REPORT Q1 2021/22 (Pages 63 - 70)**
To present the 2021/22 forecast outturn position against the revenue budgets and Capital Programme that the Committee is responsible for, in order to give an expectation of possible variances against budget.
8. **STROUD DISTRICT CYCLING AND WALKING STRATEGY - ESTABLISHING A TASK AND FINISH GROUP (Pages 71 - 76)**
To seek approval for a proposed Cycling and Walking Task & Finish Group to drive delivery on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans for the district (as issued by Gloucestershire County Council), and to help realise Stroud District Council's wider Active Travel ambitions.
9. **APPOINTMENTS**
 - (a) Performance Monitoring Representative for Civic Year 2021-22
 - (b) Lower Severn Drainage Board
 - (c) Stroud Valleys Project Board
10. **MEMBER REPORTS**
 - (a) Planning Review Panel
 - (b) Stroud Regeneration Committee
 - (c) Performance Monitoring (Pages 77 - 80)
11. **WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 81 - 82)**
To consider the work programme.
12. **MEMBER QUESTIONS**
See Agenda Item 4 for deadlines for submission.

Members of Environment Committee

Councillor Chloe Turner (Chair)

Councillor Natalie Bennett
Councillor Martin Brown
Councillor Christopher Evans
Councillor George James
Councillor Haydn Jones
Councillor Norman Kay

Councillor Robin Layfield (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Dave Mossman
Councillor Ashley Smith
Councillor Haydn Sutton
Councillor Brian Tipper
Councillor Tricia Watson



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ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

17 June 2021

7.00 pm – 8.24 pm

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

Minutes

Membership

Councillor Chloe Turner (Chair)	P	Councillor Norman Kay	P
Councillor Robin Layfield (Vice-Chair)	P	Councillor David Mossman	P
Councillor Natalie Bennett	P	Councillor Ashley Smith	P
Councillor Martin Brown	P	Councillor Haydn Sutton	A
Councillor Christopher Evans	P	Councillor Brian Tipper	P
Councillor George James	P	Councillor Tricia Watson	P
Councillor Haydn Jones			

P = Present A = Absent

Officers in Attendance

Strategic Director of Place	Head of Community Services
Senior Neighbourhood Planning Officer	Democratic Services & Elections Officer

Others in Attendance

Principal Transport Planner (GCC)
Senior Transport Planner (GCC)

EC.001 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sutton.

EC.002 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

EC.003 MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2021 are approved as a correct record.

Councillor Haydn Jones advised whilst the minutes were an accurate record of what happened at the meeting, outside of the last Committee meeting the Head of Planning confirmed there was a drafting error on page 9 paragraph 4 (of the document pack) in relation to the increase of houses from 700 to 900 on PS24.

EC.004 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Public questions were submitted. They were answered by the Chair, Councillor Turner. Supplementary questions were also answered. ([Refer to the recording of the meeting](#)).

EC.005 PROCESSING A STROUD DISTRICT CYCLING AND WALKING STRATEGY

The Senior Transport Planner and Principal Transport Planner from Gloucestershire County Council provided a presentation on Stroud's' Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. The presentation included topics such as; the Climate Emergency, Stroud Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans, the Stroud study area and what the next steps were.

The Senior Transport Planner advised the Committee that Stroud's Local Cycling and Walking Plans were a key element of the Local Transport Plan with ambitions to; identify key walking and cycling routes, develop a network of routes, create a high level inventory of improvements required and support future funding applications.

Councillors asked questions relating to areas of the district with no cycling or bus, routes, reduction of bus routes, usage of public transport in whole of Stroud District, Leisure and Tourism barriers and reduction in carbon emissions.

The Senior Neighbourhood Planning Officer introduced the report which was agreed at Environment Committee in June 2017 with aims of allocating a £300K budget towards identified cycling projects. An agreed additional budget of £200K was agreed at Council in February 2021 following a request from Environment Committee in December 2020.

Councillor Kay asked for assurances regarding the equality implications in section 5.3, Officers confirmed that it had been discussed with colleagues and that it was an extremely important issue. The Strategic Director of Place advised that support was available for equality implications from the Corporate Policy and Governance Team. Councillor Kay advised that he would like more emphasis given to equality issues in the future.

The Chair proposed an amendment to section d of the decision which Committee agreed to accept as a friendly amendment to include 'and Vice Chair' after 'Director of Place and the Chair' and before 'of Environment Committee to allocate funding'.

On being put to the vote, the Motion was carried unanimously.

- RESOLVED**
- a. **support the emerging Stroud Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan as the first phase of a District Cycling and Walking Strategy;**
 - b. **work with Gloucestershire County Council in the production of further LCWIP documents for the District;**
 - c. **continue to support the funding of walking and cycling infrastructure projects identified in the Local Plan and Local Transport Plan, and**
 - d. **delegate authority to the Senior Neighbourhood Planning Officer in consultation with the Head of Planning Strategy, Director of**

Place and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Environment Committee to allocate funding to projects which are consistent with the above plans.

EC.006 APPOINTMENTS

a) Performance Monitoring Representatives for Civic Year 2021-22

Councillor Bennett was appointed as a Performance Monitor. Councillor James also expressed an interest, however it was agreed to check if Councillor Sutton, who was absent from the meeting, wished to continue his appointment and for Councillor James to take on the appointment if Councillor Sutton stood down. The appointment of the second performance monitor would be brought to the next Committee.

b) Outside bodies

Organisation	Nominations for 2021/22
Berkeley Nuclear Stakeholders	Cllr Robin Layfield Cllr Brian Tipper
Cotswold AONB	Cllr Norman Kay
Lower Severn Drainage Board	TBC
Minchinhampton & Rodborough Commons Advisory Committee	Cllr Ashley Smith
Stroud Regeneration Committee	Cllr Robin Layfield
Stroud Valleys Project Board	TBC
Rural SUDS Steering Group	Cllr Chloe Turner

Councillor Haydn Jones advised that Councillor John Jones, who is not a Member of Environment Committee, was the current representative on the Lower Severn Drainage Board and suggested Councillor John Jones be contacted to see if he wanted to be the representative again. The final appointment would be brought back to the next Committee.

Councillors Haydn Jones and Councillor Brown both expressed an interest in representing the Stroud Valleys Project Board. It was agreed that Democratic Services would contact the Project Board to see if two representatives could be appointed and the final appointment would be brought back to the next Committee.

EC.007 PERFORMANCE MONITORING

A report was circulated prior to Committee with no further questions raised.

EC.008 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

There were none.

The meeting ended at 8.24 pm.

Chair

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STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

9 SEPTEMBER 2021

Report Title	DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN 2021 - 2026			
Purpose of Report	This report presents the draft Council Plan which sets out the council's priorities and objectives for the next five years.			
Decision(s)	The Committee RECOMMENDS to Strategy & Resources Committee that the draft Council Plan is agreed and recommended to Council.			
Consultation and Feedback	The draft Council Plan has been developed in consultation with the Alliance Leadership Team, Alliance members, the Strategic Leadership Team, the Leadership and Management Team and Council officers and the Stroud District Youth Council.			
Report Author	Andrew Cummings, Strategic Director of Resources Email: Andrew.cummings@stroud.gov.uk Hannah Emery, Corporate Policy and Governance Manager Email: Hannah.emery@stroud.gov.uk			
Options	Option 1: to do nothing. This is not recommended as it could lead to the Council being without a clearly articulated plan and priorities consequently reducing its public accountability. Option 2: to agree or make amendments to the draft Council Plan and recommend to Strategy and Resources Committee			
Background Papers	None			
Appendices	Appendix A – Draft Council Plan 2021 - 2026			
Implications (further details at the end of the report)	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

1. INTRODUCTION

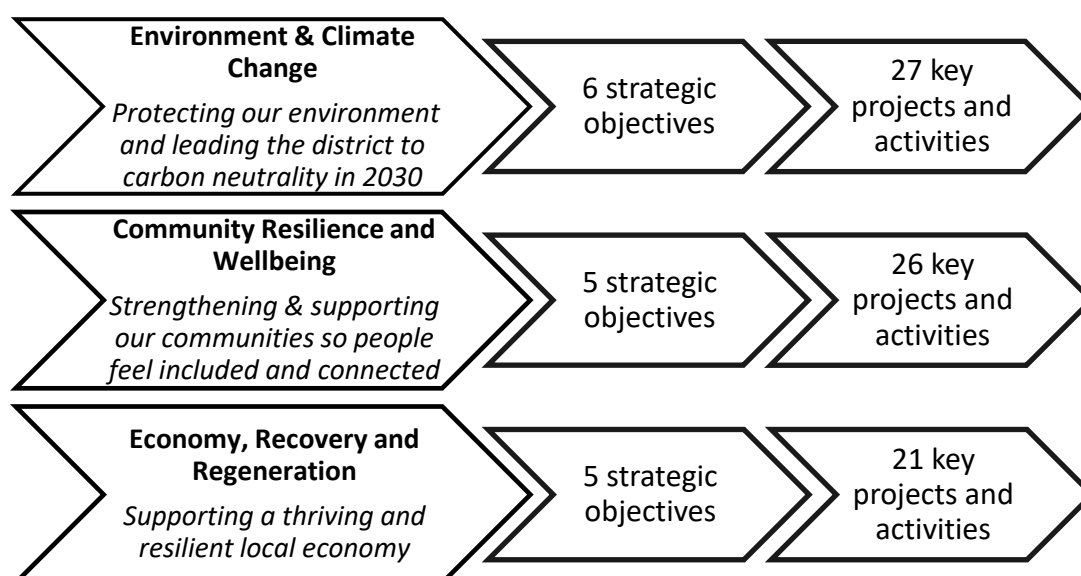
- 1.1 The council previously adopted the Corporate Delivery Plan 2019 – 2020 and a revised Corporate Delivery Plan was due to be developed after the May 2020 Elections. However, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and the delayed local elections the council developed and adopted the 'Recover, Reset and Renew Strategy' for 2020 - 2021.

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- 1.2** The Covid-19 pandemic has had a major impact on our district's economy and communities and within the work delivered under the Recover, Reset and Renew Strategy we have been taking stock of the impact of the pandemic, focusing on recovery and renewal and identifying opportunities to join up processes and engage with our communities and key partners. From this we have reviewed and developed our priorities and projects and integrated the Recover, Reset and Renew strategy and other recovery activities into the new Council Plan.
- 1.3** When the Council Plan is adopted, the Recovery, Reset and Renew Strategy will be considered as subsumed into the Council Plan which becomes the overarching set of strategic priorities for the Council.

2. THE COUNCIL PLAN

- 2.1** The draft Council Plan 2021 - 2026 attached at Appendix A is built on three tiers consisting of our priorities, our objectives and the key projects and activity the council will undertake to achieve our objectives.



- 2.2** To ensure that the council has a co-ordinated approach to delivering its objectives, the key projects and activities have been outlined in the Delivery Plan which also includes the governance arrangements, the timescale for start and completion of the project and the Lead Officer responsible for the successful delivery.
- 2.3** The Council Plan is a five-year strategy to align with the financial planning cycle and to reflect the longer term goals and ambitions within the plan. Uncertainty due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic continues and the Delivery Plan will therefore remain under review to ensure that resources are being appropriately applied to meet our priorities. The Delivery Plan will be formally reviewed at Strategy & Resources Committee on an annual basis.
- 2.4** The Council Plan is not intended to capture all of the services the Council provides. The priorities and objectives are owned by the whole council and many of the key projects and activities are not solely the responsibility of one service, but a number of services. Other council wide strategies and service plans will capture in more detail the priorities of the services the council provides.

- 2.5** Members will have oversight of the delivery of the Council Plan through the governance and decision making arrangements for the council. For some key projects, other governance arrangements are in place for members to provide input and advice through Task and Finish Groups, Boards and Working Groups as outlined in the Delivery Plan.

3. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

- 3.1** The Council Plan is an integral element of the council's performance management framework (PMF). The Plan is the golden thread that links service, team and personal performance to the priorities of the organisation.
- 3.2** The commitments within the Council Plan will be reflected in service plans and progress in achieving the activities identified as part of the Council Plan will be monitored on an ongoing basis and progress will be reported quarterly to Strategy and Resources Committee.
- 3.3** Where other policy committees have direct responsibility for an objective or key project, it will be considered as part of their work programme and their performance monitoring process.
- 3.4** The council's performance management framework is currently under review to be adopted at November's Strategy & Resources Committee. The draft Council Plan sets out the priorities and what the council will do to achieve its objectives. If The Council Plan is agreed to be adopted, the revised council performance management framework will identify the individual performance measures for each project or activity within the Delivery Plan.
- 3.5** Risks associated with each objective and key projects will be entered onto the relevant service or corporate risk register and elevated as appropriate. The corporate risk register is a living document regularly reviewed by the Strategic Leadership Team.

4. IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications from adopting the plan. It will be a key document as part of the Medium-Term Financial Planning process and resources will be allocated to projects as appropriate

Andrew Cummings, Strategic Director of Resources
Tel: 01453 754115 Email: andrew.cummings@stroud.gov.uk

4.2 Legal Implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from the adoption of the Council Plan but legal advice and support will be available when implementing the projects and activities set out in the Council Plan and associated documents.

One Legal
Tel: 01684 272691 Email: legalservices@onelegal.org.uk

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4.3 Equality Implications

The Council's commitments to improving equality of opportunity and access, and reducing inequalities are expressed throughout the Council Plan.

Detailed equality implications relating to the key projects and activities outlined in the Council Plan will be assessed as necessary as part of the service planning processes. Equality impact assessments will be carried out for any services, projects or other schemes that have the potential to impact on communities and/or staff on the grounds of protected characteristics.

4.4 Environmental Implications

Environmental sustainability and carbon neutrality are key drivers of the Council Plan and are reinforced as a council priority. The Council Plan identifies how the council aims to tackle the declared Climate Emergency and protect and enhance the natural environment.

THE COUNCIL PLAN 2021 – 2026, OUR VISION FOR THE STROUD DISTRICT

FOREWORD

Stroud district is a unique and beautiful part of the world, a place of stunning landscapes and innovation in business and community-led initiatives, but our district also faces significant challenges: the ecological and climate emergency, rising inequality, and the impacts of the pandemic on our health and wellbeing.

The pandemic reminded us how local government and communities working together can make a real difference to people's lives, providing essential services, supporting local residents and businesses, and helping to ensure everyone in our district can continue to lead safe and fulfilling lives.

Over the last year, we have listened to what people in our district have been saying about the challenges they face, and what is important to them. This is the basis for our new five-year plan, based on three key priorities: the environment, community wellbeing, and our local economy.

At the heart of the plan is partnership and collaboration, shown by the Cooperative Alliance of Labour, Green and Liberal Democrats that has run Stroud District Council since 2012.

We recognise that achieving our plan depends on partnerships – with the county council, towns and parishes, the voluntary and charitable sectors, and local businesses.

The next five years bring much uncertainty. Since 2010 we have seen our funding decrease, and the strains of the pandemic are likely to make this worse. However, we will keep working for the best interests of the district, securing funds to invest in our district, in the people and the places where we live. With your support, there is much we can achieve together to make this district a better place for all who live and work here and face the challenges of our time.

Doina Cornell
Council Leader and Labour
Group Leader

Catherine Braun
Deputy Leader and Green Group
Leader

Ken Tucker
Liberal Democrat Group Leader

INTRODUCTION

The Council Plan has been developed collectively by Alliance Members, the Strategic Leadership Team and all services across the Council.

In July 2020 we published our 'Recover, Reset and Renew a strategy for the Stroud district 2020-2021'. The work delivered under the strategy focused on recovery and renewal and identifying opportunities to 'join up' processes and engage with our communities and key partners in a conversation to help define our overall priorities.

As a result of this work and the lessons we have learnt from the pandemic, we have asked what good practice looks like and we have taken stock on how the crisis has affected our finances, organisation, residents, businesses, communities and our district. From this, we have determined our priorities and the activity to undertake to ensure resources are directed to where they will be most effective.

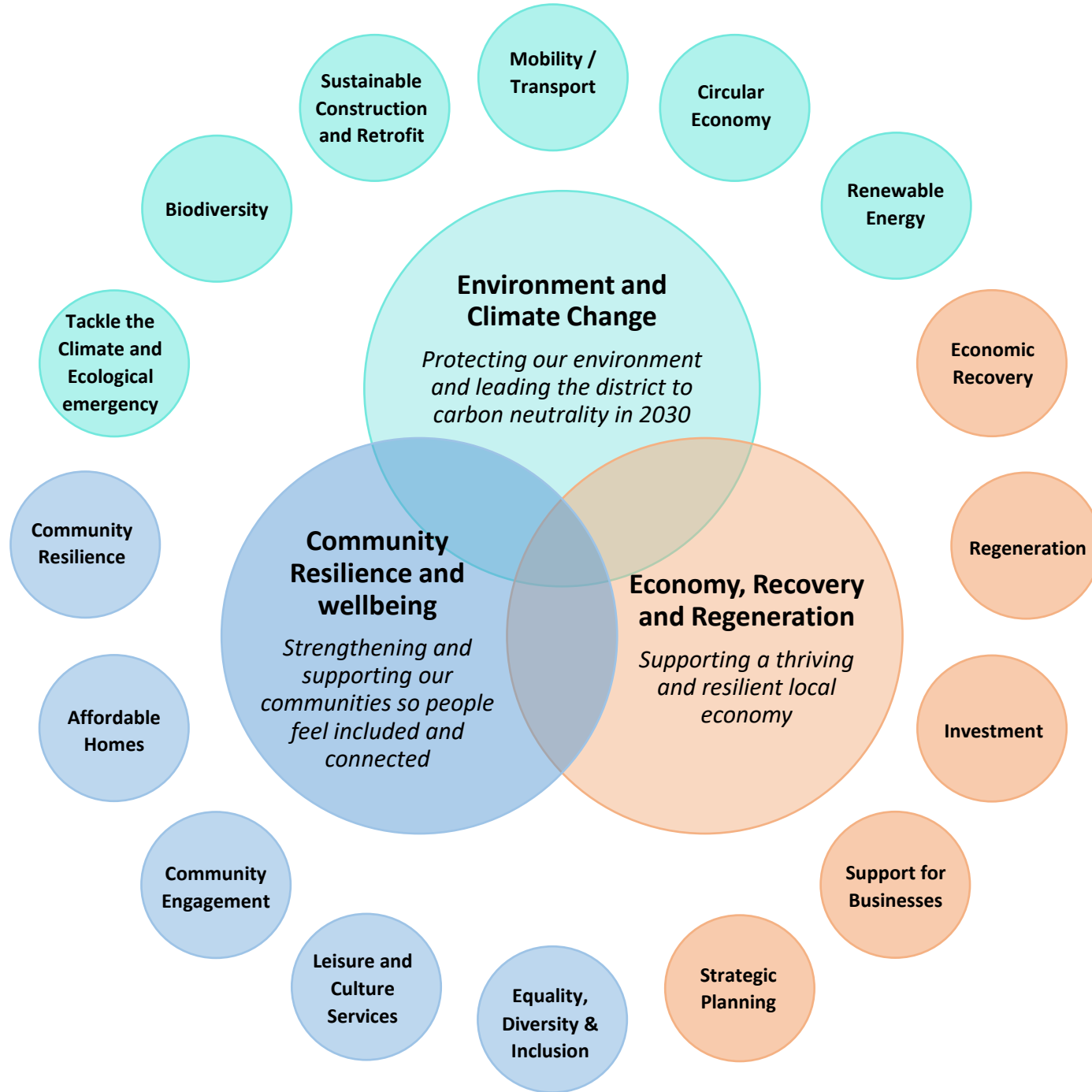
The Council Plan has been built on three tiers consisting of our priorities, our objectives and the key projects and activity we will carry out to achieve our objectives.

The Council Plan is not an exhaustive list of everything we will be doing in the next five years, it sets out the critical activity for the council and ensures this activity is focused through our governance arrangements. Elected Members from all political parties will consider the activity within the plan as it progresses through the Council's governance structure.

PRIORITIES

The Council Plan focuses on three distinct priorities:

- Environment and Climate Change
- Community Resilience and Wellbeing
- Economy, Recovery and Regeneration



OBJECTIVES

Each priority has a set of strategic objectives represented in the outer circles.

The Delivery Plan underpins the objectives and outlines the key projects and activities the council will undertake to deliver our objectives.

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Appendix A

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

Protecting our environment and leading the district to carbon neutrality in 2030

We want to ensure our district is a place where people and communities can thrive, while respecting the wellbeing of all people and the health of the whole planet.

In 2018 the council declared a climate emergency and made the commitment to 'do everything within the council's power' to become a carbon neutral district by 2030. We recognise that this ambition needs a huge amount of work not only from the council but across all parts of the district, and our 2030 Strategy mission is to act as an example in the community, to be an enabler and encourager of positive action. The detailed action plan underpinning the 2030 strategy, as adopted by the council in 2020, has informed the objectives of our plan to take the first crucial steps towards net zero and lay the foundations for the work to come.

We are fortunate in that in our communities there is so much support for making the changes that are needed, and expertise amongst local people, businesses and organisations to help shape solutions, reducing our carbon emissions, and building resilience into our natural surroundings. We also face an ecological emergency, and our plan includes key objectives to protect and enhance biodiversity.

We know we cannot achieve this alone, and through our services, policies and projects, we need to do all we can to collaboratively achieve a just transition to a carbon neutral, resilient, inclusive and equality driven district.

Environment and Climate Change Objectives

EC1. Tackle the Climate and Ecological Emergency: Achieve the commitments set for 2021-2024 of the Strategy to be a carbon neutral and ecologically sound district by 2030

EC2. Biodiversity : Work with local communities and partners to protect and enhance the district's green infrastructure and biodiversity providing accessible environments that people can enjoy and which positively contribute to their good health

EC3. Sustainable Construction and Retrofit: Work with partners to establish Stroud district as a sustainable construction centre of excellence, investing in the skills and capacity in the local economy so public and private buildings across the district can become low carbon and energy efficient

EC4. Mobility / Transport: Support development of an integrated active travel (walking and cycling) and public transport network and the development of electric charging infrastructure working with county and regional partners

EC5. Circular economy: Develop the foundations of a sustainable circular economy for the district by minimizing consumption, reducing the quantity of resources sent to incineration and applying the waste hierarchy; prevent, reduce, reuse, recycle, recover and as a last resort, disposal

EC6. Renewable energy: Increase the proportion of energy generated by renewable sources in the district and work on decarbonizing existing networks

CW1. Community resilience: Support communities to help each other and build resilience through a network of community hubs and other community-led networks, with mental and physical health and wellbeing at its heart

CW2. Affordable homes: Build affordable, energy efficient homes and deliver high quality services for all tenants by investing in the renovation of existing council homes and meet a range of housing needs for those who experience disadvantage and creating a culture of tenant engagement and empowerment

CW3. Community engagement: Strengthen local democracy by developing a culture of community engagement to enable greater involvement of residents, council tenants, communities and businesses in decisions on council services and priorities

CW4. Leisure and Culture Services: Adopt a long term investment plan for leisure services and facilities across the district to ensure everyone has access to good quality leisure opportunities that meet their needs

CW5. Equality, diversity and inclusion: Embed equality, diversity and inclusion as a priority across the Council and the District with targeted support for those who experience the most disadvantage in our communities

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE & WELLBEING

Strengthening and supporting our communities so people feel included and connected

What matters to us is that local people can live healthy and happy lives whatever their background or life situation, and that the places where they live and work can thrive.

Our objectives under this priority are focused on measures that support people to lead healthier and happier lives, tackle racism and inequality, put people at the heart of decision making, enable residents to live in an accessible and inclusive community and ensure our vibrant local communities continue to grow.

Our district is also a deeply rural place of tiny hamlets and farms. We recognise the specific rural challenges many people face, and we want to make sure that access to services and housing is fair wherever you live.

We will tackle housing needs on a variety of fronts, such as: increasing supply of affordable homes of all tenures, action to prevent housing debt in all sectors, action to provide temporary housing where homelessness arises and action to ensure that best use is made of housing stock in all tenures.

Supporting our residents' health and well-being is also more important than ever. Our leisure services are much valued by our communities and have been especially badly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

ECONOMY, RECOVERY & REGENERATION

Supporting a thriving and resilient local economy

Stroud District has begun to recover from the economic impact of the pandemic, but significant challenges remain. It is critical that our high streets are supported in their recovery, and that district's economy remains resilient and makes a rapid transition to the low carbon economy of the future. We will continue to support those sectors of the economy that have been most affected, recognising our local strengths in the visitor economy, manufacturing and the creative industries.

Our district has one of the largest numbers of small and medium sized businesses in the county. Our objectives aim to support the creation of local decent jobs, support our market towns and provide assistance for our home-grown businesses, large and small.

The pandemic has seen a groundswell of innovation and energy in our market towns and communities in creating locally led approaches to economic recovery and revival. Our objectives focus on harnessing that energy and finding local solutions to big challenges.

In 2018 we adopted the principles of 'Community Wealth Building', to maximise the value of local assets and enable the benefits of economic development to be retained locally, spend local on goods and services and wealth created by a community stay in the area in which it was earned. Our objectives under this priority will help us to achieve this.

Economy, Recovery and Regeneration Objectives

ER1. Economic recovery: Support our high streets and businesses to enable recovery of the local economy from the impacts of COVID-19 and build foundations for a sustainable and inclusive local economy

ER2. Regeneration: Deliver key regeneration sites across the district, especially brownfield sites and long-term empty properties, for local jobs, homes, community facilities and green spaces

ER3. Investment: Promote the Stroud district to attract investment in key infrastructure and high quality jobs with a focus on environmental technologies, engineering and manufacturing and creative industries

ER4. Support for Businesses: Champion local businesses of all types and sizes that lead on environmental and social good practice and support them to grow, keeping wealth in the district, strengthening local supply chains and offering rewarding local jobs

ER5. Strategic Plan: Adopt the new Stroud District Local Plan

Appendix A
Agenda Item 5

DELIVERY

The Delivery Plan translates the priorities and objectives into tangible work to be undertaken and commitments to be achieved through its lifespan.

Our priorities and objectives are cross-cutting and owned by the whole council, this is reflected in many of the projects and activities not solely being the responsibility of one service, but a number of services.

The Plans will be delivered in times of uncertainty and therefore the Delivery Plan will be reviewed annually to allow for some flexibility and opportunity for redesign to be built into the process.

THE ROLE OF STAFF AND ELECTED MEMBERS

The Council Plan cannot be delivered without the hard work and contribution of our staff. The Delivery Plan outlines the Lead Officers who are responsible for making sure each activity is delivered effectively. The detail of how and when activity and projects will be achieved sits in underpinning documents, such as business cases and project plans. The responsibility for successfully delivering the objectives sits with the Strategic Leadership Team who ensure the right resources and capacity are in place to support delivery.

Elected Members play an important role in considering the key projects and activities through the governance and decision making arrangements for the council. Committees will drive and scrutinise the effectiveness of delivery for the benefit of the district's residents and taxpayers.

Members will also work with officers to provide input and advice and have oversight of delivery through other governance arrangements such as Task and Finish Groups, Boards and Working Groups.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

The Council Plan will sit at the heart of our Performance Management Framework. The Framework is intended to ensure that we are meeting our milestones and objectives, drive change and improvement across the organisation, enable effective measurement of the Council Plan and provide a golden thread throughout the organisation.



As part of delivering our Council Plan, we shall be monitoring and reporting on progress in relation to the delivery. Progress updates will be provided to Strategy and Resources Committee on a quarterly basis, these progress updates will be published quarterly so residents, communities and businesses can see how we are delivering for them as an organisation.

THE DELIVERY PLAN

The Delivery Plan outlines the key projects and activity we are committed to undertaking in order to achieve our objectives. Projects which are contributing to one or more of the priorities are denoted by the use of the related priority colour

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Protecting and enhancing our environment and leading the district to carbon neutrality in 2030

		OBJECTIVES	KEY PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES	GOVERNANCE		TIMESCALE		LEAD OFFICER
				START	END	START	END	
EC1	Tackle the Climate and Ecological Emergency Achieve the commitments set for 2021-2024 of the Strategy to be a carbon neutral and ecologically sound district by 2030	EC1.1 	Set up a 2030 Core Group to provide high level strategic overview on delivery, engage with external stakeholders and the public, identify funding opportunities and resourcing required to meet them	2030 Core Group (Community Engagement Board)	Full Council, Strategy themes to relevant committee	2021	2021	Rachel Brain
		EC1.2 	Establish the performance management of the 2030 Strategy across the organisation to monitor and report progress towards the Strategy's aims and commitments	2030 Core Group (Officer/Member)	Full Council, Strategy themes to relevant committee	2021	2021	Eka Nowakowska
		EC1.3 	Plan and implement the community engagement aspect of the Strategy, to include a 2030 community website and direct activities with residents, linking to the Community Engagement Strategy (CW3.1)	2030 Core Group (Officer)	Full Council, Strategy themes to relevant committee	2021	2021	Liz Shellam
		EC1.4 	Establish an ethics policy for our investments, incorporating work within the Brunel Partnership to divest pension funds from fossil fuels	Regeneration and Investment Board	Audit & Standards /Strategy & Resources	2021	2021	Lucy Clothier
		EC1.5 	Explore and progress additional projects for carbon reduction and /or biodiversity net gain and funding opportunities to deliver them.	2030 Core Group	Strategy & Resources Committee/Environment	2021	Ongoing	Rachel Brain
EC2		EC2.1 	Develop a district Local Nature Recovery Strategy (2030 commitment NE7) and seek opportunities for re-wilding to boost biodiversity in partnership with landowners, businesses, the farming community,		Environment	2021	2024	Conrad Moore/Vicki Pettigrew













Appendix A
Agenda Item 5















EC3	Biodiversity Work with local communities and partners to protect and enhance the district's green infrastructure and biodiversity providing accessible environments that people can enjoy and which positively contribute to their good health and well-being		parish and town councils and local environmental organisations						
		EC2.2 ● ●	Deliver the natural flood management project (Stroud Rural SUDS) for the Frome Valley in Stroud in partnership with the Environment Agency, working closely with landowners and communities using innovative flood management techniques	Stroud Rural SUDS Project Board	Environment	2021	2026	Maria Hickman	
		EC2.3 ● ●	Develop and establish an action plan to Increase our tree canopy, woodland and forestry in line with the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership Tree Strategy ambition for 20% canopy cover across the County by 2030		Environment	2021	2022	Conrad Moore	
		EC2.4 ● ●	Work with partners to protect and enhance green spaces in residential neighbourhoods and town centres, promote 'No Mow May' and adopt best practice for road verges to encourage wildflowers and reduce pesticide use.	2030 Explore Group on Biodiversity/ Market Town Forum	Environment	2022	2023	Mike Hammond/ Kev Topping	
		EC2.5 ● ● ●	Use the Building with Nature standards for key regeneration sites across the district	Regeneration and Investment Board	Environment, Full Council	2021	Ongoing	Mark Russell/Alison Fisk	
	EC3.1 ● ●	Agree a costed plan to retrofit all council homes as necessary and begin the first phase of delivery to realise optimum emission reductions and achieve an average Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating C across all council homes by 2030	Retrofit task and finish group	Housing	2021	2023	Joe Gordon		
	EC3.2 ● ●	In line with the Zero Carbon Public Estate project, produce blueprints for the retrofitting of identified public buildings such as Beeches Green and the Rail Station/Cheapside areas of Stroud as well as identifying other opportunities across the district	Regeneration and Investment Board	Strategy & Resources	2021	Ongoing	Alison Fisk		
	EC3.3 ●	Develop partnerships, provide advice, and support local action to help private home owners and businesses meet the retrofit challenge (CN2030 BE2, BE7 and BE8)	Warm & Well Steering Group	Housing	2021	2023	Maria Hickman / Amy Beckett		
	EC3.4 ● ●	Work with partners to position Stroud District as a Retrofit Centre for Excellence which provides training and develops the skills needed to retrofit homes and businesses	Regeneration and Investment Board / 2030 Explore Group	Strategy & Resources	2021	2026	Rachel Brain / Amy Beckett		
	Sustainable Construction and Retrofit Work with partners to establish Stroud district as a sustainable construction centre of excellence, investing in the skills and capacity in the local economy so public and private buildings across the district can become low carbon and energy efficient								

EC4	Mobility / transport Support development of an integrated active travel (walking and cycling) and public transport network and development of electric vehicle charging infrastructure working with county and regional partners	EC3.5	Develop planning policies and developer guidance to enable all new buildings to achieve a net zero carbon standard			2021	2023	Mark Russell
		EC4.1	Work with GCC and through the new Cycling & Walking Strategy Task & Finish Group to develop and implement three Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP) for Stroud; Cam, Dursley and Uley; Wotton-under-Edge and Kingswood, support safe cycling, and identify and prioritise the main strategic cycling routes within the district.	Cycling & Walking Strategy Task & Finish Group	Environment	2021	2023	Simon Maher
		EC4.2	In partnership with the County Council, encourage the expansion and improvement of public transport and links to walking and cycling routes – to include bus services and railway stations and services, and bids for new facilities that benefit residents of the District		Strategy & Resources	2021	Ongoing	Conrad Moore
		EC4.3	Working with partners, expand the network of Electric Vehicle charging points and increase support for low carbon transport , and a reduction in private car use and explore measures to reduce air pollution such as no-idling zones		Environment	2021	2023	Mike Towson
		EC4.4	Review taxi and private hire licensing conditions to consider moving from an ‘age’ condition to an ‘emissions’ based condition – to encourage an increase in the percentage of low and Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (CN2030 M8)		Community Services & Licensing			Rachel Andrew
EC5	Circular economy Develop the foundations of a sustainable circular economy for the district by minimising consumption, reducing the quantity of	EC5.1	Further reduce the quantity of resources discarded as waste and minimise its environmental impact.		Environment	2021	2023	Mike Towson / Rachel Brain
		EC5.2	Work with our partner Ubico to identify joint opportunities for carbon reduction projects in household collection and management of public spaces		Environment	2022	2025	Mike Towson


	resources sent to incineration and applying the waste hierarchy: prevent, reduce, reuse, recycle, recover and as a last resort disposal	EC5.3 	Support the phasing out of single use plastics in the district and encourage and support local initiatives to 'reduce, repair and recycle'		Environment	2021	2023	Mike Towson / Rachel Brain
		EC5.4 	Continue to increase recycling rates across the district.		Environment	2021	2023	Mike Towson
EC6	Renewable energy Increase the proportion of energy generated by renewable sources in the district and work on decarbonising existing networks	EC6.1 	Continue to increase renewable generation in the district and to decarbonise existing networks, and support community-owned renewable energy schemes	2030 Governance Energy Explore Group	Environment	2021	Ongoing	Rachel Brain
		EC6.2 	Deliver the water source heat pump projects at Ebley and Brimscombe Port Mills		Strategy & Resources	2021	2021	Ali Fisk
		EC6.3 	Increase the proportion of Council and partner fleet vehicles powered by zero or low carbon technologies		Environment	2021	Ongoing	Joe Gordon / Mike Hammond / Mike Towson
		EC6.4 	Deliver key low carbon demonstrator projects , including a project for 7 homes in Draycott, Cam	Retrofit task and finish group	Housing	2021	2023	Joe Gordon

PRIORITY: COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND WELLBEING <i>Strengthening and supporting our communities so people feel included and connected</i>							
OBJECTIVES		KEY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES	GOVERNANCE	TIMESCALE		LEAD OFFICER	
				START	END		
Community resilience Support communities to help each other and build resilience through a network of community hubs and other community-led networks, with mental and physical	CW1.1 	Develop community led networks and community hubs across the district by helping communities to develop their own networks and hubs, connecting smaller and larger hubs and providing support and training	Community Services & Licensing	2021	2024	Angela Gillingham	
	CW1.2 	Act to improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of people in the district through delivery of a new 3 year Health and Wellbeing Plan	Community Services & Licensing	2021	2024	Angela Gillingham	

CW1	health and wellbeing at its heart	CW1.3 	Ensure residents continue to receive the advice they need, by continuing our work in partnership with the Citizens Advice Bureau and developing a new Service Level Agreement		Community Services & Licensing	2021	2022	Keith Gerrard
		CW1.4  	Work to reduce the impacts and causes of anti-social behaviour by developing a district wide policy in partnership with the Community Safety Partnership		Community Services & Licensing /Housing	2021	2022	Kevin Topping Mike Hammond
		CW1.5  	Appoint Food Justice Champions to work with partners to tackle food injustice, set up a food partnership and develop a food strategy to address the causes of food poverty, promote sustainability and food justice	Food Justice Champions	Community Services & Licensing /Full Council	2021	2022	Angela Gillingham
CW2	Affordable homes Build affordable, energy efficient homes and deliver high quality services for all tenants by investing in the renovation of existing council homes and meet a range of housing needs for those who experience disadvantage and creating a culture of tenant engagement and empowerment	CW2.1  	Deliver new affordable homes across the District, through planning policy and work with partners including community-led housing groups, housing associations and via our own New Homes Programme, which will deliver EPC-A rated properties in line with our Strategy for New Council Homes 2020-2024		Housing	2021	2024	Ali Fisk / Pippa Stroud
		CW2.2  	Invest £30m over the next 5 years to repair, maintain and invest in current council housing stock and bring empty council homes back into use as soon as possible	Voids and Repairs Task and Finish Group	Housing	2021	2026	Joe Gordon
		CW2.3  	Prioritise the prevention of homelessness by delivering the Next Steps Accommodation Programme and invest in temporary accommodation and specialist support, including working with partners countywide to develop the specialist housing and support needed		Housing	2021	2024	Pippa Stroud
		CW2.4 	Provide more opportunities for resident involvement in housing decisions through delivery of the Charter for Social Housing Residents and our continuing commitment to build on resident involvement opportunities	Tenant engagement & empowerment Task and Finish Group	Housing	2021	2023	Kev Topping

















CW3	<p>Community Engagement Strengthen local democracy by developing a culture of community engagement to enable greater involvement of residents, council tenants, communities and businesses in decisions on council services and priorities</p>	CW2.5 	Continue to invest and deliver the programme to modernise our Independent Living homes for older people		Housing	2021	Ongoing	Ali Fisk
		CW3.1  	Develop a Community Engagement Strategy , which incorporates the Council's Hear by Right Commitment for young person's involvement, and ensures the voice of the community and key stakeholders is at the heart of council priorities	Fit for the Future Board	Community Services & Licensing	2021	2023	Mike Hammond
		CW3.2  	Improve customer service for residents by procuring a Digital Platform that provides for centralised first contact ensuring an easier access to services and that provides additional support for those with complex needs	Fit for the Future Board	Strategy & Resources and Community Services & Licensing	2021	2021	Mike Hammond/ Adrian Blick
		CW3.3 	Work with Town and Parish Councils to develop, agree and implement a new strategic approach for partnership working between district, towns and parishes including specific support for rural communities.		Strategy & Resources and Community Services & Licensing	2021	2022	Hannah Emery
		CW3.4  	Provide dedicated support to communities for the registration of community assets so communities have more control and ownership of local buildings, land and community shops as well as protecting publicly owned land and assets		Strategy & Resources	2021	2023	Simon Maher / Mike Hammond
CW4	<p>Leisure and Culture Services Adopt a long term investment plan for leisure services and facilities across the district to ensure everyone has access to good quality leisure opportunities that meet their needs</p>	CW4.1  	Continue work to ensure that our leisure and wellbeing services are fit for the future by completing the Leisure Review options appraisal as well as supporting the recovery of the leisure centres from the pandemic.	Leisure and Wellbeing Task & Finish Group	Community Services & Licensing Committee	2021	2022	Angela Gillingham
		CW4.2  	Working with partners, increase the number, accessibility, and quality of playing pitches, play areas and outside spaces within the district	Leisure and Wellbeing Task & Finish Group	Community Services & Licensing	2021	2023	Angela Gillingham/Mike Towson / Kev Topping/ Conrad Moore/ Ali Fisk
		CW4.3  	Increase physical activity and sports participation through our Healthy Lifestyles Scheme and in partnership with the Gloucestershire We Can Move programme	Leisure and Wellbeing Task and Finish Group	Community Services & Licensing	2021	2023	Angela Gillingham









		<p>CW4.4 ● ●</p> <p>Support refurbishment of Stratford Park Lido by submitting a bid, in partnership with Stroud Town Council and Friends of the Lido to the National Lottery Heritage Fund</p>		Community Services & Licensing	2022	2024	Angela Gillingham / Mike Hammond / Natalie Whalley
		<p>CW 4.5 ● ●</p> <p>Building on previous work, develop an Arts and Culture Strategy for the District</p>		Community Services & Licensing	2022	2024	Keith Gerard
		<p>CW4.6 ● ●</p> <p>Implement the Museum in the Park's free-to-join Supporter Scheme to provide residents with exciting opportunities to engage with the museum and extend community reach to new audiences ensuring the museum remains at the heart of the wider community</p>	Museum in the Park Governing Body	Community Services & Licensing	2021	2022	Kevin Ward
CW5	Equality, diversity and inclusion Embed equality, diversity and inclusion as a priority across the Council and the District with targeted support for those who experience the most disadvantage in our communities	<p>CW5.1 ● ● ●</p> <p>Deliver our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan 2021-25, through engaging with communities, showing leadership and championing equality, diversity and inclusion in all that we do.</p>	ED&I Working Group	Full Council	2021	2025	Hannah Emery
		<p>CW5.2 ● ●</p> <p>Adopt effective and transparent policies to reduce inequalities that result from socio-economic disadvantage in line with Section 1 of the Equality Act, the socio-economic duty, as an effective framework for tackling local poverty and economic inequality</p>	ED&I Working Group	Full Council	2021	2022	Sarah Turner
		<p>CW5.3 ●</p> <p>Lead and support action to reduce health inequalities in partnership with Public Health and local NHS trusts</p>		Community Services and Licensing	2021	2024	Angela Gillingham / Emma Keating-Clark
		<p>CW5.4 ● ●</p> <p>Work with partners to improve the accessibility and welcome of public spaces and shops, and improve awareness of impairments both visible and invisible</p>	ED&I Working Group and Market Towns Forum	Strategy & Resources /Community Services & Licensing	2021	Ongoing	Amy Beckett
		<p>CW5.5 ● ●</p> <p>Work with partners to support older people to stay in their homes for longer and continue to work to become a dementia friendly district</p>		Community Services & Licensing	2021	2024	Angela Gillingham


	CW5.6 	Support our Armed Forces Champion and provide help as needed to former members of the armed services who need extra support and continue to deliver the Armed Forces Covenant across the local area	Strategy & Resources	2021	2024	Kev Topping
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PRIORITY: ECONOMY, RECOVERY AND REGENERATION

Supporting a thriving and resilient local economy

	OBJECTIVES	KEY PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES	GOVERNANCE	TIMESCALE		LEAD OFFICER	
				START	END		
ER1	Economic recovery Support our high streets and businesses to enable recovery of the local economy from the impacts of COVID-19 and building foundations for a sustainable and inclusive local economy	ER1.1    Develop and implement an inclusive and sustainable 'Economic Development Strategy' including supporting market towns and sectors most impacted by the pandemic	Regeneration and Investment Board	Strategy & Resources Committee	2021	2023	Amy Beckett
		ER1.2    Continue to support high street businesses to increase their digital and online visibility		Strategy & Resources Committee	2021	Ongoing	Amy Beckett / Ben Falconer
		ER1.3    Support local high streets through the 'Think Local, Shop Local' campaign and local initiatives to increase footfall such as markets, events and community-led initiatives	Market Towns Forum	Strategy & Resources Committee	2021	2022	Amy Beckett / Ben Falconer
		ER1.4   Work with partners across Stroud district to grow a sustainable visitor economy , including the night time economy, walking and cycling, culture and leisure attractions		Community Services and Licensing Committee	2021	Ongoing	Amy Beckett
		ER1.5    Consult with all types of businesses on how to improve business services , for example by providing a 'one door' access point into the Council, direct engagement from Councillors and in particular actions to address the needs of small businesses	Fit for the Future Board	Strategy & Resources Committee	2022	2024	Amy Beckett
ER2	Regeneration	ER2.1    Develop Brimscombe Port as a key strategic site to support a thriving community, in line with project milestones which include securing a development partner and delivering infrastructure works	Brimscombe Port Project Board	Strategy & Resources Committee	2021	2026	Alison Fisk / Leonie Lockwood

	Deliver key regeneration sites across the district, especially brownfield sites and long-term empty properties, for local jobs, homes, community facilities and green spaces	ER2.2 	Deliver Phase 1b of the Canal Project (Cotswold Canals Connected), incorporating land acquisition, planning application for the 'missing mile', Ocean Bridge works and a range of activities including five local activity hubs along the canal	Canal Project Board	Strategy & Resources Committee	2021	2025	Chris Mitford-Slade
		ER2.3 	Produce a pipeline of regeneration schemes progressing 'hard to develop' brownfield sites and long-term empty properties across the district, delivering quality local jobs and homes, while preserving and enhancing biodiversity	Regeneration and Investment Board	Strategy & Resources Committee	2021	2026	Leonie Lockwood / Mark Russell
		ER2.4 	Support the development of a diverse local economy of social enterprises, cooperatives and small businesses by working with others to increase commercial space available for expansion and by exploring the use of land for low cost sites and start-ups, as well as protecting existing employment sites	Regeneration and Investment Board	Strategy & Resources Committee	2021	Ongoing	Mark Russell / Alison Fisk
ER3	Investment Promote the Stroud District to attract investment in key infrastructure and high quality jobs with a focus on environmental technologies, engineering and manufacturing and creative industries	ER3.1 	Attract investment by setting out the offer of Stroud District in a new ' Place Prospectus ' to showcase the district's achievements and future priorities	Regeneration and Investment Board	Strategy & Resources Committee	2021	2021	Mark Russell
		ER3.2 	Promote prosperity and visitors to the district's waterways, by developing a Canal Strategy , which links to heritage and biodiversity objectives	Regeneration and Investment Board	Strategy & Resources Committee	2021	2022	Mark Russell
		ER3.3 	Work to secure external funding for priority projects, by establishing a task force to review bid options and developing a bid to the Government's Levelling Up Fund and other funding opportunities	Levelling Up Fund Working Group Regeneration and Investment Board	Strategy & Resources Committee	2021	2022	Brendan Cleere
		ER3.4 	Work with partners to support the bid to the UK Atomic Energy Authority to secure the first prototype commercial fusion plant and associated research and innovation park at Oldbury & Berkeley	Regeneration and Investment Board	Strategy & Resources Committee / Full Council	2021	2024	Mark Russell
ER4	Support for businesses Champion local businesses of all types and sizes that lead on	ER4.1 	Create a ' favoured trader ' list of local businesses and champion those businesses that are living wage employers and lead on environmental and social good practice		Strategy & Resources Committee	2022	2023	Amy Beckett

ER5	environmental and social good practice and support them to grow, keeping wealth in the district, strengthening local supply chains and offering rewarding local jobs	ER4.2  	Explore options for bringing more financial power and resilience to our district such as cooperative banking, credit unions, investment in local schemes including renewable energy projects, and local government bonds		Strategy & Resources Committee/Audit & Standards	2021	2025	Andrew Cummings
		ER4.3   	Support procurement from local businesses and drive local spending on low carbon goods and services to create stronger supply chains within the local economy. This may include collaborative partnerships with local anchor institutions to encourage community wealth building		Strategy & Resources Committee	2021	Ongoing	Hannah Emery
		ER4.4   	Work with partners to support the development of skills and training for all ages , including the unemployed, young people and apprentices, and across key sectors including the low carbon sector and visitor economy.	Regeneration and Investment Board	Strategy & Resources Committee	2021	Ongoing	Lucy Powell / Amy Beckett
		ER4.5 	Work with trade unions to support fair employment , encouraging more local businesses and organisations to be real living wage employers	Regeneration and Investment Board	Strategy & Resources Committee	2022	2024	Lucy Powell / Amy Beckett
		ER5.1   	Progress the Local Plan through public examination and secure its adoption		Environment Committee, Full Council	2021	2022	Mark Russell
	ER5.2   	Support the delivery of strategic site allocations contained within the local plan and the key infrastructure required to support it		Environment Committee, Full Council	2021	2026	Mark Russell	
	ER5.3   	Work with parish councils to develop Neighbourhood Development Plans and Orders to meet local development needs		Environment Committee, Full Council	2021	Ongoing	Simon Maher	
	Strategic Planning Adopt the new Stroud District Local Plan							

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

9 SEPTEMBER 2021

Report Title	GLOUCESTERSHIRE STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND			
	To approve the Gloucestershire Statement of Common Ground.			
Decision(s)	<p>The Committee RESOLVES to:</p> <p>a. approve the Draft Statement of Common Ground set out in Appendix A; and</p> <p>b. delegate to the Head of Planning Strategy, in consultation with the Chair of Environment Committee, the authority to approve minor amendments to the Draft Statement of Common Ground in the event that the final draft version is different to the version set out in Appendix A;</p>			
Consultation and Feedback	A Draft Statement of Common Ground has been through a number of iterations since an initial draft was produced in May 2020. Consultation has involved officers and leaders of the six local planning authorities, Gloucestershire County Council and GFirstLEP and reports have been considered periodically by the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee and by a Leaders Board. Progress has been reported previously to Planning Review Panel.			
Report Author	Mark Russell, Head of Planning Strategy Email: mark.russell@stroud.gov.uk			
Options	A number of options have been considered by Gloucestershire authorities to support the greater co-ordination of strategic planning matters across Gloucestershire, ranging from liaison on an informal basis, through the preparation of a non-statutory growth strategy to the preparation of a single Local Plan for Gloucestershire.			
Background Papers	Progress on duty to cooperate matters relating to the Local Plan can be found at www.stroud.gov.uk/localplanreview			
Appendices	Appendix A – Draft Gloucestershire Statement of Common Ground			
Implications (further details at the end of the report)	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

1. BACKGROUND AND PROCESS

1.1 It has been recognised for some time that a better coordinated approach to long term spatial planning in Gloucestershire would be beneficial. Stroud District Council has

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therefore been working with neighbouring Gloucestershire local authorities to develop a strategic planning framework for future co-operation.

- 1.2 In March 2019 Environment Committee Council resolved to support the development of a broad Strategic Planning Framework for Gloucestershire to 2050 and beyond, through the preparation of a Statement of Common Ground, to be prepared by the six local planning authorities, Gloucestershire County Council and the GFirst LEP.
- 1.3 An initial Draft Gloucestershire Statement of Common Ground (GSoCG) (May 2020) was produced by a Strategic Planning Coordinator for the County, appointed by the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee (GEGJC). Since May 2020, various revisions to the document have been subject to further discussions at a Leaders Board set up to progress strategic planning co-ordination across Gloucestershire and at GEGJC.

2. SUMMARY OF DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

- 2.1 The GSoCG is intended to be a non-statutory document subject to regular updates which captures progress in working together.
- 2.2 The purpose of this statement is:
 - To identify and demonstrate where common ground exists between the parties
 - To identify and agree an action plan on the strategic spatial planning matters in Gloucestershire that require collaborative working between the parties
 - To identify, in principle, the potential response to addressing the strategic spatial planning matters
 - To provide the basis for a 'live' document to allow for regular updates which capture progress against responding to the strategic spatial planning matters, acknowledging that responding to the Climate emergency will be the "Golden thread" that runs through the strategic planning activities and the outputs of this GSoCG
 - To meet (in part) the requirements placed on Local Planning Authorities from the National Planning Policy Framework to discharge the statutory 'Duty-to-Cooperate' as part of their local plan preparation
 - To respond to the GEGJC to develop a statement of common ground as the basis to consider the development of a Gloucestershire Spatial Development Strategy.
- 2.3 The GSoCG includes a series of 34 high level agreements dealing with a broad range of environmental issues and land uses matters including addressing the climate and ecological emergencies, housing and economic needs, transport provision and infrastructure delivery.
- 2.4 Reaching agreement on how to address these strategic planning matters is the start of the SoCG process. Action needs to be taken to address the matters arising from these agreements. The GSoCG proposes therefore that an Action Plan is developed to identify the actions to be taken, those responsible for taking that action, and a timeframe and budget to address the actions.
- 2.5 The long term intention is to explore the potential for the production of a Gloucestershire Spatial Development Strategy but at this stage whilst the essential purpose of the GSoCG is to promote joint action in addressing strategic issues, nothing in the GSoCG removes

the roles and responsibilities of the individual participating organisations in making decisions according to their statutory roles.

- 2.6** The draft GSoCG set out in Appendix A is, at the time of the publication of this report, yet to be approved by the Gloucestershire Leaders Board. In the event that the final draft GSoCG is amended by the Leaders Board, any changes will be reported to Committee. The recommendation seeks to delegate the approval of minor changes in the event that either the Leaders Board meets, or neighbouring local authorities seek to make minor changes through their decision making processes, after 9 September 2021.

3. NEXT STEPS

- 3.1** Once the GSoCG has been approved by all signatory bodies the intention is that the Action Plan will be developed and reported to GEGJC. Progress on joint working will be reflected in future iterations of the GSoCG which should be kept up-to-date. Any proposals for changes to current strategic planning arrangements or changes to the GSoCG will be reported for decisions to future meetings of Environment Committee or to other meetings of this Council, as appropriate.
- 3.2** This GSoCG helps to discharge this Council's current responsibilities under the Duty to Cooperate. However, additional or supplementary SoCGs will be required between the District Council and neighbouring authorities and other prescribed bodies as part of the examination of the Draft Stroud District Local Plan. Following the recent Regulation 19 consultation on the contents of the Pre-Submission Stroud Local Plan, officers are discussing the contents of those agreements with the relevant parties and these SoCG will be submitted with the Draft Local Plan for examination to the Planning Inspectorate shortly.

4. IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

Adele Rudkin, Accountant

Tel: 01453 754109 Email: adele.rudkin@stroud.gov.uk

4.2 Legal Implications

Although this statement is a non-statutory document, it is intended to support the strategic development plan process and will therefore need to be referenced/considered in formal decisions relating to the strategic planning process.

Nick Jonathan, Senior Lawyer, One Legal

Tel: 01684 272032 Email: nick.jonathan@onelegal.org.uk

4.3 Equality Implications

An EqIA is not required because the Gloucestershire Statement of Common Ground does not establish specific policies or procedures but only broad areas for seeking future agreement. However, statutory local plans and other planning policy documents prepared in the future to address strategic planning matters will be assessed for any equality implications.

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4.4 Environmental Implications

There are no significant implications within this category as the Gloucestershire Statement of Common Ground does not establish specific policies or procedures but only broad areas for seeking future agreement. However, statutory local plans are required to be subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA) which will include assessing the contents against a range of environmental objectives.

Gloucestershire
Economic Growth
Joint Committee

Draft

Gloucestershire
Statement of Common Ground – July 2021

Cheltenham Borough Council
Forest of Dean District Council
Gloucester City Council
Stroud District Council

Cotswold District Council
GFirst LEP
Gloucestershire County Council
Tewkesbury Borough Council

Version Control

Version	Date
Version 1	John Baker 31/05/2020
Version 2	DO Comments on J Baker 08/06/2020
Version 3	DO Version September 2020
Version 4	DO Version December 2020
Version 5	JR Version February 2021
Version 6	JR Version May 2021
Version 7	JR Version July 2021

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Gloucestershire Statement of Common Ground (GSoCG) has been prepared by the 7 local authorities in Gloucestershire (x1 County Council and x6 'District' Councils) and GFirst LEP – Gloucestershire's Local Enterprise Partnership – hereafter referred to as the parties.
- 1.2. "Gloucestershire has been a significant location for commerce since around AD48 when the Romans established an important crossing at the River Severn at Glevum. Located at a crossroads between Wales and London, and the West Midlands and the South West, the county's strategic position, even in an increasingly digital age, remains important to this day for businesses, visitors, and residents alike¹". The county has a diverse and highly valued natural and built environment that makes it a particularly attractive place to live and work.
- 1.3. The County has a strong track record of working together at the strategic level, and has reached agreement on numerous subjects of common interest in recent times including Gloucestershire 2050, the Gloucestershire Local Housing Needs Assessment and the Gloucestershire Inward Investment programme. This GSoCG provides the opportunity to build upon the work that has gone before.
- 1.4. This is the first GSoCG and as such does not contain all the answers. The purpose of this statement is:
 - a. To identify and demonstrate where common ground exists between the parties
 - b. To identify and agree an action plan on the strategic spatial planning matters in Gloucestershire that require collaborative working between the parties.
 - c. To identify in principle the potential response to addressing the strategic spatial planning matters.
 - d. To provide the basis for a 'live' document to allow for regular updates which capture progress against responding to the strategic spatial planning matters, acknowledging that responding to the Climate emergency will be the "Golden thread" that runs through the strategic planning activities and the outputs of this GSoCG.
 - e. To meet (in part) the requirements placed on Local Planning Authorities from the National Planning Policy Framework Revised 2019 (the Framework) to discharge the statutory 'Duty-to-Cooperate' as part of their local plan preparation. The various statutory requirements for a statement of common ground are set out in Appendix 1 for ease of reference.

¹ Source – Draft Gloucestershire Industrial Strategy 2019

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Appendix

- f. To respond to the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee (GEGJC) to develop a statement of common ground as the basis to consider the development of a Gloucestershire Spatial Development Strategy.

1.5. Appendix 2 provides context and explanation to support the agreements outlined in this document.

2. Parties involved

2.1. This GSoCG agrees strategic spatial planning matters between the following parties:

- Cheltenham Borough Council
- Cotswold District Council
- Forest of Dean District Council
- GFirst LEP
- Gloucester City Council
- Gloucestershire County Council
- Stroud District Council
- Tewkesbury Borough Council.

2.2. Any part of the GSoCG that is not agreed by the parties will be identified in Appendix 3, along with the organisation(s) not in agreement. Where text is not agreed by all parties it will be denoted with a dashed border.

2.3. In discharging their continuing joint and individual local plan responsibilities, some of the participating local authorities will need to agree additional or supplementary SoCGs or Duty-to-Cooperate statements with neighbouring local authorities both within and outside Gloucestershire, and with other bodies. Where appropriate, additional or supplementary agreements may be incorporated into the Gloucestershire GSoCG in future iterations, with appropriate explanation, or be presented as separate documents.

2.4. The GSoCG is a strategic document. It deals with matters that require cross-boundary consideration and agreement, and does not address non-strategic issues, which are the concern of and can be addressed by individual organisations, including through their local plans and the local transport plan.

3. Signatories

3.1. The signatories to the GSoCG are the Leaders or Portfolio Holders of the seven local authorities, or the Chief Officers under delegated powers, and the Chair or Chief Executive of GFirst LEP as follows:

Signature and date

Leader or Chief Executive

Cheltenham Borough Council

Signature and date

Leader or Chief Executive

Cotswold District Council

Signature and date

Leader or Chief Executive

Forest of Dean District Council

Signature and date

Chair or Chief Executive

GFirst LEP

Signature and date

Chair or Chief Executive

Gloucester City Council

Signature and date

Leader or Chief Executive

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Gloucestershire County Council

Signature and date

Leader or Chief Executive

Stroud District Council

Signature and date

Leader or Chief Executive

Tewkesbury Borough Council.

Other signatories

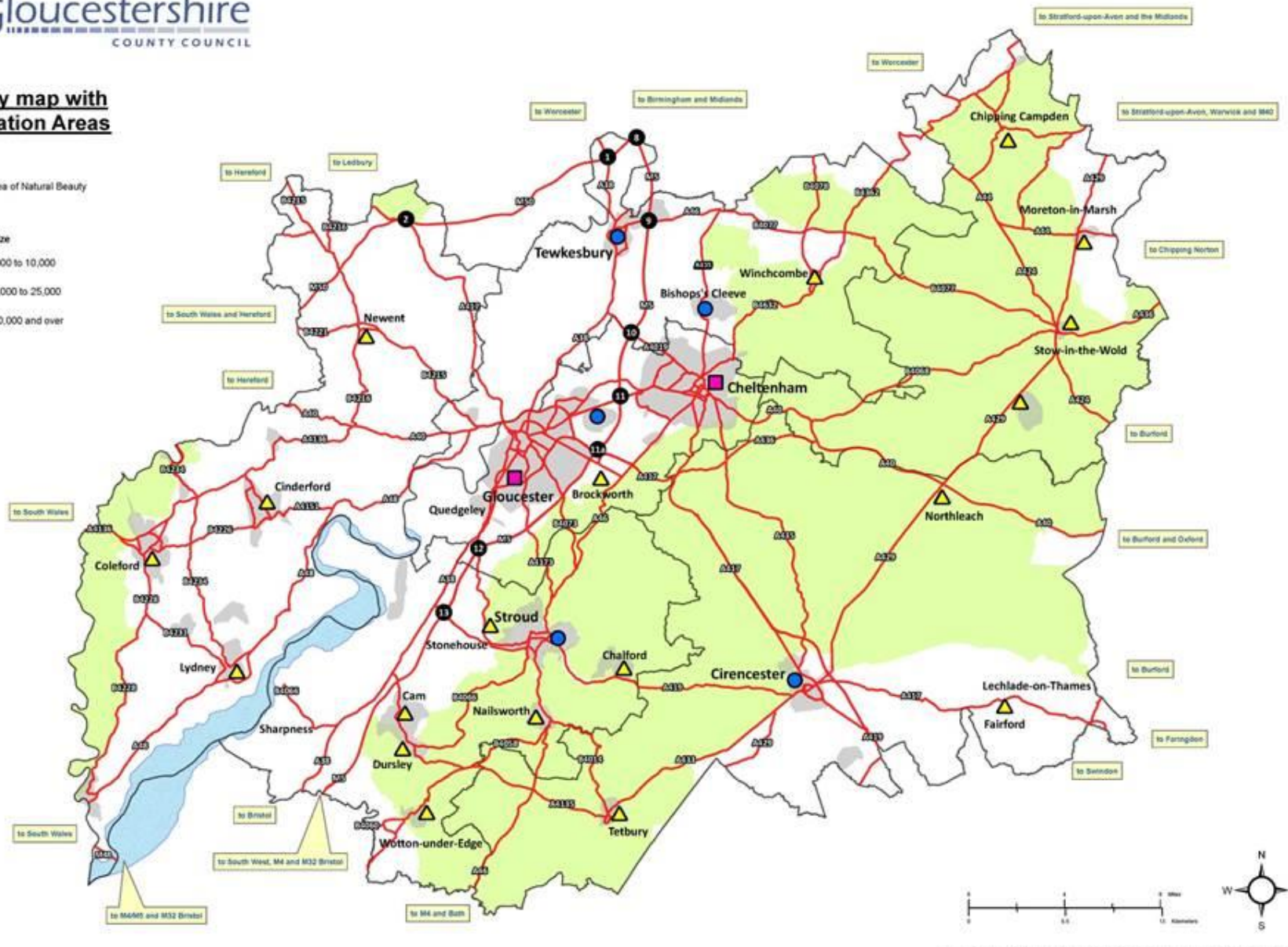
- 3.2. An appropriate representative of other strategic organisations will be required as a signatory if their organisation becomes a party to the GSoCG.

4. Gloucestershire's Strategic Geography

- 4.1. The GSoCG applies to the County of Gloucestershire. The rationale for developing a GSoCG for this area is the distinctiveness of the area and the relationship between the urban core of Gloucester and Cheltenham and the largely rural areas of Cotswold, Forest of Dean, Stroud and Tewkesbury and the functional and connectivity relationships that are presented. Gloucestershire as a whole is a Functional Housing and Economic Area with a sound economy, though with greater economic potential. This is recognised by the presence of GFirst LEP covering the same area. It also has a Police and Crime Commissioner and a Clinical Commissioning Group, alongside other strategic groups such as the Gloucestershire Nature Partnership and the Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Board.

County map with Population Areas

-  Area of Natural Beauty
 Population Size
 1,000 to 10,000
 10,000 to 25,000
 100,000 and over



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5. A Gloucestershire Spatial Development Strategy

5.1. The GEGJC have committed to:

“deliver a high-level spatial planning document for Gloucestershire which will set out agreed broad allocations for housing and economic growth across all districts”

and

“the development of, a high level future growth document for Gloucestershire, and work with the Local Plan teams to translate this into an agreed and adopted Gloucestershire Spatial Development Strategy”

5.2. In November 2018, the GEGJC endorsed a proposal to develop a “statement of common ground” as the most effective way of advancing these commitments in the first instance.

5.3. In addressing the matters agreed in this draft GSoCG, action will be taken and a body of evidence will be collected. Drawing that information together and understanding the relationship between the evidence gathered could readily then lead to the production of a Gloucestershire Spatial Development Strategy. The time, resource and financial requirements to support a Spatial Strategy need to be understood before commitment is given. When the aforementioned ‘Action Plan’ is presented to GEGJC, it will be accompanied by a business case for a Spatial Strategy for the County for consideration.

Agreements

1. The parties agree to the development of a Gloucestershire Spatial Development Strategy and it is recognised that agreeing this statement of common ground provides the most effective way of advancing this commitment in the first instance.

2. The parties agree that an action plan to address the matters and agreements within the GSoCG should be produced. That action plan should build upon the emerging early work undertaken by Gloucestershire County Council and set out the matters to be addressed, the course of action proposed, responsibilities, timetables and budget requirements. That action plan will be presented for consideration by the parties in due course. Once the action plan is agreed work on the Spatial Development Strategy for Gloucestershire will commence.

6. Strategic Planning Matter Agreements

6.1. The following presents the agreements reached between the parties on strategic planning matters in Gloucestershire which require a joint response.

Climate Change

Agreements

3. The parties agree that the climate and ecological emergencies presents risks to the county that are systemic, and unprecedented in scale and potential impact.
4. The parties agree that responses to the climate and ecological emergencies must be commensurate with the scale and severity of the risk, and that coordinated action is the most effective means of responding.
5. The parties agree that strategic planning decisions have a role to play in the reduction of carbon in contributing to local and global sustainability, and that our decisions must be informed by the climate and ecological emergencies and wherever possible deliver a positive contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation and ecological recovery. Responding to the Climate Emergency will be the 'golden thread' that runs through the strategic planning activities and the outputs of this SoCG, responding to our commitments to Carbon net zero.
6. The parties agree to investigate the use of alternative forms of energy generation, in line with environmental and landscape considerations.

Housing

Agreements

7. The Parties agree that making provision to meet the full range of housing needs in the right places at the right time is a vital role for the Gloucestershire authorities. The parties acknowledge this may result in one local authority accommodating the identified needs of another local authority, particularly where a local authority is unable to accommodate all of the identified need and where accommodating need in a neighbouring authority represents the most sustainable form of development.
8. The parties agree to jointly seek to meet in full (at least) the aggregated housing needs for Gloucestershire as identified by the statutory standard method at the time. The parties will continue the joint approach to the collection of housing needs data through a jointly procured and managed Local Housing Needs Assessment, using the relevant housing need methodology of the day. The parties agree to deliver housing where it promotes sustainable patterns of growth in Gloucestershire and is designed to respect local character and address potential impacts on existing communities.
9. The parties agree to explore the full range of development opportunities available, taking into account the potential impact on existing communities, resources and infrastructure.

The Economy and Employment

Agreements

10. The Parties agree it is important to take advantage of the location and characteristics of Gloucestershire and its economic strengths. The parties will take a pro-active role in creating the conditions within which existing and potential new employers can flourish, with a particular emphasis on spatial planning. Action will be taken to identify the

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appropriate scale and distribution of employment allocations, with the potential value of strategic sites to serve a larger area fully considered.

11. Parties agree that collaboration is essential to deliver a purposeful Gloucestershire approach to inward investment and business retention.

The Green Belt

Agreements

12. The Parties agree that the Green Belt in Gloucestershire is a strategic issue to be considered in the context of strategic spatial planning for the County.
13. The Parties agree that changes to the Green Belt boundary will be considered through the local plan making process, particularly through the JCS Review, in order to provide more sustainable locations for development that support the overall spatial strategy.

Transport Provision

Agreements

14. The Parties agree that strategic land allocations will set out the appropriate transport infrastructure required to deliver sustainable, resilient communities. This will be achieved through implementing the policies of the Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan, which provides for better public transport, cycle and pedestrian infrastructure, and active travel to enable a more efficient, low-carbon and people-centred transport network that delivers genuine travel choice and contributes to the growth of Gloucestershire's economy. Each strategic allocation that comes forward through the development plan will be supported by a sustainable transport mitigation package, based on the policies set out in the Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan.
15. The Parties agree to continue the exploration and pursuit of the opportunities to enhance the passenger transport network and services, as an integral part of developing a potential integrated spatial strategy and with the objective of increasing the proportion of trips within and beyond Gloucestershire made by rail.
16. The Parties agree that local plans should contain policies to ensure new developments support, where possible, the viability of passenger transport network and services. This is in recognition of the role of passenger transport in improving all people's accessibility and to reducing the carbon emissions associated with transport.
17. All parties agree that opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary between urban and rural areas.
18. The Parties agree that local plans should contain policies requiring developments to contribute the provision of the walking and cycling network. This is in recognition of the role active travel will play in achieving carbon reducing ambitions and promoting a healthy and active society. The aspiration is for cycling to become mass transit and routes

must be designed for larger numbers of cyclists, of all abilities and disabilities. Cycling and walking should be at the heart of transport, place-making, and health policy.

Digital Network

Agreements

19. The Parties will seek every opportunity to promote the advancement and rollout of digital infrastructure. The goal will be to achieve high quality digital services and modern economic and social infrastructure for Gloucestershire so that the County can continue to compete regionally, nationally and globally in the attraction of people and businesses. There will be a particular focus on delivering cyber technologies and digital infrastructure across the entire County, noting that substantial parts of Gloucestershire are rural areas.
20. The Parties will work with industry to identify the best means of contributing through planning policy and highways work to the timely delivery of comprehensive, open access, digital infrastructure.

Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure

Agreements

21. The Parties will ensure that strategically and locally important green infrastructure and ecosystem services are valued and improved through the development of a Natural Capital approach and the Nature Recovery Network, both being led by the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership (GLNP).
22. The Parties agree that local plans should contain policies requiring developments to deliver high quality and appropriately managed green infrastructure, to comply with and, where feasible, be assessed against the Building with Nature Standards, and to deliver a net gain for biodiversity.
23. In developing the Natural Capital approach, consideration will continue to be given to the desirability and feasibility of creating a regional park, possibly around the River Severn and its washlands, with objectives including raising awareness of the natural environment, habitat enhancement, recreation, strategic water management, carbon capture, and the creation of a Gloucestershire brand.
24. The Parties agree to work collaboratively to help conserve, manage and enhance the area's unique natural environment including areas of international and national landscape and biodiversity importance.
25. The Parties agree to work collaboratively and holistically to develop a Gloucestershire wide approach to mitigate against flood risk and to build in resilience through nature-based solutions. The role played by green infrastructure in reducing the risk of flooding should be considered at every scale stage in determining sustainable strategic land allocations for housing and employment. Parties agree to ensure adequate consideration

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is given to the cumulative and off-site impacts of development on future flood risk. The promotion of new water retention technologies will be encouraged, including sponge technology techniques.

Health and Social Infrastructure

Agreements

26. Parties will ensure that provision for strategic health, wellbeing, cultural and education facilities, consistent with the changing size and structure of the population, is made in the appropriate locations through spatial strategy. This will include the raising of standards and inclusive access across these facilities.
27. The Parties are committed to the elimination of discrimination and promotion of equality of opportunity for all citizens and will work towards this goal, both in the provision of services and employment.

Infrastructure Delivery

Agreements

28. The Parties agree that the strategic infrastructure needs* for the County, particularly those that align to future strategic growth, will be identified, prioritised and agreed on, and captured in one single source document. A methodology for prioritisation will be agreed in advance of the prioritisation taking place.
29. The infrastructure agreed upon will be costed and scheduled. The likely funding streams and mechanisms to enable the delivery of infrastructure will be identified. Joint working and engagement across parties will be used to develop business cases for funding and competitive bidding.
30. The Parties agree, through appropriate governance arrangements, that the task identified at agreements 22 and 23 should be undertaken strategically with involvement of the parties and others where relevant.

** Strategic Infrastructure Needs - refers to a broad range of infrastructure required to support future growth, included but not limited to social, cultural, educational, green infrastructure as well as more 'traditional' infrastructure associated with new development (e.g. roading infrastructure).*

Minerals and Waste

Agreements

31. The Parties agree to identify valuable minerals resources to be safeguarded for possible exploitation, and agree to seek the best way forward and its implementation through local plans, including by the exploitation of minerals in association with development in accordance with the spatial strategy.

32. The Parties will support the form and location of appropriate waste management facilities to positively support a progressive approach to waste management and press on with the move towards a circular economy. The Parties will actively discourage waste management facilities that do not contribute to the development of the circular economy.
33. The Parties will continue and extend the work started in parts of the Gloucestershire the identification of opportunities for the generation of energy from renewable and benign resources and will seek positive and progressive policies in local plans for the exploitation of these opportunities.
34. The Parties will seek to produce a reduction in the level of energy use, and this will be sought in part by the requirement for the incorporation of the most appropriate advanced technologies for energy generation from renewable sources and for energy conservation as part of significant new development schemes.

7. Governance

7.1. In order for this GSoCG to be advanced and the agreements identified above delivered, clear governance is required. The GEGJC is an established committee, and is the committee that jointly commissioned this GSoCG. The following governance arrangements are proposed:

- The GEGJC will continue to be the committee responsible for the overall production, development and monitoring of the GSoCG.
- The Senior Responsible Officer for the GSoCG will be XXX. They are charged with XXX
- The Strategic Planning Leaders Board will continue to provide strategic oversight and management of the GSoCG, the GSoCG Action Plan and any other future initiatives arising from the GSoCG.
- The Heads of Planning/Planning Policy Managers in district authorities, the Outcome Manager from GCC and the Deputy CEO from GFirst LEP will take responsibility for the production and updating of any further initiatives arising from the GSoCG

Agreements

35. The parties agree that the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee will be the committee responsible for the production and monitoring of the GSoCG.
36. The parties agree that whilst the essential purpose of the GSoCG is to promote joint action in addressing strategic issues, nothing in the GSoCG removes the roles and responsibilities of the individual participating organisations in making decisions according to their statutory roles.

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8. Next Steps

- 8.1. Reaching agreement on strategic planning matters is the start of the GSoCG. Action needs to be taken to address the matters arising from those agreements. It is proposed that an action plan be developed to identify the actions to be taken, those responsible for taking that action, and a timeframe and budget to address the actions. This will be presented to GEGJC within 6 months of this GSoCG being approved by GEGJC. (See Appendix 4 for template)
- 8.2. The actions will address some of the evidence needs arising from Local Plan preparation across the 7 authorities. Once the action plan is agreed work on the Spatial Development Strategy for Gloucestershire will commence..
- 8.3. The GSoCG is a live document and needs to be kept up-to-date. This should be done annually and/or when progress is made to address the matters or agreement and/or when the landscape changes (for example planning reform or local government reorganisation). Progress also needs to be monitored, which again should be done annually and reported through a monitoring report.

Agreements

37. The parties agree that the GSoCG is a live document, to be updated and monitored regularly, and as a minimum on an annual basis.

Appendices

1. The Requirements of a Statement of Common Ground
2. Background Information to Support the Gloucestershire Statement of Common Ground
3. List of 'Agreements' not agreed by any and/or all parties
4. Action Plan to deliver on commitments in the Gloucestershire Statement of Common Ground

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Appendix 1 - The Requirements of a Statement of Common Ground

MHCLG – Guidance on Plan Making (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plan-making>)

What is a statement of common ground expected to contain?

A Statement of Common Ground is expected to contain the following:

- a. a short written description and map showing the location and administrative areas covered by the statement, and a brief justification for these area(s);
- b. the key strategic matters being addressed by the statement, for example meeting the housing need for the area, air quality etc.;
- c. the plan-making authorities responsible for joint working detailed in the statement, and list of any additional signatories (including cross-referencing the matters to which each is a signatory);
- d. governance arrangements for the cooperation process, including how the statement will be maintained and kept up to date;
- e. if applicable, the housing requirements in any adopted and (if known) emerging strategic policies relevant to housing within the area covered by the statement;
- f. distribution of needs in the area as agreed through the plan-making process, or the process for agreeing the distribution of need (including unmet need) across the area;
- g. a record of where agreements have (or have not) been reached on key strategic matters, including the process for reaching agreements on these; and
- h. any additional strategic matters to be addressed by the statement which have not already been addressed, including a brief description how the statement relates to any other statement of common ground covering all or part of the same area.

The level of cooperation detailed in the statement is expected to be proportionate to the matters being addressed. The statement is expected to be concise and is not intended to document every occasion that strategic policy-making authorities meet, consult with each other, or for example, contact prescribed bodies under the duty to cooperate. The statement is a means of detailing key information, providing clear signposting or links to available evidence on authorities' websites.

Appendix 2 - Background Information to Support the Gloucestershire Statement of Common Ground

1. Gloucestershire's Strategic Geography

- 1.1. Gloucestershire lies between other complementary and competing areas, with Bristol and the West of England Combined Area to the south, Oxfordshire to the east; Swindon to the South East; Birmingham, Coventry and Warwickshire to the north; and Worcestershire and Wales to the west and north-west. Gloucestershire is part of the Western Gateway launched in November 2019, as a strategic partnership intended to promote and maximise economic growth across the west of England and south Wales. The Western Gateway will seek to ensure that the region is globally competitive and as such is intended to mirror and compete with the already established Northern Powerhouse and Midlands Engine. Gloucestershire is actively involved in the progression of the Western Gateway and Gloucestershire has a significant role to play, in particular through the progression of cyber as a key sector and lever for growth in this part of the region. As well as cyber-tech the draft Local Industrial Strategy highlights agri-tech, aerospace and manufacturing services sectors as key strengths for the county.
- 1.2. There are a number of strategies dealing with social, economic and environmental issues for Gloucestershire and others in preparation. These are examples of collective working on strategic issues, and participants in the GSoCG are either party to these strategies or will continue to seek to work with the owners of these strategies and to cooperate in their implementation. Current and emerging strategies include Gloucestershire 2050, the Local Industrial Strategy, the Local Transport Plan, the Sustainable Energy Strategy, the Green Infrastructure Strategy and the emerging climate change strategy for Gloucestershire. What is clearly evident from this strategic context is the alignment of priorities that that will need to be considered in developing the GSoCG.
- 1.3. Currently, Local Plans and the Local Transport Plan are the primary, statutory mechanism used to plan and deliver development in Gloucestershire. These plans, when considered holistically, provide a 'spatial plan' for Gloucestershire up to the mid 2030's, broadly as follows:
 - The Urban Areas of Cheltenham and Gloucester, adjacent areas within Tewkesbury Borough, as well as Ashchurch are the focus of strategic growth
 - Stroud caters for significant growth, commensurate with its size and geographical location
 - Tewkesbury and Winchcombe together with the larger villages of Tewkesbury Borough, the Forest of Dean towns of Coleford, Lydney, Newent and Cinderford, and the larger Cotswold towns of Cirencester, Moreton-in-Marsh and Tetbury cater for reasonable levels of development, commensurate with their size.
 - Smaller urban areas (including villages) across Gloucestershire provide for local need
 - Rural areas are largely protected from development
 - Investment in transport infrastructure largely aims to cater for growth at the levels identified above and remedy other existing, identified problems.

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Spatial planning in Gloucestershire has been approached in this hierarchical way for some considerable time. With the important additional consideration of potential new settlements, such a development approach means that homes are built close to the largest areas of employment opportunities, infrastructure investment can be target toward major populations (enhancing its use, effectiveness and success) whilst other areas can accommodate local demand whilst protecting character, both built and natural. The current status of Local Plans across Gloucestershire is set out at Appendix 2.

2. Current Context (September 2020)

2.1. There are a number of recent events that will inevitably impact on spatial planning in Gloucestershire (and indeed the broader country). They are outlined below because they will have a significant bearing on the way in which this GSoCG and any Gloucestershire wide spatial planning is taken forward. These include:

- All local authority parties have declared a Climate Change emergency (with some also declaring a specific ecological emergency) with varying aims and targets within the last 12-18 months, all with a theme of reducing carbon emissions. If this is to be achieved the location and connectedness of, and the design standards adopted in new development need careful consideration and a joined up approach.
- Covid 19 and it's impacts – It is inevitable that there will be negative short-medium term economic consequences. There may well be lasting societal changes that emerge too – including a reduced demand for travel, a greater appreciation and utilisation of people's homes and local areas (in particular open, green spaces), an accelerated need to change the function of urban centres, a need for enhanced digital connectivity and so on, a decentralisation from larger urban centres such as London and Birmingham as remote technology and ability to work from homes shifts perceptions in where people wish their homes to be located.
- The Government's Planning White Paper of Summer 2020 proposes wholesale reform of the planning system in England. There are a wide range of changes proposed which if implemented will have a significant impact on Plan making and infrastructure delivery across England.
- The Government may consult on further devolution proposals during 2021. The opportunity to plan jointly (for example the JCS) already exists, but changes to local government structures in the future may provide new opportunities.

2.2. Taken as a whole, these recent events, the outcomes of which are unknown, will have a profound effect on plan making and delivery of growth in the future. This must be borne in mind in progressing with this GSoCG and any recommendations arising. A live 'GSoCG' should enable timely responses to the challenges we face. At the same time, investment in strategic planning, including future work on this GSoCG and any subsequent planning strategy work, needs to be carefully considered in the context of planning reform and local government review.

3. Strategic Planning Matters in Gloucestershire

Introduction

- 3.1. The GSoCG is about strategic planning matters that can be addressed by spatial planning and need to be addressed by more than one district planning authority, whilst working with the County Council and GFirst LEP. What follows is an identification of the strategic matters in Gloucestershire, with a set of agreements which capture the matters arising and the proposed responses (as actions). They are presented as distinct matters of spatial planning but need to be considered as component parts of successful spatial planning.

Climate Change (and Ecological Emergency)

- 3.2. There is an overwhelming need in Gloucestershire, as everywhere, to address the climate and ecological emergency, as declared by each of the local authorities in Gloucestershire. The strategic planning activities in the Gloucestershire must work towards this commitment and to achieving a net carbon zero society. There are opportunities through growth to advance carbon reduction technologies in Gloucestershire, including through commitments to sustainable construction and better building energy performance. The level of use of energy by residents, workers and visitors is higher in Gloucestershire, as everywhere, than is consistent with a low carbon future. More needs to be done to generate energy locally from renewable sources using a variety of technologies and to reduce the consumption of energy generally.
- 3.3. Gloucestershire's existing transport network depends largely on its highway network. Future transportation solutions in Gloucestershire need to balance demand for clean sustainable growth and improved connectivity with maximising the efficiency of existing infrastructure. Significant investment in Gloucestershire's passenger and active travel networks will be required to complement planned highway capacity works as future growth will require greater integration of modes to ensure a high quality transport network is deliverable.
- 3.4. The legacy of COVID-19 and the possible changes towards travel demand is likely to challenge the traditional view of managing the transport network, with the priority of minimising journey times switching to managing journey options for people as transport networks decarbonise. Serving a growing leisure market may also become as important as commuting options when people decide where to live and this may need to be considered as the county grows.

Housing

- 3.5. The housing needs of Gloucestershire have to be met to enable the members of the changing population to house themselves, including those who need assistance through the provision of affordable housing, to address the need to attract a younger working age population and to ensure a workforce exists locally to enable the achievable growth in the economy to take place. The housing that is built needs to be fit for purpose and enable people to live

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independently in their own home for as long as they can. This will require a flexible response to the type and tenure of housing together with the sustainability principles of the product.

- 3.6. Each local authority is required to make provision to meet the housing needs of its area through Local Plans. How and where that provision is made clearly affects those in need of housing, and has implications for the economy, transport and the environment. It is important that the right type of housing is development in the right places to meet needs, enhance wellbeing, support the economy and protect the environment. The future form of housing development in Gloucestershire, whether this be through extensions to existing settlements or through new settlements, should promote sustainable patterns of living and be designed to respect local character.
- 3.7. The housing requirements are increasingly unlikely to be met wholly within the same local administrative area as the need arises, particularly where those areas are geographically/administratively constrained (e.g. Cheltenham and Gloucester). Where this arises, planning policy requires those authorities to seek provision in neighbouring authority areas, and if this cannot be achieved reach a conclusion that the need cannot be met. Failing to meet housing need impacts on Gloucestershire's growth ambitions, housing affordability and choice, reduces the available workforce in an area and encourages travel between people's homes and jobs particularly (in Gloucestershire case) by private car and can make the provision of services less efficient to deliver.
- 3.8. Current local plans/local plans in development in Gloucestershire make provision for new homes to varying timescales. This provisions is captured below:

Area	Plan Status and key dates	Plan Period	Requirement	How is this Met?
Cheltenham	Joint Core Strategy adopted 2017 Cheltenham Plan adopted 2020	2011-2031	at least 10,917 new homes	Completions, commitments, Plan allocations and windfall allowance
Cotswold	Adopted 2018	2011-2031	420 pa	Allocation and windfall supply
Forest of Dean	Allocations Plan adopted June 2018 Replacement Local Plan at early strategic options stage (2021-41)	2006-2026	330 pa	Allocation and windfall
Gloucester	Adopted Joint Core Strategy	2011-2031	at least 14,359 new homes	Completions, commitments,

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	Emerging Gloucester City Plan (at Examination)			Plan allocations and windfall allowance
Stroud	Local Plan adopted November 2015	2006-2031	At least 11,400 new homes	Completions, commitments, Plan allocations and windfall allowance
Tewkesbury	Adopted Joint Core Strategy Emerging Tewkesbury Borough Plan (at Examination)	2011-2031	9,900	Completions, commitments and proposed allocations in emerging Borough Plan total 9,397 dwellings Shortfall (503 dwellings) to be addressed through JCS review

3.9. Local Plans in the area also contain specific policies for Gypsy and Traveller provision, as below:

Area	Plan Status and key dates	Plan Period	Requirement	How is this Met?
Cheltenham	Joint Core Strategy adopted 2017 Cheltenham Plan adopted 2020	2011-2031	3 pitches	Criteria based policy
Cotswold	Adopted Local Plan (2018)	2011-2031	3 pitches	2 allocated sites + criteria based policy for additional allocations
Forest of Dean	Allocations Plan 2018/ Core Strategy 2012	2006-2026	No requirement identified at time of examination	Criteria based policy

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Gloucester	Adopted Joint Core Strategy Emerging Gloucester City Plan (at Examination)	2011-2031	2 pitches	
Stroud	Local Plan adopted November 2015	2006-2031	31 pitches	Completions and commitments
Tewkesbury	Adopted Joint Core Strategy Emerging Tewkesbury Borough Plan (at Examination)	2011-2031	17 pitches ²	Completions and proposed Borough Plan allocations total: 50 pitches

3.10. Local Plans in the area also contain specific policies for Travelling Showpeople provision, as below:

Area	Plan Status and key dates	Plan Period	Need	How is this Met?
Cheltenham	Joint Core Strategy adopted 2017 Cheltenham Plan adopted 2020	2011-2031	None	N/A
Cotswold	Adopted Local Plan (2018)	2011-2031	None	Criteria based policy
Forest of Dean	Allocations Plan 2018/ Core Strategy 2012	2006-2026		Criteria based policy
Gloucester	Adopted Joint Core Strategy Emerging Gloucester City Plan (at Examination)	2011-2031	16 plots	

² 17 pitches includes 5 pitches from those who meet the definition of traveler from the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites plus 25% (12 pitches) of those where it was at the time unknown whether they would meet the definition or not.

Stroud	Local Plan adopted November 2015	2006-2031	8 plots	Completions and commitments
Tewkesbury	Adopted Joint Core Strategy Emerging Tewkesbury Borough Plan (at Examination)	2011-2031	22 plots	Proposed Borough Plan allocations total: 9 plots

3.11. There are good reasons for the parties to agree that housing provision is a strategic spatial planning issue, and that joint working to make sufficient provision is essential. Work is already underway to address this issue jointly. District authorities in Gloucestershire are currently working on a Local Housing Needs Assessment which identifies the minimum housing need for Gloucestershire broken down to a District level and sub categories of need, including affordable housing and housing for special needs.

3.12. Proposed reforms to the current planning system will change the methodology used to calculate housing need. The initial indication is that the 20yr need will rise from 65,000 under the current method to 95,000 under the new method. To meet these identified needs a range of development options will need to be considered and joint working will be essential.

The Economy and Employment

3.13. Whilst the economy of Gloucestershire is strong, there is greater economic potential to be achieved, with some sectors showing particular strength and with Gloucestershire home to some distinctive businesses activities that can be nurtured to the benefit of the local and wider economy. All prospective employers will in part be assisted through the provision of employment land and space where it is needed and of a scale and type suitable for the requirements of the relevant sectors, with particular regard to where Gloucestershire may have a particular advantage over other possibly competing areas. Flexibility will be key and this will need to be built through engagement across the key sectors. GFirst LEP will be a key contributor to providing the evidence base to help steer the changing economic context for Gloucestershire.

3.14. Gloucestershire has an ageing population with a falling level of economically active people, a change taking place because the retention of young people in the area is relatively low. This will give rise to increasing inter-generational tensions and has direct and indirect negative effects on the economy.

3.15. In Gloucestershire critical roles in creating the conditions for businesses to thrive include:

- The district councils, charged with providing for employment space through the allocation of land in local plans, and with ensuring enough housing is provided

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- The County Council responsible for transport infrastructure, economic development and education
- GFirst LEP with very strong links with businesses and providing direct support to new, incoming and existing businesses, as well as producing the Local Industrial Strategy
- All local authorities with various responsibilities for green and inclusive growth

3.16. Whilst these organisations work together, there isn't yet one coherent strategy for coordinated action to support the development of employment and the economy in the future. GFirst LEP have prepared the Local Industrial Strategy for Gloucestershire which was put to Government prior to the onset of Covid-19. The views of the Government are awaited. Local Plans provide for employment land across Gloucestershire, currently as follows:

Area	Plan Status and key dates	Plan Period	Requirement	How is this Met?
Cheltenham	Joint Core Strategy adopted 2017 Cheltenham Plan adopted 2020	2011-2031	192ha B Class – across the JCS area	Completions, commitments, Plan allocations and windfall allowance
Cotswold	Adopted Local Plan (2018)	2011-2031	24ha B Class land between 2016-2031	Completions, commitments and plan allocations
Forest of Dean	Allocations Plan 2018	2006-2026	Not stated	New allocations and intensification of existing sites, criteria based policies (60+ha)
Gloucester	Adopted Joint Core Strategy Emerging Gloucester City Plan (at Examination)	2011-2031	192ha B Class – across the JCS area	Completions, commitments, Plan allocations and windfall allowance
Stroud	Local Plan adopted November 2015	2006-2031	58 hectares	Completions, commitments, Plan allocations and windfall allowance

<p>Tewkesbury</p>	<p>Adopted Joint Core Strategy</p> <p>Emerging Tewkesbury Borough Plan (at Examination)</p>	<p>2011-2031</p>	<p>192ha B Class – across the JCS area</p>	<p>84ha on strategic allocations (some or all within Tewkesbury Borough)</p> <p>40ha on proposed allocations in the emerging Tewkesbury Borough Plan</p> <p>Other commitments and vacant employment land across the Borough.</p>
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3.17. The parties have recently completed a new Gloucestershire Economic Needs Assessment (2020) which:

- Identifies the Functional Economic Market Area (FEMA) for planning purposes.
- Provides a review of the context in neighbouring areas and the wider region.
- Provides an assessment of the economic performance and characteristics and commercial property market.
- Considers a range of scenarios for future economic growth in Gloucestershire.
- Identifies the quantum of employment land required to meet these scenarios and the locational requirements of different sectors.

This work has been commissioned to directly inform the preparation of Local Plans across Gloucestershire.

The Green Belt

3.18. Parts of Gloucestershire are designated as Green Belt, a designation dating from the Gloucestershire Development Plan of 1968 and extended by the Gloucestershire County Structure Plan in 1981. The fundamental intention the Green Belt is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently ‘open’. Parts of Gloucestershire that offer good potential for promoting more sustainable development are in the green belt and so local plans – prepared with the overriding statutory objective on plan-makers of promoting sustainable development

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- will have to consider whether changes to the area of green belt will have to be made, as national planning policy provides for.

- 3.19. Green Belt policy was originally conceived as a strategic policy for shaping the pattern of development – and it was identified through strategic planning documents when designated. It should be looked at strategically therefore, and this is a role for the GSoCG. If avoiding development in the Green Belt means that the development will have to go elsewhere, then the alternative locations must still need to contribute toward the overall spatial strategy and sustainable development objectives. For plans to withstand scrutiny the reasons for rejecting alternatives must be clearly given.

The Movement of People, Goods, Services and Information

- 3.20. There is a clear need to provide for greater modal choice to provide for alternatives to the car and enable individuals to choose how they travel. Post COVID-19 there will be a need to work collectively to develop a financially sustainable transport offer that reflects the possible legacy of the pandemic on changes in demand to traditional journey patterns. Improvements in digital connectivity open opportunities for this and help support the management of the transport network.
- 3.21. As the county grows there is a clear need to increase the market share of rail through better regional connectivity and work with bus operators to identify sustainable solutions to develop a financially sustainable, socially inclusive and efficient countywide bus network. This will provide for areas not served by rail. It will also aid understanding of the decarbonisation transfer process the roles different parties will need to play supporting this. Cycling and Waling also provide a real opportunity to improve the physical and mental health of residents, improve air quality and ease congestion within urban areas.
- 3.22. In addition to supporting personal travel it is important to recognise the requirements of commercial operators to provide the most efficient way of transporting goods alongside reducing carbon emissions and improving air quality.
- 3.23. The movement of people, goods and services between and within places and spaces has a profound effect on the economy, the lives of residents and the environment. There is a clear relationship between the location, scale and form of growth and movement. This GSoCG provides the opportunity to maximise the opportunity to promote and enable shifts in movement behaviour through considering the location of existing and new populations and aligning movement solutions to enable the greatest impact and success.

Transport Provision

- 3.24. Essential travel in Gloucestershire is heavily based on the private car. For the most part this is currently fossil fuel propulsion, but this will change dramatically in the plan making periods relevant to the GSoCG, as car technology is changing quickly, with electric and other forms of non-carbon emitting propulsion taking over, with manufacturers committing to phasing out fossil fuelled propulsion. The provision of publicly accessible electric charging is an important

commitment by the County Council and district authorities which will facilitate and speed this change to the car as a sustainable mode of transport. However, even with the uptake of electric vehicles proceeding as planned, Government and local carbon reduction targets can only be achieved if we also create communities that reduce the need to travel and through a significant shift to sustainable transport modes, such as walking, cycling and public transport. The GSoCG will need to take account of this fundamental change in outlook in considering sustainable locations for strategic land allocations for the future.

- 3.25. The housing and employment land strategic site selection purpose of the GSoCG provides a golden opportunity to enable much improved public transport connections for residents, both road and rail, to create the genuine choice for residents outlined in paragraph 3.21, and deliver the public transport aspirations of the Local Transport Plan.
- 3.26. Covid-19 has led to a significant increase in online retail and remote working. Clearly this has negative consequences on existing town centres, but the need to travel for retail purposes are diminishing. New technologies and initiatives are ever developing which may lead to a shift the way in which people, goods and services move, ranging from Electronic Vehicles and Autonomous Vehicles to Mobility as a Service (MaaS). The location, design and layout of new development need to take into account of these developments. Digital technology provides an alternative to movement, and this is covered in more detail below.
- 3.27. The Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan (LTP) sets out the current transport strategy for Gloucestershire to 2041. The plan provides for a range transport schemes which largely aim to cater for planned growth and seeks to promote modal shift in new developments.
- 3.28. Development beyond that identified in existing advanced or adopted local plans provides the greatest opportunity to influence future movement choices. The road and rail network, together with technological advances provides the opportunity for modal shift but investment will be required. The LTP sets out a range of aspirations and scenarios for catering for growth that could take place beyond 2031. These aspirations and scenarios need to be developed alongside decisions on the future locations of growth to make them effective and successful.

Digital Network

- 3.29. Gloucestershire already has a strategic role in cyber security and this will grow significantly with the development of 'Cyber Central'. The County must position itself to take full advantage of this opportunity, from education to supporting industries to broader connectivity benefits for the community at large.
- 3.30. The movement of information digitally is becoming ever more relevant, and Covid-19 has proved the value of and need for quality connectivity, particularly for the service sector on which a large proportion of the Gloucestershire economy relies. Quality broadband services are increasingly a factor people consider when looking at the attractiveness of an area as somewhere to live. Gloucestershire has the opportunity to benefit from the comprehensive and inclusive roll out of high quality digital infrastructure to assist business and domestic users.

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Natural Environment and Green and Blue Infrastructure

- 3.31. Gloucestershire contains areas of great landscape value, some recognised by national designations and of huge value to residents and visitors alike, and these need to be conserved and enhanced for their own sake and for the distinctive character they give to Gloucestershire. At the same time, more people need ready access to environmental assets as has been highlighted during the Covid-19 pandemic, and there is 'quality in the ordinary'. An enhanced green infrastructure network of spaces and corridors would provide structure and identity to an area, benefit wildlife, create recreational opportunities and amenity, help in the management of water, and assist in carbon capture.
- 3.32. Green infrastructure as a connected network of multi-functional green and blue spaces and corridors is essential to the wellbeing of Gloucestershire and its people, and is something should be part of the spatial strategy and as such promoted through the GSoCG. Part of the appeal of Gloucestershire for residents and business alike is its natural environment.
- 3.33. There is a great deal of work underway in Gloucestershire by government agencies, local authorities and voluntary groups promoting various aspects of green infrastructure. This includes:
- The work promoted by the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership (GLNP) on natural capital baseline mapping and on the Nature Recovery Network that helps to underpin it.
 - The national Building with Nature Standards, developed in Gloucestershire (initiated by the GLNP and the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust), provide planners and developers with evidence-based, how-to guidance on delivering high-quality green infrastructure
 - The emerging Environment Bill will mandate Biodiversity net gain for certain types of development, noting the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) already highlights the need to provide biodiversity net gain.
- 3.34. In 2015, the Green Infrastructure Working Group of the GLNP developed 'A Strategic Framework for Green Infrastructure in Gloucestershire' with consultation and agreement gained from Gloucestershire's local authorities (undergoing review in 2020-21).
- 3.35. Gloucestershire Vision 2050 identified the potential of a Regional Park. Stakeholders have been investigating the possibility, including identifying a possible location.
- 3.36. Furthermore, all authorities signed up to the GLNP Green Infrastructure Pledge in 2018 - a promise to commit to making Gloucestershire a pioneer of green infrastructure, creating a better, more attractive place to live, work and visit, as well as becoming an exemplar for the rest of the country.
- 3.37. Many of the local authorities in Gloucestershire have recognised the huge declines in biodiversity by declaring climate and ecological emergencies. Many policies and initiatives are

in place or are being developed around biodiversity and nature recovery showing a commitment to continuing to work in partnership to address biodiversity declines.

- 3.38. There is therefore a great deal to use and to build upon for improved and better valued green infrastructure, expressed through strategy/policy, as part of the spatial strategy embraced by the GSoCG.
- 3.39. Flood resilience will require a strategic response, including others beyond the boundary of Gloucestershire. Having a clear and agreed proposed flood resilience response will enable the Parties to engage with neighbouring authorities and regions in a coordinated way.

Energy Production

- 3.40. There is a need to increase energy efficiency and reduce energy usage for residents, workers and visitors in Gloucestershire in order to achieve a net-zero carbon future. There are key opportunities to achieve this through commitments to more sustainable construction methods with improved building energy performance, as well as through shifts in transport modes. There is also opportunity to explore renewable and low-carbon energy generation projects, including community energy schemes.
- 3.41. The Gloucestershire Sustainable Energy Strategy (2019) includes 6 key ambitions for energy reduction in Gloucestershire and a road map of actions to establish the building blocks necessary, focusing on the next 6 years.

Health and Social Infrastructure

- 3.42. Many of the matters above have a clear impact on health and wellbeing – to provision of quality green space and housing, providing opportunities for active travel, reducing emissions and improving air quality and so on. The relationship between spatial planning is not traditionally fully understood, but that relationship is becoming clearer.
- 3.43. Specifically here, early year, educational, health and cultural facilities including open space, need to be provided at least in balance with the needs of a growing and changing population, consistent with nurturing greater skills and wellbeing, and more inclusively. Provision should be made as close to where demand arises in an efficient and effective way and should not be an afterthought – provision is essential and should be planned as part of spatial planning. The needs of service providers need to be understood at an early stage to inform future planning. Careful consideration needs to be given to the viability of development.

Infrastructure Delivery

- 3.44. The provision of infrastructure to support existing and new communities is obviously essential. This ranges from transport to education to green space, as discussed in various sections above. In order for infrastructure to be delivered effectively there is a need to:

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- understand where demand will arise
- identify, prioritise and agree on that infrastructure
- consult with relevant infrastructure providers
- identify funding mechanisms to enable infrastructure delivery
- the viability of development.

- 3.45. Funding is secured in a variety of ways including through the collection of Community Infrastructure Levy funds, through s106 agreements, bids and grants administered by GFirst LEP, bids to various Government Agencies and so on. Most of these funding mechanisms are competitive – competition with other areas of the country for private and government investment, competition between competing infrastructure projects within the GSoCG area, or onsite competition between the various demands placed on the development sector. Gloucestershire has a good track record of winning competitive funding and the GSoCG will be a key tool in future bids in articulating the collective ambition and delivery of growth.
- 3.46. At a both a strategic and local, non-strategic level, infrastructure needs are identified in a range of statutory and non-statutory documents including Local Plans, Infrastructure Development Plans and annual Infrastructure Funding Statements, the Local Transport Plan, Education Place Planning Strategies, the Natural Capital initiative and so on.
- 3.47. There is no single source document that identifies the agreed strategic infrastructure requirements for Gloucestershire. Such a document, together with a clear strategic direction of growth in Gloucestershire, would present a solid basis to encourage investment in its various forms from the public and private sector. Furthermore, such an approach would fit well with current proposed reforms to the development contribution regime. The various strategic infrastructure concepts listed in the preceding sections will need to be planned for and funded.
- 3.48. Various pieces of work are either underway or under consideration. The parties are exploring the potential for a single Local Developer Guide for Gloucestershire. This document will provide a clear practice guide for developers on how the parties expect infrastructure to be funded by development, building upon adopted policies and standards set out in local plans.

Minerals and Waste

- 3.49. There are strategic minerals deposits in Gloucestershire that should be secured until they need to be used, perhaps in association with appropriate development. These are dealt with through Minerals and Waste Local Plans developed by the County Council.
- 3.50. Sufficient provision needs to be made for the waste management facilities required to implement a positive and progressive reuse, recycle, recover approach to resources, striving towards the achievement of a circular economy.

Appendix 3 - List of 'Agreements' not agreed by any and/or all parties

Agreement Name and Number	Party/Parties not in agreement	Non agreement Party/Parties' preferred text
Paragraph 5.2	Tewkesbury Borough Council	In November 2018, the GEGJC endorsed a proposal to develop a "statement of common ground" as the most effective way of advancing these commitments.
Agreement 1	Tewkesbury Borough Council	The parties agree to the development of a Gloucestershire Spatial Development Strategy and it is recognised that agreeing this statement of common ground provides the most effective way of advancing this commitment.
Climate Change agreements 3 - 6	Tewkesbury Borough Council	<p>Agreements</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The parties agree that the climate emergency presents risks to the county that are systemic, and unprecedented in scale and potential impact. 4. The parties agree that responses to the climate and emergency must be commensurate with the scale and severity of the risk, and that coordinated action is the most effective means of responding. 5. The parties agree that strategic planning decisions have a role to play in the reduction of carbon in contributing to local and global sustainability, and that our decisions must be informed by the climate emergency and wherever possible deliver a positive contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Responding to the Climate Emergency will be the 'golden thread' that runs through the strategic planning activities and the outputs of this SoCG, responding to our commitments to Carbon net zero.
Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure agreement 24	Tewkesbury Borough Council	

Appendix 4 - Pro-forma Action Plan to deliver on commitments in the Gloucestershire Statement of Common Ground

Strategic Matter	Proposed Action	Anticipated Action Outcome	Action Timeline	Action Budget	Action Lead Officer	Action Team
Climate Change						
Housing						
Employment						
The Green Belt						
Transport Provisions						
Digital Network						
Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure						
Energy Production						
Health and Social Infrastructure						
Infrastructure Delivery						
Minerals and Waste						

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

09 SEPTEMBER 2021

Report Title	BUDGET MONITORING REPORT Q1 2021/22			
Purpose of Report	To present the 2021/22 forecast outturn position against the revenue budgets and Capital Programme that the Committee is responsible for, in order to give an expectation of possible variances against budget.			
Decision(s)	The Committee RESOLVES to Note the outturn forecast for the General Fund Revenue budget and the Capital Programme for this Committee.			
Consultation and Feedback	Budget holders have been consulted about the budget issues in their service areas. The feedback has been incorporated into to the report to explain difference between budgets and forecast income and expenditure.			
Report Author	Adele Rudkin, Accountant Tel: 01453 754109 Email: adele.rudkin@stroud.gov.uk			
Options	None			
Background Papers	None			
Appendices	Appendix A – Detailed breakdown of revenue position			
Implications (further details at the end of the report)	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	Yes	Yes	No	No

1 Background

- 1.1 This report provides the first monitoring position statement for the financial year 2021/22. The purpose of this report is to notify members of any known significant variations to budgets for the current financial year, highlight any key issues and to inform members of any action to be taken if required.
- 1.2 **Due to the volume of information contained in the report, it would be helpful where members have questions on matters of detail if they could be referred to the report author or the appropriate service manager before the meeting.**

2. Summary

- 2.1 The monitoring position for the committee at 30 June 2021 shows a **projected net revenue underspend of (£32k)** against the latest budget, as summarised in Table 1.

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- 2.2 This position does not include the expected financial impact of Covid-19, which is reported to Strategy and Resources Committee. A summary of the position for this committee included in Section 4.
- 2.3 The capital programme is showing a forecast spend of £8.160m against a budget of £10.011m. The variance of (£1.850m) relates to re-profiling of timings, predominantly on the Canal project.
- 2.4 Table 3 shows the capital spend and projected outturn for the Environment Committee for 2021/22.

3. Revenue Budget Position

- 3.1 Council approved the General Fund Revenue budget for 2021/22 in February 2021 including budget proposals of the administration.
- 3.2 The latest budget for Environment Committee taking into account the adjustments for carry forwards is **£6.346m** (Original Budget was **£6.172m**).
- 3.3 The monitoring position for the committee at 30 June 2021 shows a **projected net underspend of (£32k)** against the latest budget, as summarised in Table 1. This does not incorporate the Covid pressures outlined in table 2, this will be reported in the overall position on the General Fund to Strategy and Resources Committee.
- 3.4 The outturn position is mainly attributable to those items outlined in Table 1 with an explanation of the significant variances (including Covid related issues) that have arisen (a significant variation is defined as being +/- £20,000 on each reporting line).
- 3.5 Appendix A provides a more detailed breakdown on the Committee's budgets.

Table 1 – Environment Revenue budgets 2021/22

Environment Committee	Para Refs	2021/22 Original Budget (£'000)	2021/22 Revised Budget (£'000)	2021/22 Forecast Outturn (£'000)	2021/22 Reserve Transfers (£'000)	2021/22 Outturn Variance (£'000)	Covid-19 Pressures (Reported in S&R)
Canal	3.6	379	379	279	100	(1)	0
Carbon Management		110	173	181	0	9	0
Development Control	3.7	197	197	210	0	13	275
Economic Development		101	101	101	0	0	0
Health & Wellbeing		830	941	960	0	18	0
Land Charges & Street Naming		(18)	(18)	(18)	0	0	0
Planning Strategy/Local Plan		370	370	363	0	(7)	0
Statutory Building Control	3.8	(137)	(137)	(139)	0	(2)	50
Waste & Recycling: Other		12	12	28	0	16	0
Waste and Recycling: MSC	3.9	4,329	4,329	4,251	0	(78)	0
Environment TOTAL		6,172	6,346	6,215	100	(32)	325

Note: table may contain rounding differences

3.6 Canal - £nil variance

The spend on the Canal project, including any revenue spend, will continue to be monitored as part of the overall Phase 1B project. Further detail on the project is included in the capital narrative.

3.7 Development Control – £288k under achievement of income/overspend (Geraldine LeCointe xtn 4233, geraldine.lecointe@stroud.gov.uk)

This variance consists of two elements. A £200k underachievement of income is forecast on Planning application fee income. The pandemic is still having an impact on the type of applications submitted to council with the trend being for smaller scale developments that attract smaller fees. This may change with progress of the draft local plan and as the impact of the pandemic recedes, but this is yet to evidence itself.

The predicted £80k salary overspend relates to extra agency staff who have been brought in to support the development management and enforcement services. These are temporary posts plugging gaps created while we recruit and train new staff and also to support the substantial increase in enforcement complaints received during the pandemic.

3.8 Statutory Building Control – £48k overspend (Paul Bowley xtn 4520, paul.bowley@stroud.gov.uk)

Income for the first quarter has achieved target. The bounce back of construction activity and our share of the market will continue to be monitored with the aim that there will not be the loss of income due to Covid-19 which was predicted to be up to £48k when the budget was set. At future budget monitoring this figure will be reduced or removed. Business support posts were filled in the first quarter and an agency building control surveyor has been advertised ahead of recruiting for a permanent position. The current salary savings will cover the increased agency cost.

3.9 Waste and Re-cycling - Multi Service Contract – (£78k) additional income/overspend (Mike Hammond xtn 4447, mike.hammond@stroud.gov.uk)

This underspend is made of several offsetting variances. Recycling is forecasting an additional (£55k) of income due to a more buoyant than expected paper re-cycling market. Sustained growth of garden waste subscriptions will impact the forecast income variance by (£63k). A £48k overspend is estimated on replacement refuse receptacles due to the ageing wheelie bin infrastructure, this will be addressed at budget setting in the autumn. The Ubico contract will continue to be monitored closely on a monthly basis, the current forecast is showing a small overspend mainly due to an outstanding insurance dispute claim and theft of diesel from the Gossington site of £25k. In addition, Ubico have raised the issue of the national shortage of drivers and rates of pay. A proposal is currently being looked over in conjunction with the other Councils across the contract, in effect this could mean increased supplementary costs of circa £45k this financial year. This will be considered in more detail through the upcoming budget strategy later this financial year.

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4. Covid Pressures

- 4.1 Table 2 below outlines the particular Covid pressures borne though either additional expenditure or loss of income within with each service for this Committee.
- 4.2 The impact of these figures will be included in the budget monitoring report to Strategy & Resources Committee against the budget allocated by Council in February, and any expected grant income from Government.

Environment

Table 2 - Covid Pressures reported to Strategy and Resources Committee

Committee Summary Heading	Committee Service Area	Outturn Forecast (£'000)
Development Control	Development Control	75
Subtotal Covid-19 Additional Expenditure		75
Development Control	Development Control	200
Statutory Building Control	Building Control	50
Subtotal Covid-19 Loss of Income		250
TOTAL Covid Pressures		325

5. Capital Programme

Table 3 below shows the Capital Outturn forecast for 2021/22 with a projected outturn variance of (£1.850m).

Table 3 – Environment Committee Capital Programme

Environment Capital Schemes	Para Refs	2021/22 Original Budget (£'000)	2021/22 Revised Budget (£'000)	2021/22 Forecast Outturn (£'000)	2021/22 Outturn Variance (£'000)
Canal	5.1	6,631	8,215	6,603	(1,611)
Market Town Centres Initiative Fund	5.2	50	40	40	0
Multi-Service Contract Vehicles	5.5	859	1,208	1,208	0
Rural SuDS Project	5.3	30	30	30	0
Stratford Park Acquisition of Machinery	5.4	0	14	14	0
Stroud District Cycling & Walking Plan	5.6	200	404	165	(239)
Wallbridge-Gateway	5.7	100	100	100	0
Environment Capital Schemes TOTAL		7,870	10,011	8,160	(1,850)

5.1 Canal

Following the successful bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for grant funding for Phase 1B of the Cotswold Canal Connected Project, work is underway. The variance to the

budget is a timing difference, which will be reviewed, and the existing budget re-profiled to reflect the timetable. The overall project budget remains the same.

5.2 **Market Town Centres Initiative Fund.**

The Distribution of Market Towns Funding was agreed at the January 2019 by Strategy and Resources Committee. In order to be able to distribute the funds to the relevant Town Councils, written confirmation was sought as to how would spend the funds for agreement. Some responses were received after the relevant financial year, resulting in a variance against the profiled budget, this has been taken into account in 2021/22 with the remaining budget due to be spent in year.

5.3 **Rural SuDS**

Four schemes have been completed in the first quarter of this financial year with 16 leaky dams and 3 small attenuation areas created plus additional small works. This has involved working with 5 new private landowners and 3 new contractors. There are currently 7 new schemes in planning stages for delivery later in the year.

5.4 **Stratford Park Acquisition of Machinery**

This amount was allocated as part of the overall Capital project of the transfer of grounds maintenance contract for Stratford Park and Brimscombe Cemetery to Ubico was approved on the 14 April 2020 by Officer decision in consultation with group leaders and Chairs of the relevant Committees of £95k. The £14k is earmarked for site enhancements and options are currently being reviewed. It is anticipated to be fully utilised on 2021/22.

5.5 **Multi- Service Contract – Vehicles**

The spend is in line with the fleet programme which is being procured in conjunction with Ubico, this is expected to be delivered within budget and within this financial year.

5.6 **Stroud District Cycling and Walking Plan**

Progress is being made on delivering improvements to the cycling and walking network, working with Gloucestershire County Council and local groups. A significant underspend is currently forecast for 2021/22, partly because a number of the projects are at the early feasibility and design stages and significant funding is yet to be required, partly due to the incremental nature of some of the projects and finally because of the success to date in attracting significant match funding from, for example, CIL funding, the Country Council, Gloucestershire Health Services and ERDF European funding. Future expenditure is expected to be aligned with Local Cycling and Walking Plans (LCWP) which are currently in production. A Cycling and Walking Task & Finish Group is being set up to consider ways of focussing future investment on priority projects and how to unblock constraints and accelerate delivery.

5.7 **Wallbridge Gateway**

This site has been included in the canal strategy and a design will be progressed with Stroud Town Council once the strategy has been completed as it is a significant gateway site for the town and the canal. In the mean-time the upper part of the site has been identified as the location for a district wide Covid memorial.

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6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report as it reports on previous financial activities, and expected forecasts.

Lucy Clothier, Accountancy Manager

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6.2 Legal Implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from the report and its recommendations.

One Legal

Tel: 01684 272012 Email: legalservices@onelegal.org.uk

6.3 Equality Implications

There are not any specific changes to service delivery proposed within this decision.

6.4 Environmental Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

	Para Refs	2021/22 Original Budget (£'000)	2021/22 Revised Budget (£'000)	2021/22 Forecast Outturn (£'000)	2021/22 Reserve Transfers (£'000)	2021/22 Outturn Variance (£'000)
Environment Committee						
Canal Restoration Project		379	379	279	100	(1)
Canal	3.6	379	379	279	100	(1)
Energy Efficiency		110	173	181	0	9
Carbon Management		110	173	181	0	9
Development Control		197	197	210	0	13
Development Control	3.7	197	197	210	0	13
Economic Development		35	35	35	0	0
Regeneration		66	66	66	0	0
Economic Development		101	101	101	0	0
Contaminated Land		30	30	30	0	0
Dog Warden Service		95	95	96	0	1
Environmental Protection		182	182	183	0	1
Food Safety		151	151	148	0	(3)
Head of Health and Wellbeing		76	76	81	0	5
Health & Wellbeing		113	113	114	0	0
Health and Safety		82	90	98	0	7
Land Drainage		41	145	145	0	1
Pest Control		6	6	12	0	6
Planning Liaison		15	15	15	0	0
Port Health		2	2	2	0	0
Public Health		36	36	36	0	0
Health & Wellbeing		830	941	960	0	18
Land & Property Custodian		12	12	12	0	0
Street Naming		(30)	(30)	(30)	0	0
Land Charges & Street Naming		(18)	(18)	(18)	0	0
Planning Strategy		370	370	363	0	(7)
Planning Strategy/Local Plan		370	370	363	0	(7)
Building Control		(179)	(179)	(181)	0	(2)
Building Regulation Enforcement / Advice		32	32	32	0	0
Securing Dangerous Structures		10	10	10	0	0
Statutory Building Control	3.8	(137)	(137)	(139)	0	(2)
Waste & Recycling: Other		12	12	28	0	16
Waste & Recycling: Other		12	12	28	0	16
MSC: Bulky Waste		10	10	(1)	0	(11)
MSC: Food Waste		747	747	747	0	0
MSC: Garden Waste		(94)	(94)	(142)	0	(48)
MSC: Recycling		1,544	1,544	1,489	0	(55)
MSC: Refuse Collection		1,412	1,412	1,448	0	36
MSC: Street Cleansing		710	710	710	0	0
Waste and Recycling: MSC	3.9	4,329	4,329	4,251	0	(78)
Environment TOTAL		6,172	6,346	6,215	100	(32)

Note: table may contain rounding differences

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STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

9 SEPTEMBER 2021

Report Title	CYCLING AND WALKING TASK & FINISH GROUP			
Purpose of Report	To seek approval for a proposed Cycling and Walking Task & Finish Group to drive delivery on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans for the district (as issued by Gloucestershire County Council), and to help realise Stroud District Council's wider Active Travel ambitions.			
Decision(s)	The Committee RESOLVES: 1. to set up a Cycling and Walking Task & Finish Group; 2. to approve the draft Terms of Reference as set out in Appendix A.			
Consultation and Feedback	On 17 June 2021 Environment Committee considered ways of supporting the development of future cycling and walking plans and specific cycling and walking projects in the district.			
Report Author	Simon Maher, Senior Neighbourhood Planning Officer Tel: 01453 754339 Email: simon.maher@stroud.gov.uk			
Options	Option 1 - To set up a Cycling and Walking Task & Finish Group Option 2 – Continue without a Task & Finish Group It is recommended that option 1 is adopted to develop a prioritised pipeline of walking and cycling schemes in order to make informed decisions on future cycling and walking investment and to provide a framework for the future delivery of cycling and walking routes.			
Background Papers	N/A			
Appendices	Appendix A – Task & Finish Group Draft Terms of Reference			
Implications (further details at the end of the report)	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	No	No	No	No

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The scope of a Cycling and Walking Strategy for the Stroud District was agreed at Environment Committee in June 2017 with the aim of directing an allocated £300,000 Cycling and Walking budget towards identified cycling projects through match funding and opportunities identified with other partners and stakeholders.
- 1.2 Since 2017 funding from the Cycling and Walking budget has been allocated on an ad hoc basis, focussing on projects identified in the scoping document and on identified deliverable projects. This initial budget has been all but allocated to projects throughout the District (see

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section 2) however a further allocation of £300k was agreed at Council on 25 February 2021 following a request from Environment Committee in Autumn 2020.

- 1.3 Following the Department of Transport's launch of the Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy (CWIS) in 2017 and guidance on the production of local cycling and walking infrastructure plans (LCWIP), Gloucestershire County Council has embarked on a series of LCWIPs for the County, with a Stroud LCWIP now in advanced preparation. The role of these LCWIP was endorsed recently with the adoption of the Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan 2041.
- 1.4 On 17 June 2021 Environment Committee resolved to support the emerging Stroud LCWIP and work with the County Council to produce further LCWIPs for the District. The Committee also resolved to fund projects consistent with these plans.

2. CURRENT CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

- 2.1 *Nailsworth to Dudbridge Cycleway*: Working with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and Gloucestershire County Council, a programme of works to resurface the majority of the route and carry out bridge repairs as well as make biodiversity improvements is nearing completion. The Cycling and Walking budget has contributed approximately £140k to the project with further funding coming from CIL funding, GCC, Gloucestershire Health Services, and ERDF European funding.
- 2.2 *Cam-Dursley-Uley Greenway*: Steered by the Cam Dursley Greenway group, and working with GCC, the District Council has committed £50k toward physical works along the route, plus another £25k match funded with £25k of CIL funding to make cycle friendly highway improvements along the route.
- 2.3 *Wotton-Kingswood-Charfield Greenway*: Led by the WKC Greenway group, the District Council has committed £18k towards a detailed feasibility study being carried out by Sustrans. Once complete it is envisaged that the study will present a deliverable project.
- 2.4 *Cainscross*: £25k from the Cycling and Walking budget match funded to £25k from CIL funding has been allocated to highway improvements along Cainscross Road to be carried out by Gloucestershire County Council.
- 2.5 *Frampton on Severn*: £10k from the Cycling and Walking budget match funded to £10k from CIL funding has been allocated towards improvements to footpaths and pedestrian links in Frampton.

3. CYCLING AND WALKING TASK AND FINISH GROUP

- 3.1 Task and finish groups provide a way for committees of this Council to investigate particular issues in more depth within a limited time period and to recommend actions back to their host committee for further consideration.
- 3.2 Members have expressed the wish to consider further the issues around improving the walking and cycling network, particularly the need to identify priority schemes and to work with partners to accelerate delivery.
- 3.3 A Task & Finish Group is therefore proposed to be set up to carry out the following functions:

- Developing a prioritised 'pipeline' of cycling and walking schemes and opportunities, aligned with the LCWIPs for the district (and going beyond, where appropriate, for example where a hyper-local scheme is considered a priority but is not included on the local LCWIP)
- Discussing and agreeing the nature of interventions and investments required to unblock constraints and accelerate delivery of the pipeline
- Identifying ways to promote pipeline priorities to a wider audience (Gloucestershire County Council, Siobhan Baillie MP) to gain necessary support
- Providing a point of contact for community groups to promote local schemes for consideration
- Reviewing progress on existing cycling infrastructure projects, and considering and supporting options for budgeted but not yet allocated cycling spend
- Making recommendations to the Environment Committee, where any decisions resulting from any of the above functions are required.

4. CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 The setting up of a Cycling and Walking Task & Finish Group will provide the opportunity to develop a robust framework to focus future investment and prioritisation of cycling and walking routes within the District and an opportunity to discuss with partners how to unblock constraints and accelerate delivery.
- 4.2 It is recommended that the Committee resolves to set up a Cycling and Walking Task & Finish Group with terms of reference as set out in Appendix A.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial implications

This report is to recommend a Task & Finish Group and set to up terms of reference, therefore no financial implications associated with this report.

Adele Rudkin, Accountant

Tel: 01453 754109 Email: adele.rudkin@stroud.gov.uk

5.2 Legal implications

There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

One Legal

Tel: 01684 272017 Email: legalservices@onelegal.org.uk

5.3 Equality Implications

An EqIA is not required because this report does not establish specific policies or procedures. However, the proposed Cycling and Walking Task & Finish Group will make recommendations to a future meeting of Environment Committee and that report may be assessed for any equality implications.

5.4 Environmental Implications

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There are no significant implications within this category as the report does not establish specific policies or procedures. However, the proposed Cycling and Walking Task & Finish Group will make recommendations to a future meeting of Environment Committee and that report may be assessed for any environmental implications.

Environment Committee
Cycling & Walking Strategy Task & Finish Group
Draft Terms of Reference

Purpose

The role of the proposed Cycling & Walking Strategy Task & Finish Group is to drive delivery on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans for the district (as issued by Gloucestershire County Council), and to help realise Stroud District Council's wider Active Travel ambitions. The Group will report to the Environment Committee.

Functions

The Task & Finish Group will carry out the following functions:

- Developing a prioritised 'pipeline' of cycling and walking schemes and opportunities, aligned with the LCWIPs for the district (and going beyond, where appropriate, for example where a hyper-local scheme is considered a priority but is not included on the local LCWIP)
- Discussing and agreeing the nature of interventions and investments required to unblock constraints and accelerate delivery of the pipeline
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- Making recommendations to the Environment Committee, where any decisions resulting from any of the above functions are required.

Membership

The Group will be cross-party preferably drawn from Environment Committee, comprising the following members:

- One member from each of the four political parties, one of whom should be an elected member of Gloucestershire County Council
- Two members of the public, being a representative of Stroud Valleys Cycling Group and a representative of Stroud Active
- An officer from Gloucestershire County Council responsible for the delivery of cycling and walking projects in Stroud District

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Appendix

Officers on the Board will comprise:

- Senior Neighbourhood Planning Officer
- Head of Planning Strategy

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Group will be appointed by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Environment Committee.

Substitutes for members who are unable to attend meetings for a protracted period such as illness or timing of meetings will be agreed at the discretion of the Chair of Environment Committee.

Confidentiality

The Group's meetings will be confidential and all papers and minutes will be treated as exempt from publication.

Meeting Frequency and Papers

- The Group will meet [three] times (September 2021, November 2021, February 2022).
- An agenda and supporting papers will be issued in a timely manner, ideally one week in advance of the meeting via the lead Officer.

Reporting Back to Environment Committee

The Task & Finish Group will report back to the Environment Committee on 31st March 2022.

Code of Conduct

The following conduct should be observed:

- To send apologies if unable to attend
- To arrive on time
- To conduct all questions and comments through the Convener to ensure everyone has the chance to speak and not interrupt those speaking already
- To positively participate in the discussion
- To not use any offensive or belittling language
- To note personal/ward issues cannot be dealt or be resolved through this route.

Review

The T&F group will run for 6 months and Environment Committee will review recommendations from the Group at the end of that period.






Performance Monitoring Report Q1: Environment Committee

DATE OF MEETING	
ATTENDEES	Members: Cllr Natalie Bennett; Cllr George James Officers: Brendan Cleere
PERFORMANCE UPDATE <i>(please give a brief progress update on the following areas)</i>	
CDP PRIORITIES	Recently recognised as a finalist in the MJ awards for Leadership in the Climate Emergency Response, the 2030 Strategy and Master Plan consolidates, enhances and expands the action from every quarter of the council to support our 2030 aims. We are planning new internal working groups and communications structures to enable more consolidated, coordinated approaches to all this activity. Projects already under the coordination of 2030 Team include: rewilding of Salmon Springs; Community Energy Retrofit at Draycott, Cam; Solar Together (due diligence phase – private domestic renewables retrofit scheme) and; in the community, electric car club viability work. This against the background of a 2030 focused corporate plan in development and a number of emerging new strategies such as: The Local Plan; Food strategy and, the Community and Leisure Services Strategy are being built in reference to 2030 strategy.
CDP PRIORITIES	<i>CDP3.12 Work with partners to implement the next phase of the cycling and walking strategy, focussing on routes between Dudbridge-Nailsworth; Dursley–Cam-Uley; Wotton-Kingswood-Charfield.</i> Current progress with strategic and local cycling routes is as follows: Dudbridge-Nailsworth: Urgent repair works are ongoing, being led by GCC who are in the process of issuing tenders. Dursley-Cam-Uley: Design work for sections of track requiring highway improvements is currently being undertaken by Atkins on behalf of GCC. Cainscross segregated cycleway: Following updated guidance, the proposed soft-segregated solution for Cainscross Road is to be updated with a more robust solution. Designs are to be proposed by GCC.

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<p>CDP PRIORITIES</p>	<p>Frampton Cycle Path: Detailed design work is yet to commence following an allocation of £10k from CIL and £10k from the cycling and walking budget (total £20k) to implement a safe link from the canal to the village in association with the completion of the canal restoration work.</p> <p>Wotton-Kingswood-Charfield: Sustrans are nearing completion of the design phase for this project.</p> <p>Stroud-Chalford: The intention is coordinate this route with the proposed redevelopment of Brimscombe Port, with on-going consultation with local cycling groups.</p> <p>Stroud Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP): A draft Stroud LCWIP produced by GCC focusing on Stroud town centre, Stonehouse, and with links to Nailsworth, Chalford, and Hardwicke was presented to Environment Committee on 17th June. It was agreed that Council would support the emerging LCWIP going forward and use it as the basis for focused funding. Further LCWIPs for Cam and Dursley and Wotton are to be produced through 2021/22.</p>
<p>PROJECTS / CAPITAL PROGRAMME (if not covered in CDP)</p>	<p>Assess air quality within the District in line with the requirements of Defra and prepare an annual report on air quality in the District</p> <p>Monitoring of NO₂ across the District using passive detectors was successfully completed for the year 2020/21. Bias adjustment corrections are now available and an Annual Status Report for 2020 will consequently be produced by the Autumn. A briefing of Environment Committee members has been arranged for 4 November 2021.</p> <p>Monitoring of NO₂ across the District using passive detectors continues for 2021 across a total of 30 sites. Unadjusted NO₂ levels for Q1 suggest that Air Quality Objectives are not being exceeded. Four new sites have been established - at Cam, Dursley, Wotton-under-Edge and Hardwicke.</p> <p>Continuous monitoring of particulates at two sites on behalf of the Javelin Park Community Liaison Group continues and levels measured to date comfortably meet Air Quality Objectives.</p> <p><i>Establish a working group and governance structure for the development of work plans to deliver the 2030 Carbon Neutral commitment.</i></p> <p>The community governance structures are in final planning stages in consultation with ALT. The process to establish this group will run until late Autumn and involve establishing a third party panel to help steer a recruitment process that will focus on trying to find key community leaders/influencers a key requirement being their ability to acts as agents for change. These people will be recruited through a formal process of advertising with job and person specifications and an interview. The group is envisaged to be no more than 20 persons including elected members and key officers with a focus on District action.</p>

PROJECTS / CAPITAL PROGRAMME (if not covered in CDP)	The community governance structures are in final planning stages in consultation with ALT. The process to establish this group will run until late Autumn and involve establishing a third party panel to help steer a recruitment process that will focus on trying to find key community leaders/influencers a key requirement being their ability to acts as agents for change. These people will be recruited through a formal process of advertising with job and person specifications and an interview. The group is envisaged to be no more than 20 persons including elected members and key officers with a focus on District action.
PROJECTS / CAPITAL PROGRAMME (if not covered in CDP)	<p><i>Deliver and secure the long term sustainability of the rural SuDS project in partnership with the EA, working closely with land owners and communities using innovative land and flood management techniques.</i></p> <p>The current post holder will be leaving the Council on the 13th August and recruitment for a replacement will be carried out shortly. Projects continue to be delivered on the ground and arrangements have been made with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and the EA to cover these projects in the interim.</p> <p><i>Manage the delivery of the 'Warm Homes Fund' project</i></p> <p>With the easing of lockdown measures and some confidence returning the number of installs has been steady across the project. The full Warm & Well Q1 report is available on the website.</p>

PERFORMANCE MEASURES (see Excelsis where applicable)				
Indicator	Target	2020/21 outturn	Q1	
Percentage of MAJOR planning applications determined within 13 weeks. This also takes into account Planning Performance Agreements which allow for longer than 13 weeks but will be counted positively.	60	88	Not available	
Percentage of MINOR applications determined within 8 weeks.	70	96	Not available	
Percentage of 'other' applications determined within 8 weeks	70	95	Not available	
Residual household waste per household. (kgs)	63	76.3*	Not available	
Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting	60	57.83	Not available	

* The number of kgs per household remains increased compared to previous years, due to the number of residents working from home. This has prompted an increase of waste into the residual stream that would normally be disposed of via commercial collections.

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RISKS <i>(see Exce/lsis)</i>	<p>CCR9 WASTE MANAGEMENT: Cost of providing waste and recycling services to the district currently constitutes around a third of the organisation's budget. As such any budgetary implication is of significant consequence to the MTFP. Risk Score - 6</p> <p>Further consultations on proposed changes to waste legislation are open and SDC will respond alongside partners within the Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership. It seems more likely that local authorities will be mandated to collect garden waste for free, which could have a major financial impact. Government have said that this would be fully funded but it is unclear how this would be calculated. There are other potential changes which will be impactful too, such as a deposit return scheme that will at the very least, alter the composition of kerbside recycling.</p>
RELEVANT FINANCE ISSUES	See - Budget Monitoring Report 2021/22 Q1
FOLLOW UP <i>(any issues for consideration at the next meeting)</i>	None at the time of writing

ANY ISSUES OF SIGNIFICANT CONCERN TO BE REPORTED TO AUDIT AND STANDARDS	
None	
ANY ACTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE	
None	
REPORT SUBMITTED BY	Brendan Cleere (with input from relevant lead officers)
DATE OF REPORT	27 August 2021

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

9 SEPTEMBER 2021

WORK PROGRAMME

Date of meeting	Matter to be considered	Notes (e.g. lead Member/Officer)
09.12.21 (Budget)	Revenue Estimates Revised 2021/22 and Original 2021/23	Accountant
	Community Infrastructure Levy Spending Allocations 2022-23	Senior Community Infrastructure Officer
	Tree Strategy	Senior Carbon Neutral Officer
	Ubico Annual Presentation	Managing Director of Ubico
03.02.22	Member Reports a) Planning Review Panel b) Stroud Regeneration Committee c) Performance Monitoring	Councillor Layfield Councillors Bennett and James
	Member Reports a) Planning Review Panel b) Stroud Regeneration Committee c) Performance Monitoring	Councillor Layfield Councillors Bennett and James
	2030 Annual Report	Senior Carbon Neutral Officer
31.03.22	Litter Bin Policy	Community Services Manager
	Member Reports a) Planning Review Panel b) Stroud Regeneration Committee c) Performance Monitoring	Councillor Layfield Councillors Bennett and James

Reports for future meetings

- Community Involvement
- Report on Glover Review - Principal Planning Officer
- Building Back Better Strategy
- District Nature Recovery Strategy
- Severn Estuary Mitigation Strategy

Published Members' Information Sheets

Date sent (& Ref No)	Topic	Notes (e.g. responsible officer)

Information Sheets for Future Meetings:

Marine Management Organisation and Marine Management Plan – TBC

Ubico Fleet Electrification – August

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