

South Gloucestershire

LOCAL PLAN

2018-2036

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report February 2018

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Executive Summary

What is the New South Gloucestershire Local Plan?

Planning law requires that planning decisions are made in accordance with the council's local plan. The new South Gloucestershire Local Plan (nSGLP) will be a development plan document (DPD) covering the whole administrative area of South Gloucestershire and the plan period will be 2018-2036. It will review and, once adopted, replace the existing local plan which comprises the:

- South Gloucestershire Local Plan: Core Strategy- 2006-2027 (2013)
- South Gloucestershire Local Plan: Policies, Sites and Places Plan

We are working with the three other West of England unitary authorities to prepare the Joint Spatial Plan (JSP). The JSP will set out the overall amount of new residential and employment development, and where it should be located across the West of England sub-region, as well as the infrastructure required to support that growth e.g. schools, transport, community facilities and green spaces.

Part of the nSGLP's purpose will be to allocate sites for strategic development at locations identified in the JSP, as well as to allocate new sites for non-strategic development in the district. The local plan will also set out the suite of planning policies that will be used to deliver sustainable development in South Gloucestershire.

What is Sustainability Appraisal?

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a statutory process used to assess the economic, social and environmental implications of proposed planning policies to help inform the decision-making process. It is intended to promote sustainable development by better integrating sustainability considerations into the preparation of the planning documents.

A final Sustainability Appraisal Report will accompany the submission Plan. This will identify and report on the likely significant effects (both negative and positive) of the plan and reasonable alternatives and propose measures to reduce or enhance those effects.

What is this document?

This document informs the SA process by outlining the scope of the assessment in terms of relevant plans, programmes and policies; key economic, social and environmental evidence base and sustainability issues. It then sets out the framework for undertaking the SA of the nSGLP.

What consultation arrangements apply?

South Gloucestershire Council is required by Government regulations to consult with the three statutory agencies (Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England) on the scope of this Appraisal. A consultation on a Draft Scoping Report (September 2017) for the new South Gloucestershire Local Plan was

undertaken in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, Reg. 12(5), with comments invited before 20th October 2017. The eight consultation questions on the scoping report are set out in Appendix 1. The responses to the consultation are available to view as an appendix to this report, including how they have led to this updated Scoping Report.

Including the statutory agencies the following consultees were consulted on the content of the scoping report:

The Environment Agency; Historic England; Natural England; Bristol City Council; North Somerset Council; Bath and North East Somerset Council; Gloucestershire County Council; Stroud District Council; Cotswold District Council; Forest of Dean District Council; Monmouthshire County Council; Avon Wildlife Trust; The West of England Local Enterprise Partnership; and Wiltshire Council.

What further information is available?

If you have any queries on this report or any other aspect of the SA process, please contact:

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Department for Environment and Community Services
South Gloucestershire Council
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Bristol
BS37 0DD

Email: planningpolicy@southglos.gov.uk

1. Introduction

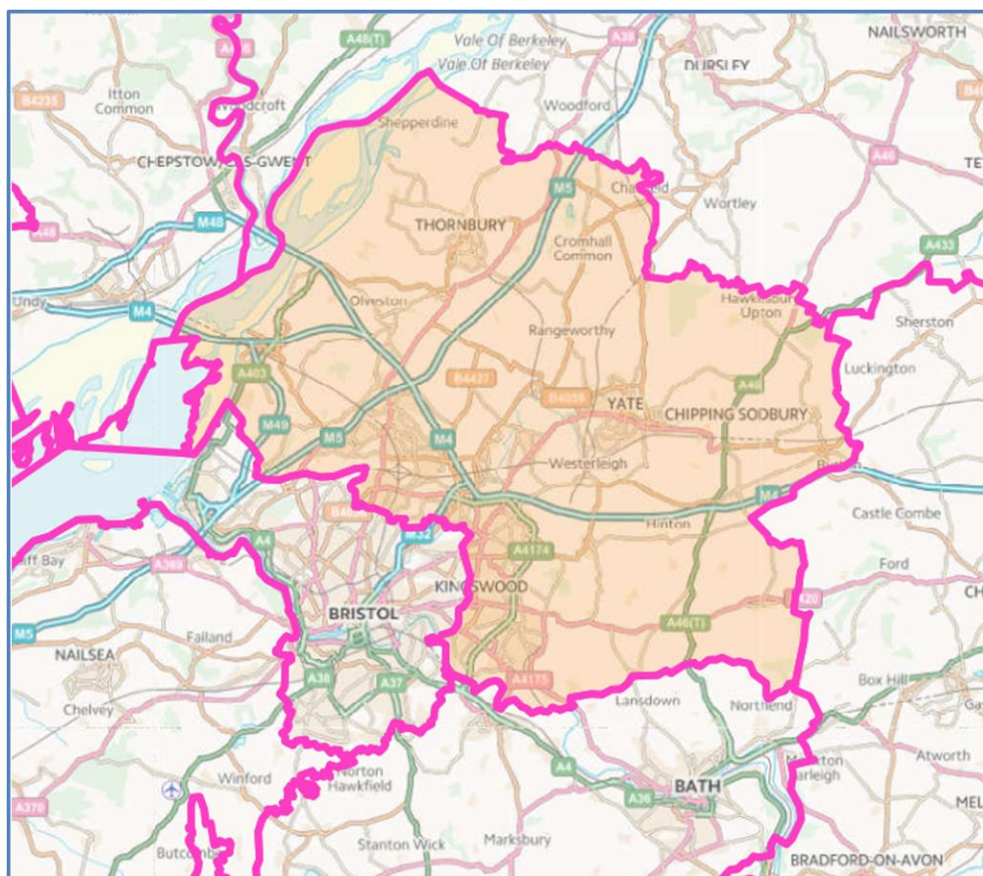
1.1 Background

1.1.1 The new South Gloucestershire Local Plan (nSGLP) is a formal development plan document. The plan area will be the administrative area of South Gloucestershire (see Figure 1 below).

1.1.2 The main purpose of the nSGLP is to:

‘Set the planning policies on which decisions will be made within the plan period, 2018-2036. It will review and eventually replace the Core Strategy 2006-2027 (Adopted 2013) and the Policies, Sites and Places Plan. It will reflect the overall amount of new residential and employment development set in the Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) and where it should be located, through site allocations, as well as the infrastructure required to support that growth e.g. schools, transport, community facilities and green spaces. New sites for non-strategic development in the district will also be allocated. The local plan will also set out the suite of planning policies that will be used to deliver sustainable development in South Gloucestershire.’

Figure 1: The nSGLP plan area



Source: OS Unitary Boundary for South Gloucestershire

- 1.1.3 Sustainability Appraisal is a statutory process used to assess the economic, social and environmental implications of proposed planning policies to help inform the decision-making process. It is intended to promote sustainable development by better integrating sustainability considerations into the preparation of the nSGLP.
- 1.1.4 A Scoping Report is published for consultation in accordance with the SEA Directive and Regulations. The consultation formally seeks the views of three statutory consultees: Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency. The consultation is designed to gauge the view of consultees on the defined scope of the SA and the proposed level of detail that should be included in the SA. A consultation on a Draft Scoping Report (September 2017) for the new South Gloucestershire Local Plan was undertaken in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, Reg. 12(5), with comments invited before 20th October 2017. The eight consultation questions on the scoping report are set out in Appendix 1.
- 1.1.5 Including the statutory agencies the following consultees were consulted on the content of the scoping report:

The Environment Agency; Historic England; Natural England; Bristol City Council; North Somerset Council; Bath and North East Somerset Council; Gloucestershire County Council; Stroud District Council; Cotswold District Council; Forest of Dean District Council; Monmouthshire County Council; Avon Wildlife Trust; The West of England Local Enterprise Partnership; and Wiltshire Council.

- 1.1.5 The findings of the consultation and council response, including how changes have led to refinement of the Sustainability Appraisal are set out in Appendix 4.

1.2 The Purpose of SA

- 1.2.1 SA involves the systematic identification and assessment of the potential sustainability impacts of plans and programmes. One of the aims of SA is to aid in the selection of plan options which are the most sustainable and to provide direction for individual policies and proposals within plans. The SA provides a clear audit trail of how a plan has been revised to take into account the results of the assessment.
- 1.2.2 In 2001, the European Union issued Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the SEA Directive). The SEA Directive aims to increase the level of protection for the environment, integrate the consideration of the environment into the preparation and adoption of plans and to promote sustainable development. The SEA Directive was transposed into UK law via the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (EAPP) (2004) and applies to a range of English plans and programmes. Within England and Wales it is accepted practice to integrate the requirements of SA and SEA into a single assessment

process. The SA must however incorporate the requirements set out within the EAPP Regulations.

1.3 Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)

- 1.3.1 In order to protect the integrity of European sites, Local Authorities are obliged under the Habitats Directive to carry out an Appropriate Assessment (AA) as part of the planning process. European sites are collectively termed Natura 2000 sites and comprise Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) together with Ramsar Sites. AA is based on a rigorous application of the precautionary principle and therefore requires those undertaking the exercise to prove that the plan will not have a significant impact on site conservation objectives.
- 1.3.2 There is one Natura 2000 site in the Plan area (see Section 3 for diagram). The potential effect of the nSGLP on this site will be considered in detail as part of the assessments carried out under the Habitat Regulations screening process. In addition we will consider all other Natura 2000 Sites within a 15km radius of South Gloucestershire authority boundary.
- 1.3.3 The AA and SA are two separate processes each with their own legal requirements. The AA will be carried out alongside the SA. The findings of Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) undertaken for recent Local Plan documents and the JSP will inform the baseline and assessment of the nSGLP HRA.

1.4 Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

- 1.4.1 The NPPG states that there are three dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. These dimensions give rise to the need for the planning system to perform a number of roles including a social role – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities. The NPPF encourages local planning authorities to work with public health leads and health organisations to understand and take account of the health status and needs of the local population (such as for sports, recreation and places of worship), including expected future changes, and any information about relevant barriers to improving health and well-being.
- 1.4.2 This SA framework has been developed taking into account consultation with Public Health officers. Health and well-being consideration are integrated into a number of SA objectives; therefore SA reports will incorporate consideration of health impacts.

1.5 Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

- 1.5.1 The Equality Impact Assessment and SA are two separate processes. The EqIA will be carried out alongside the SA to assess the impact on

equality on emerging policies and documents. Appendix 2 provides a framework to assess the plan.

2. The SA Process

2.1 Overview

- 2.1.1 Table 1 sets out the different stages of the SA process. This report is the culmination of stage A, scoping.

Table 1: Stages in the SA process

SA Stages	SA Tasks
Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope	A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and environmental protection objectives
	A2: Collecting baseline information
	A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems
	A4: Developing the SA objectives and framework
	A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA
Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects	
Stage C: Preparing the SA reports	
Stage D: Consulting on the draft plans and the SA reports	
Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the plans	

Source: ODPM Guide to SA (2005)

2.2 Review of Other Plans and Programmes (Task A1)

- 2.2.1 The planning authority must take account of relationships between the plan and other policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives. The purpose of this review is to highlight the key influences on the plan and the SA. The relevant/appropriate points highlighted in the review are described in chapter 3. This is based on the review for the JSP SA Scoping Report and the latest Development Plan SA produced for the Policies Sites and Places Plan (PSP Plan) and has been updated to take into account any new policies, plans and programmes, of relevance to South Gloucestershire. Appendix 3 sets these out.

2.3 Collecting Baseline Information (Task A2)

- 2.3.1 Baseline data gives a picture of the current situation and provides the basis for predicting and monitoring the effects of the plan. The baseline data for the nSGLP will be based on the JSP and PSP Plan Development Plan baseline data. Chapter 3 summarises this in terms of the recent changes and trends which have been evident since the baseline data was last updated.

2.4 Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems (Task A3)

2.4.1 In order to assist the identification of key issues and use these to establish SA objectives, the policy reviews and the baseline information are grouped and presented under the following topics:

Health and Wellbeing

- Air Quality
- Noise
- Health

Communities

- Community Facilities and Services
- Housing
- 5 Year Housing Land Supply
- Deprivation and Inequality
- Tourism, Leisure, Open Space and Recreation

Economy

- Economic Development
- Labour Market
- Town Centres and Retailing
- Local Centres
- Other Retail

Environment

- Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
- Landscape
- Green Belt
- Green Infrastructure
- Cultural and Heritage Assets

Climate Change

- CO₂ Emissions, Renewable Energy and District Heating
- Flood Risk

Resource Protection

- Water
- Agricultural Land
- Transport
- Congestion
- Waste and Recycling
- Minerals

2.5 Developing the SA Objectives and Framework (Task A4)

- 2.5.1 The SA framework provides a way in which sustainability effects can be described, analysed and compared. The selection of objectives within the SA framework has come from the topic reviews undertaken and a review of SA objectives used in SA reports for the JSP and PSP Plan. However, changes were made where necessary to make the framework more applicable to the assessment of the nSGLP. The indicators to monitor the performance of the plan are also set out in the assessment framework.
- 2.5.2 The SA framework will be used to assess the relative performance of each option and objective of the plan using significant positive (++), positive (+), significant negative (--), negative (-) and where necessary, neutral symbols (=). Unknown impacts will also be identified (?). Possible mitigation measures will be proposed accordingly.

2.6 Consulting on the Scope of the SA (Task A5)

- 2.6.1 Details of the consultation process for this stage of the SA are provided in paragraph 1.1.4.

2.7 Difficulties Encountered

- 2.7.1 In undertaking an exercise of this nature, there will inevitably be unavoidable differences in the extent of baseline information available for the different topic areas. This is due to the differences in scale and availability of data. Information on past or predicted future trends is also not always available across all topic areas.
- 2.7.2 These difficulties will be monitored throughout the appraisal process, taking account of newly emerging data.

3. Baseline Information Review (Stage A1-A3)

3.1 Introduction: Reasonable Access or Distance – Appraisal Approach

- 3.1.1 Sustainable Access within this Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, refers to accessing key facilities by walking or cycling within reasonable set distances, or accessing key facilities by suitably frequent and timely public transport. Sustainable access to facilities and services, including health, employment, education and retail is a cross-cutting theme. A high level of sustainable access to key services and facilities encourages sustainable modes of travel, improving health, air quality, helping to address climate change and promoting interdependent, supportive communities and places, rather than isolated and car dependent development.
- 3.1.2 The new Local Plan will be required to identify sites to accommodate both non-strategic development in rural areas and sites in the more urban setting, to meet targets for “non-strategic growth” and “urban living” identified in the Joint Spatial Plan. To assist decisions on where future housing need should go South Gloucestershire produced Sustainable Access Profiles (SAPs) to provide an understanding of the level of sustainable access to key services and facilities from South Gloucestershire’s rural villages and settlements, and allow comparison of access between settlements. The Sustainable Access methodology (January 2017) sets out the rationale for choosing certain key services and facilities, evidence used to determine the walking and cycling distances to reflect “reasonable access” and also the criteria for assessing whether or not rural villages and settlements have suitably frequent and timely public transport connections to locations containing key services and facilities. An updated methodology and set of Sustainable Access Profiles has been released as part of the new Local Plan February 2018 consultation. Both the Sustainable Access profiles and Sustainable Access Methodology are available to view online here:
- 3.1.3 Based on the information within the SAP’s a “Sustainable Access – Villages and Settlements Findings” table is being produced to demonstrate the level of walking, cycling and public transport access across the rural areas and allowing cross referencing between villages and settlements. This will be complemented by the “Sustainable Access - Public Transport Assessment”, which will provide detail on the services and journey times of suitable public transport connections from villages and settlements.
- 3.1.4 At this stage it is apparent that within South Gloucestershire there are a number of rural villages and settlements that lack walking or cycling access to some or many key services and facilities. Some of these settlements also do not have suitable timely or frequent bus services to enable sustainable access to key services and facilities. There are other villages and settlements with varying degrees of sustainable access, from minimal walking and cycling access to key services and facilities,

but at least one suitable timely and frequent public transport connection, to other villages and settlements with nearly all key services and facilities accessible by walking and cycling and a high number of public transport connections. Whether or not a settlement has access to superfast broadband, and subsequent opportunities for home working has been investigated as part of the SAP process, and contributes towards the considered sustainable access of a settlement, Access to superfast broadband can assist in mitigating and enhancing access to some key services and facilities. However access to superfast broadband in itself is not considered to make those villages and settlements lacking walking, cycling, and without suitably timed and frequent public transport access to key services and facilities, become locations considered as having “sustainable access to key services and facilities”.

- 3.1.5 The findings of the SAPs (including public transport information) will initially inform the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) process, by providing an understanding of whether villages and settlements lack any form of sustainable access to a range of key services and facilities. The information on variations of sustainable access from the other villages and settlements will then also be utilised in the SA process, informing both the construction of sustainability objectives (see Section 4) and assessing sustainability of options for growth and site level assessments.
- 3.1.6 Where a greater level of detail than is contained in the Sustainable Access profiles is required to inform later stages of the SA, the location of key facilities and services and reasonable walking and cycling distances referred to in the Sustainable Access Methodology will be utilised.
- 3.1.7 The SAPs information and findings will be mainstreamed into the SA process to assist consideration of where housing could be allocated that maximises opportunities for sustainable travel, co-locating housing with economic uses, community facilities and services, whilst also supporting the rural economy through assisting existing services and facilities, and avoiding creation of isolated dwellings in the countryside.
- 3.1.8 In addition, assumptions will be made about the level of provision for key facilities and services that might reasonably be expected in strategic scale new developments such as urban extensions or new settlements, or larger non-strategic allocations. This is necessary in order to enable a fair assessment of such growth, which will include an element of existing provision and in so doing, what additional provision might be needed.

3.2 Car Ownership and Access to Services

- 3.2.1 Despite high car ownership levels, a significant proportion of the population does not have access to a car or may only have access to a car at certain times. Accessibility by public transport, walking and cycling

to services, facilities and employment in the rural areas is limited. Information for 2010/2011 indicates the following:

- 54% of households live within 30 minutes travel time by public transport of those health facilities in the Bristol Health Service Plan.
- 66% of households live within 40 minutes travel time by public transport from key employment sites.

(Source: South Gloucestershire Council, Corporate Research and Consultation team, Office for National Statistics)

3.3 Buses

- 3.3.1 The four West of England Authorities, in partnership with the Department for Transport and public transport operators, invested £80 million to improve key bus corridors to ensure bus routes investigated new areas within South Gloucestershire and not just Bristol City Centre.
- 3.3.2 The Greater Bristol Bus network programme was completed in 2012 and in South Gloucestershire the investment in this major project totalled £24.3 million. This investment, together with further investment in other schemes and improvements across the West of England, has in recent years contributed to increases in bus passenger numbers.
(Source: 2012 South Gloucestershire Council, Annual Monitoring Report).
- 3.3.3 In 2016/2017 there were approximately 9.87 million bus journeys in South Gloucestershire, up by nearly 2.5m since 2012/2013.
(Source: SGC Transport Team 2017).
- 3.3.4 The West of England Authorities are also investing in MetroBus which is the name given to a network of express bus services which will provide fast, frequent and reliable journey times. In South Gloucestershire, the MetroBus route is called the North Fringe to Hengrove Package (NFHP) as it travels between the North Fringe of Bristol and Hengrove in south Bristol, via the city centre. In South Gloucestershire the NFHP will call at locations including The Mall, Bradley Stoke, Bristol Parkway Station, UWE, the A4174 Ring Road and Lyde Green, providing frequent services between these locations and the city centre. MetroBus routes in the West of England are programmed to commence operation from autumn 2017. (Source: SGC Transport Team 2017).
- 3.3.5 The council is also already planning to extend the North Fringe to Hengrove MetroBus route with a proposed new MetroBus scheme called the Cribbs Patchway MetroBus Extension (CPME). The CPME will travel between Bristol Parkway and The Mall, via Hatchet Road, Gipsy Patch Lane, and through Horizon 38 and the Cribbs Patchway New Neighbourhood. It is programmed to commence operation in 2021.
(Source: SGC Transport Team 2017).

3.4 Cycling

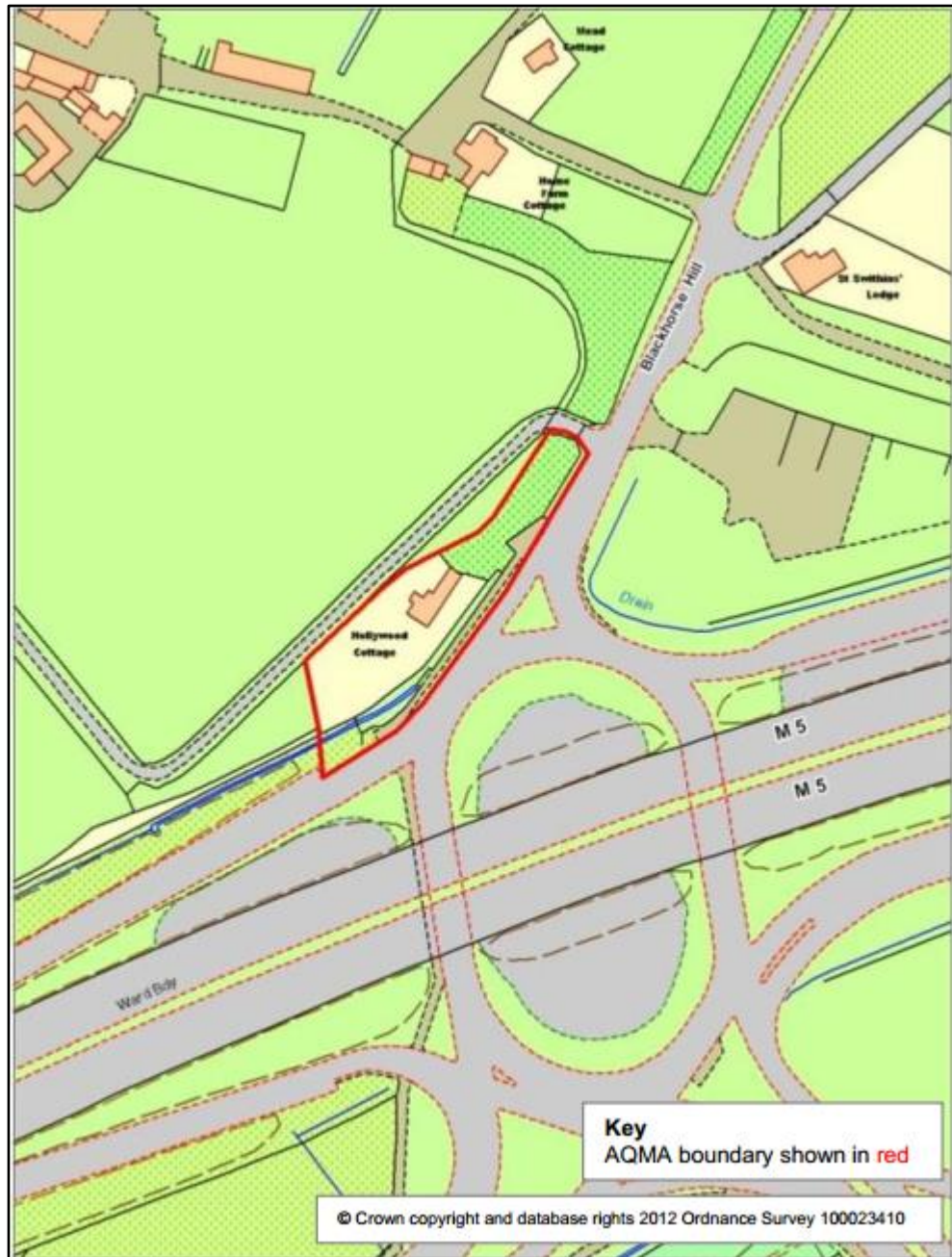
- 3.4.1 Cycling trips also have continued to grow. In 2008 Greater Bristol was chosen as England's first Cycling City and received £11 million from the Department for Transport to transform cycling. New dedicated on-road cycle lanes and traffic free routes are two areas that have helped to bring about a strong cycling renaissance in the area. (Source: 2012 South Gloucestershire Council, Annual Monitoring Report) This includes the Bromley Heath Viaduct works, the viaduct currently carries approximately 500 cyclists a day. As well as, essential maintenance work on the viaduct, the council is also making improvements for cyclists and pedestrians by creating a new footpath as an extension to the viaduct. The scheme will provide a high standard and safer shared use facility and two-way path. (Source: SGC website Sept 2017)

3.5 Air Quality

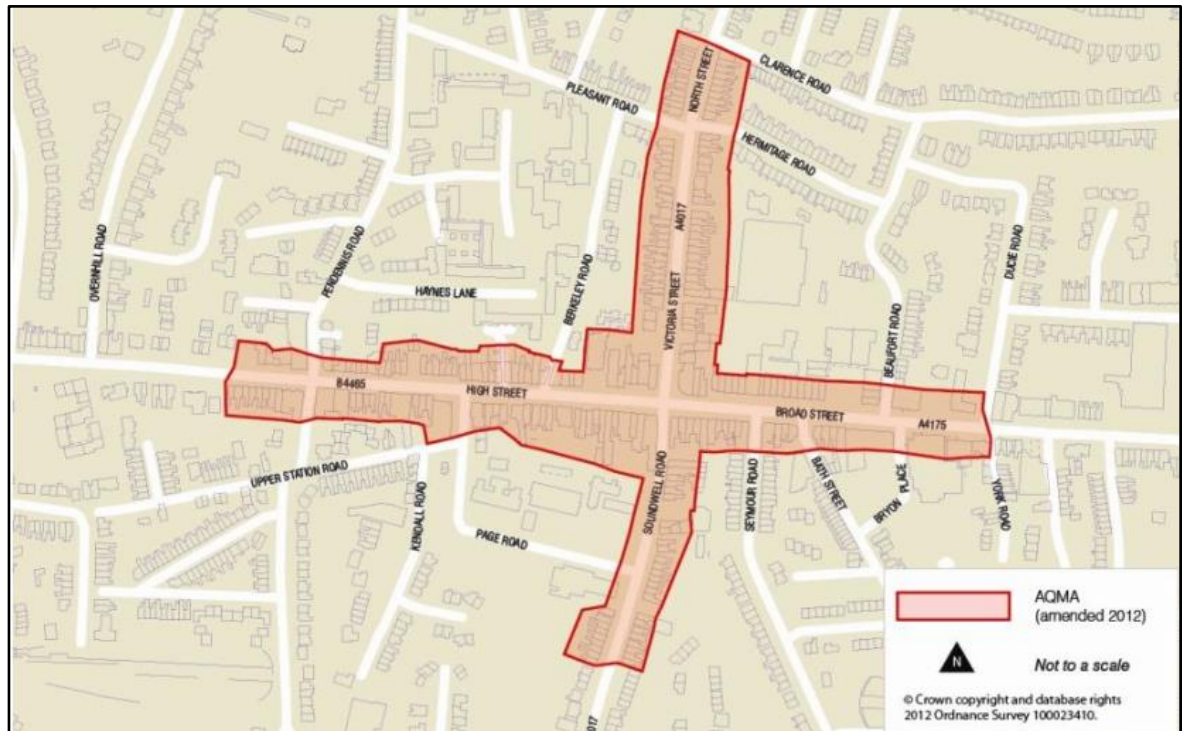
- 3.5.1 Clean air is a basic requirement for health and wellbeing. Road transport is the primary source of urban air pollution. A number of different air-borne particulates are antagonistic to the sensitive lining of airways and act as irritants. This can exacerbate conditions for people with pre-existing respiratory diseases, such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The incidence of asthma has been increasing, particularly among children, but the reasons for this are unclear.
- 3.5.2 There is a clear association between long-term exposure to particulate air pollution (PM_{2.5}) and a reduction in life-expectancy caused by cardiovascular disease. The fraction of mortality attributable to particulate air pollution in South Gloucestershire in 2013 was 5.3%, the same as England and higher than the South West rate of 4.5%. People living close to main vehicular arterial routes are most exposed.
- 3.5.3 An additional concern in South Gloucestershire is nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), which also originates primarily from road traffic emissions. Air quality in South Gloucestershire is generally good, although, there are some areas in the district where it does not meet the national air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide. This is mostly due to the combination of busy, congested roads and the close proximity of people to these roads. Consequently, air quality management areas have been declared at:
- Cribbs Causeway – adjacent to the M5 Junction 17 roundabout
 - Kingswood – Warmley – from the Bristol/ South Gloucestershire boundary in Kingswood along the A420 to the junction with Goldney Avenue in Warmley.
 - Staple Hill – in the centre around the Broad Street/ High Street/ Soundwell Road/ Victoria Street crossroads
- An Air Quality Action Plan is now in place aimed at improving air quality in these locations.

Figure 2: Air Quality Management Areas

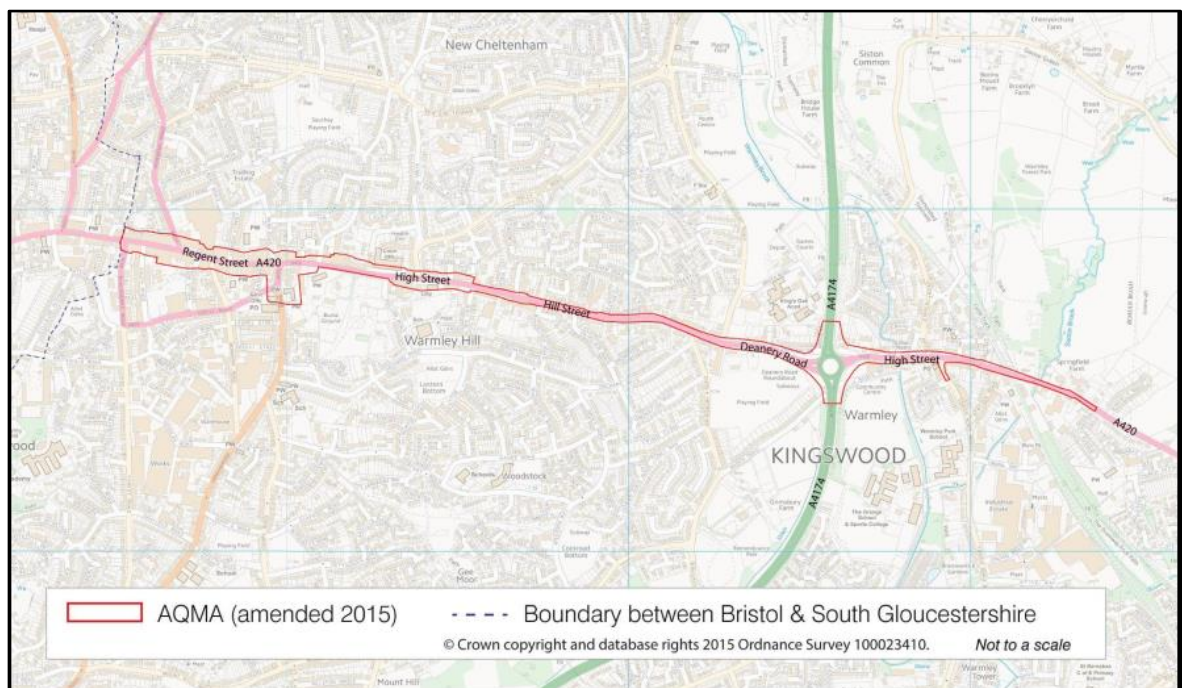
Cribbs Causeway AQMA (Declared 2010)



Staple Hill AQMA (Amended 2012)



Kingswood – Warmley AQMA (Amended 2015)



3.6 Noise

- 3.6.1 Excessive or persistent noise can have a detrimental effect on health and wellbeing. Exposure to noise can cause disturbance and interfere with activities, leading to annoyance and increased stress. There is also increasing evidence that long term exposure to high levels of noise can cause direct health effects such as heart attacks and hypertension which is a contributory factor for stroke. Noise problems often occur at night and cause disturbed sleep, this can lead to impaired performance and mental health issues.
- 3.6.2 Locally 7.8% of the population are affected by night time noise, the same as the England rate and higher than the regional rate of 5.1%. Within South Gloucestershire the total number of noise complaints has risen steadily over the last 10 years to just under 1000 for 2014/15. (Source: JSNA: <http://edocs.southglos.gov.uk/jsna2017/pages/wider-determinants/environment-transport-and-built-environment/>)

3.7 Health

- 3.7.1 In general, residents of South Gloucestershire are healthier than the national average. Results from the 2011 census show that 84% of the population (220,816 residents) described themselves as being in “good” or “very good” health, this is above the national average of 81.2%. There are however, differences in health between different groups with those living in deprived areas experiencing poorer health. Men in the 10% most deprived areas in South Gloucestershire live on average 6.3 years fewer than those in the 10% least deprived, and in women the gap is 5.1 years (2011/13). The conditions that contribute most to the gap in life expectancy are cancer in men (27%) and respiratory disease in women (28%). Health outcomes are consistently worse in deprived areas, with premature mortality and lung cancer rates almost twice as high in the 20% least affluent areas compared to the 20% most affluent. (Source: South Gloucestershire Council, Corporate Research and Consultation team, Office for National Statistics and JSNA 2015)
- 3.7.2 Overall, life expectancy has increased in South Gloucestershire over the last 12 years. Based on the most up to date data, life expectancy at birth has increased by 3.2 years for men, reaching 81.5 years, and 2.6 years for women rising to 84.8 years. Life expectancy in South Gloucestershire remains significantly higher than the national average. Healthy life expectancy (years spent in good health) is 67.8 for men and 66.8 for women, higher than the England average. (Source: 2016 South Gloucestershire Council, Authority Monitoring Report and JSNA 2015)

Communities

3.8 Community Facilities and Services

- 3.8.1 Sustainable Access Profiles have been produced to accompany the Local Plan Prospectus which was published for consultation in January 2017, as set out in paragraph 3.1.2 – 3.1.8 above, and collected, analysed and compiled evidence on the level of walking, cycling and public transport access to key services and facilities from 54 settlements, including community facilities and services sustainable communities need access to.
- 3.8.2 The key services and facilities included in the analysis are set out below in table 2. The list represents those facilities and services considered to meet resident's general needs (healthcare, education, food, social and community and cultural uses), the availability of basic day to day needs (small food items, local employment opportunities). Superfast broadband and public transport, which can further contribute to facilitating access to key facilities and services are also considered in the Sustainable Access Profiles.

Table 2: Key Services and Facilities

Key Services and Facilities	Key Services and Facilities Included in Analysis
Food and Retail Facilities	1. Defined Town Centres 2. Supermarkets 3. Convenience (food) stores 4. Comparison (retail and services) stores
Health Facilities	5. GPs 6. Pharmacies 7. Dentists
Community Facilities	8. Dedicated Community Centres 9. Libraries (Static) 10. Post Office 11. Public House
Education Facilities	12. Secondary School 13. Primary School
Access to Major Employers	14. Employers with 100+ employees 15. Defined Town Centres 16. Safeguarded Employment Areas
Superfast Broadband Access	17. Superfast Broadband Access
Public Transport Access to Key Services (Defined Town Centres, Cribbs Causeway and Longwell Green)	18. Daily service with at least one before 9am and after 5pm 19. Weekend Service

- 3.8.3 Appropriate walking and cycling distances from the centre point of settlements to particular types of service and facility are based on the walking and cycling distances for each key service and facility, e.g. a 800m, 1200m, 2000m, 3 mile and 2 mile catchment distance around each settlement. Full details are set out in the Sustainable Access Profile Methodology.
- 3.8.4 As the strategic and non-strategic locations and policy within the plan are progressed and subject to appraisal, additional information on capacity of existing community facilities, to cater for growth and any additional facilities to take into account, will feed into the appraisal scoring and subsequent reporting of effects.

Broadband and Home Working

- 3.8.5 Table 2 above refers to access to superfast broadband. Government recognised the importance of an effective and fast broadband network to the economy and rise in home working, in a government release dated 3rd July 2017 regarding news of a New Digital Infrastructure Investment Fund. Full details can be viewed here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/billion-pound-connectivity-boost-to-make-buffering-a-thing-of-the-past>. It explains '*...The government's £400 million Digital Infrastructure Investment Fund (DIIF) will unlock over £1 billion for full fibre broadband, and kick-start better broadband connections across the country.*'
- 3.8.6 The Office for National Statistics reported in June 2014 (now an archived article) that '*There were 4.2 million home workers in January-March 2014, or 13.9% of those in work. This was the highest rate of home working since comparable records began in 1998.*' For January 2015 – March 2015 that figure has reportedly largely remained the same. (Source: Labour Force Survey (LFS): <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/quality/quality-information/labour-market/index.html>).
- 3.8.7 The NPPF seeks to support high quality communications infrastructure and paragraph 42 explains that '*Advanced, high quality communications infrastructure is essential for sustainable economic growth. The development of high speed broadband technology and other communications networks also plays a vital role in enhancing the provision of local community facilities and services.*' Paragraph 43 seeks local authorities to '*support the expansion of electronic communications networks, including telecommunications and high speed broadband.*'
- 3.8.9 Due to the role good broadband access plays in achieving economic growth and linked role of potential job creation and changing role of work, with more people and business working from home or remotely, South Gloucestershire Council have rolled out a programme of connecting superfast broadband across the district. Further information can be found here: <http://www.southglos.gov.uk/community-and-living/broadband/broadband-rollout/broadband-rollout-update/>.

- 3.8.10 In brief, the project seeks to: meet a national Government set target to achieve 95% superfast broadband coverage by December 2017; the majority of premises to enjoy speeds above 24Mbps, and up to 80Mbps; and other premises see a significant improvement in broadband speeds and enjoy better broadband performance. It explains that *‘At present not all areas within South Gloucestershire have access to broadband and some areas experience slow speeds and poor service. This means that many residents and businesses struggle to take full advantage of the internet and online services. Poor broadband services are seen as a major obstacle to sustained economic growth and investment. Limited access to broadband also restricts individuals and families in accessing online services, such as educational activities, communication, entertainment, shopping and paying bills. Connecting up our most rural areas will be one of the challenges we face, as upgrading the network in these areas may require new infrastructure. The new fibre network has been designed to provide the greatest possible coverage for the investment.’*

3.9 Housing

- 3.9.1 There are two housing market areas across the West of England, the Wider Bristol Housing Market Area (HMA) and the Bath HMA. The new Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) provides the updated evidence of the need for market and affordable housing for the Wider Bristol Housing Market Area (HMA). The housing needs for the 2 HMAs will be accommodated through the JSP’s spatial strategy.

- 3.9.2 The JSP is currently under preparation. As drafted it proposes to identify three distinct housing targets to be delivered in the period to 2036. As at November 2017 when the Publication version of the JSP was published these comprised:

1. Urban Living - is a central plank of the Spatial Strategy, and commands a high degree of public support. The four UAs have carried out an assessment of the potential of existing urban areas to deliver land to meet development needs. In recent years a high proportion of new homes have been delivered on brownfield land in urban areas. This process has been aided by new approaches to urban density, and new thinking about the nature of liveable cities and towns and the trends in the type of accommodation we seek. It is recognised that the success will rely on the ability to plan effectively the use of all public services as part of this concept. 2,900 new homes are proposed for the Urban Areas of South Gloucestershire (East and North Fringe and Yate).

2. Strategic Development Locations - Against the requirement of c39,000 additional dwellings, taking into account up to 14,300 that could be delivered through urban living the majority of the remainder

at c24,400 additional new dwellings will be accommodated through strategic development locations (SDL's).

3. Non-strategic growth – the remainder, c3,400 additional new dwellings, will be identified through Local Plans, (c1,300 new dwellings in South Gloucestershire).

- 3.9.3 The final JSP will set the amount of growth to be accommodated including the number of homes required in each local authority area to support the spatial strategy. The nSGLP will need to be in conformity with the final adopted JSP.
- 3.9.4 In relation to the nSGLP, this will be required to provide the detail set in the JSP in the form of allocations to meet these targets for growth. The November 2017 Publication version of the JSP proposed the following for South Gloucestershire:

Proposed Housing Numbers for South Gloucestershire

Strategic Development Locations	Buckover New Garden Village – At least 1500 (within the plan period) Charfield – Upto 1,200 Coalpit Heath – Upto 1,800 Thornbury – Upto 500 Yate – Upto 1000 (within the plan period)
Urban Living	2,900
Non-Strategic Growth	1,300

Source: JSP Publication Document November 2017

- 3.9.5 The JSP will be submitted to the Government Planning Inspectorate in early 2018 . Any changes in this next draft will need to be taken into consideration.

3.10 5 Year Housing Land Supply

- 3.10.1 South Gloucestershire currently does not have a 5 year housing land supply due to the under delivery on major sites through the adopted Core Strategy. This is a key issue for the district and will shape the overall direction of the nSGLP. Therefore, going forward, it is recognised that there is a need for a range of sites across the district, including smaller sites. This will both ensure sites are delivered and assist in meeting the Housing White Paper Target of 10% of planned housing on sites below 0.25 ha. In addition, one of the Council's' priorities is to enable greater involvement from small and medium sized housebuilders following the recession, to assist with the overall delivery of housing in the district to support this sector.
- 3.10.2 The draft JSP currently identifies a total of 105,000 dwellings to be built in the region over the period 2016 - 2036. In 2016/2017, 1,630 new

homes were completed on sites across South Gloucestershire, nearly 50% more than last year. Of these, 1,373 were on large sites of 10 homes or more and the remainder were completed on small sites of fewer than 10 homes. Since April 2006, 10,866 new homes have been completed in South Gloucestershire. The Core Strategy seeks to secure the delivery of a minimum of 28,355 new homes in the period between 2006 and 2027. This leaves a minimum of 17,489 new homes to be delivered in the 10 years to 2027. (Source: 2017 South Gloucestershire Council, Residential Land Survey)

- 3.10.3 Current monitoring of dwelling completions indicates that in the year to April 2016, 55% of dwelling completions in South Gloucestershire took place on previously developed land (PDL). The current Local Plan (2006) sets a target that 50% of all new dwelling completions should be on PDL. Since 2004 this target has been exceeded in all except the 2013/2014 monitoring year. Many of the committed sites are also on PDL. However, because of the level of housing growth which South Gloucestershire has to accommodate up to 2027, and going forward under the JSP to 2036, it is expected greenfield sites will still be required as part of meeting the overall housing requirement. (Source: 2016 South Gloucestershire Council, Authority Monitoring Report)
- 3.10.4 In 2016/17 360 Affordable Homes* were delivered, which is slightly below the target of 375 homes but is our highest ever level, and 100 units more than last year. Of these, 237 were for Social Rent, 70 were for Affordable Rent and 53 were for Intermediate Affordable Housing. Since April 2001, a total of 3,496 Affordable Homes have been delivered in South Gloucestershire. (Source: 2017 South Gloucestershire Council, Residential Land Survey)

3.11 Deprivation and Inequality

- 3.11.1 The English Indices of Multiple Deprivation identify the most deprived areas across the country. They combine a number of indicators, chosen to cover a range of economic, social and housing issues, into a single deprivation score for each small area in England. These small geographical areas are called Lower Level Super Output Areas (LSOAs). LSOAs were created by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) in 2004 to provide a consistent small area statistical geography throughout England. There are 32,482 LSOAs in England. They have an average population of 1,500. The Indices are used widely to analyse patterns of deprivation, identify areas that would benefit from special initiatives or programmes and as a tool to determine eligibility for specific funding streams.
- 3.11.2 South Gloucestershire is ranked as 273rd out of 326 authorities. Compared to many other local authority areas, levels of deprivation in South Gloucestershire are low, but there are sub ward pockets of relatively high deprivation. South Gloucestershire's most deprived areas are generally located within the urban wards of Staple Hill, Kings Chase,

Patchway, Parkwall and Woodstock. (Source: 2016 South Gloucestershire Council, Authority Monitoring Report)

- 3.11.3 In terms of the IMD (the composite measure of multiple deprivation), South Gloucestershire only has one LSOA (within Staple Hill) within the most deprived 20% of areas in England. In terms of the Employment Deprivation Domain, South Gloucestershire has two LSOAs (in Staple Hill and Kings Chase) within the most deprived 20% of areas in England. (Source: 2016 South Gloucestershire Council, Authority Monitoring Report)
- 3.11.4 In terms of deprivation, multiple deprivation across urban South Gloucestershire is also generally less polarised than in Bristol, and there is a lower proportion of households not deprived in any dimension. Despite this, Emersons Green and Harry Stoke are generally less deprived than the other localities and concentrations of higher deprivation can be found in Staple Hill, Kingswood, Patchway and Yate.
- 3.11.5 Staple Hill is more enigmatic locality. It exhibits signs of being more mixed and less homogenised than other locations, with a broader range of socio-economic groups and qualification levels, but also suffering from low living conditions. Its housing stock diverges most from the low-rise suburban housing model, with the highest prevalence of purpose-built blocks of flats or tenements. This may be an effect of pockets of higher rise social housing, but it should be noted that there is also a normal spread of other house types, including a good proportion of homes owned outright. This suggests that right to buy has had a big influence in the area. This more mixed profile may mask issues of inequality, as living standards are lower than average for the localities, but close to the Bristol average. Staple Hill's age demographic is also slightly younger than the localities average. Residents tend to travel shorter distances to work than most of the other localities and more frequently make use of buses and/or bicycles to get to work.
- 3.11.6 Kingswood exhibits many of the features of a conventional lower-value city suburb, with residents working in more routine job sectors and probably living here out of necessity or convenience rather than due to quality of life opportunities. It exhibits many traits of low-rise, high density suburban sprawl development, with a higher prevalence of terraced housing and efficiently occupied housing. Living standards are typically lower than average for the localities but closer to the Bristol average. Whilst residents tend to travel shorter distances to work than all of the other localities, private car use is still very high. Bus usage is highest of all the localities. Kingswood's age demographic and economic activity rate is close to the Bristol and localities average, but its residents typically have lower qualification levels and fall within more modest socio economic classifications. This suggests they are employed in lower value but readily available local employment.

3.12 Tourism, Leisure, Open Space and Recreation

- 3.12.1 The relationship between green space and health is complex and multi-dimensional. Access to open space and nature can both improve people's general sense of wellbeing, relaxation and levels of stress and aid people's recovery from illness. It can provide space for social interaction and cohesion. Proximity to green space can play a role in how physically active people are likely to be, and thus on the likelihood of them being overweight or obese. Open space can provide opportunities for children's play, both formal and informal, that promotes their development, creativity and independence and helps keep children healthy and active. However, it is important that such space is perceived as being safe or it will not be used.
- 3.12.2 Green space can also provide direct protection against environmental exposures such as air pollution, noise, wind, flooding and influence the local micro-climate and mitigate the extremes of temperature in urban environments, introducing cooler, fresher air into urban areas.
- 3.12.3 Across South Gloucestershire there is a wide range of open space, sport and recreation facilities, both formal and informal. In recent years major leisure development has taken place at Cribbs Causeway and Longwell Green. Both include multi-screen cinemas, bowling alleys, restaurants and bars. A new cinema and restaurants have opened in Yate. There are public Council owned leisure centres in Yate, Kingswood, Thornbury, Longwell Green and Bradley Stoke, which include swimming pools, sports halls and fitness training areas, which have all seen significant enhancements in recent years. In addition, a number of the secondary schools have become specialist in particular sports and have opened their facilities for general community use.
- 3.12.4 In 2003 (the last time a survey was undertaken) South Gloucestershire attracted around 4.5 million tourists per annum, which generated around £137.5m per annum for the local economy.
- 3.12.5 The Forest of Avon covers a total of 57,300ha, of which 26,840ha lies within South Gloucestershire. The Forest plays a crucial role in giving people in South Gloucestershire access to opportunities for leisure, open space and recreation. Within the wider Bristol area the Forest of Avon has been assisted by the four local authorities to develop the 45 mile orbital Community Forest Path that runs close to many communities offering access to the countryside, and potential opportunities for local people to participate in health promoting exercise.
- 3.12.6 As the highway authority, South Gloucestershire Council is responsible for 783 miles (1,257km) of public rights of way in the district. Many of the rights of way are promoted through leaflets and guidebooks. These routes vary from short circular walks designed to be easily accessible, to long-distance walking routes such as the Cotswold Way and Severn Way. The Council keeps records and maps of these rights of way and their locations.

- 3.12.7 The PSP Plan is proposing to designate some 250 Local Green Spaces. Local Green Space designation is a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities. Any type of green space could be suitable for designation and may also include land where sports pavilions, boating lakes or structures such as war memorials are located, allotments, or urban spaces that provide a tranquil oasis.
- 3.12.8 In accordance with national policy the designation of local green spaces must be consistent with sustainable development and take account of the need for sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services; and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.

Economy

3.13 Economic Development

- 3.13.1 The West of England Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) 2015-2030 was produced by the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership and identifies five priority sectors, four levers of growth and six priority locations – illustrated below.

Figure 3: WEP Economic Strategy



- 3.13.2 The SEP sets out:

- Economic Strategy: Including the Vision, our Story of Place and analysis of our evidence base
- Growth Deal: Programme of interventions for the local growth fund and freedoms and flexibilities sought through the local growth deal negotiations
- Delivering our Economic Plan: Levers of growth to deliver our economic strategy, delivery arrangements, governance, implementation plan and evaluation plan (Section 5–8).

- 3.13.3 South Gloucestershire has a robust, diverse and vibrant economy which has experienced high job growth rates and low unemployment. It has historically had one of the fastest growing economies in the country, official data however suggests that job growth has slowed considerably over the past decade. There were an estimated 152,000 jobs in South Gloucestershire in 2015, which is broadly consistent with the number recorded in 2005 (153,000) (Source: ONS, Job Density Estimates, 2017).

- 3.13.4 For many years the economy of South Gloucestershire has been closely

associated with the aerospace industry with Airbus UK and BAE Systems based at Filton and Rolls Royce at Patchway. The aerospace industry is a key economic sector, employing some 9,000 people.

- 3.13.5 The older urban areas of Staple Hill, Kingswood and Hanham have experienced a loss of economic vitality and enterprise created by employment closures, rationalisation programmes, relocations and changing shopping patterns.
- 3.13.6 At Emersons Green and Longwell Green, there are more recently developed business, industrial and retail parks.
- 3.13.7 To maintain the districts strategic competitive advantage in research and development, a science park comprising 25ha at Emersons Green, east of the A4171 was opened in 2011. A state-of-the art environment within easy access to the M4 and M5 motorways and Parkway Station and partnered by the universities of Bristol, Bath and UWE, the science park is already home to the National Composites Centre. This is in addition to approximately 100,000 sqm identified for B1 (business) uses, B2 (general industrial) uses and small scale B8 (Distribution) uses to meet employment needs at Emersons Green.
- 3.13.8 Warehousing and distribution uses is also a sector experiencing significant growth and expansion. Over recent years the Severnside area has seen considerable activity and development by this market sector, and is recognised as a strategic location for distribution warehousing and industrial uses. However, a balance needs to be maintained between development and protection and enhancement of the ecologically important, fragile and visually prominent coastal zone.
- 3.13.9 Beyond the direct influence of the Greater Bristol area, Yate and Thornbury are important centres for locally based employment. The local indigenous employment base contributes to securing these settlements a degree of self-containment as places in their own right.
- 3.13.10 The development of the Cribbs Causeway, the relocation of major companies from Bristol (e.g. Friends Life, Royal Mail, GE Capital Equipment) and large-scale business park development have established the Bristol North Fringe as one of the largest employment areas in the South West. The relocation of the Defence Procurement Agency to Abbey Wood in the late 1990s brought over 6,000 jobs to the North Fringe.
- 3.13.11 In 2012 a total of three Enterprise Areas were identified in South Gloucestershire at: Avonmouth/Severnside, Emersons Green, and Filton. These are part of a select group of five strategically important employment locations across the West of England that complement the Temple Quarter Enterprise Zone in Bristol. Each Enterprise Area will have defined incentives for business aimed at maintaining the

importance of South Gloucestershire for new business investment and growth.

3.14 Labour Market

- 3.14.1 In the year to March 2017, 21.8% of all persons in employment in South Gloucestershire are in professional occupations, while 13.7% are employed in associate professional or technical jobs. Only 4.5% of all persons in employment work in the process plant and machine operatives' area. (Source: ONS Annual Population Survey, 2017)
- 3.14.2 In the year to March 2017, 80.1% of South Gloucestershire's working age population (those aged 16-64) were in employment. The employment rate locally is considerably higher than the national and regional averages (74.4% and 78.0% respectively). (Source: ONS Annual Population Survey)
- 3.14.3 In November 2016, 8,920 (5.1%) South Gloucestershire residents of working age were claiming key out-of-work benefits¹, which is a 7.3% decrease on the same period last year (9,480 or 5.5%). In South Gloucestershire the rate remains considerably below the national and West of England rates (8.1% and 7.0% respectively).

3.15 Town Centres and Retailing

- 3.15.1 The past two decades have seen the role and function of the main town centres becoming more focused on meeting day-to-day convenience needs with comparison shopping dominated by out of centre facilities. In some cases this is impacting on the viability of the town centres due to competition from out of centre investment and relatively high car ownership and mobility. South Gloucestershire has an adopted list of designated town centres. Some of these centres have permissions and allocations for expansion of retail and town centre facilities, set out in the emerging Policies, Sites and Places Plan, Policy PSP31.

¹ 'Key out-of-work benefits' includes claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance; Employment and Support Allowance and incapacity benefits; lone parents and other income related benefits (Source: Department for Work and Pensions).

Table 4: South Gloucestershire's Designated Town and District Centres

Town Centres	District Centres
Bradley Stoke Chipping Sodbury Downend Emersons Green Filton Hanham Kingswood Staple Hill Thornbury Yate	Patchway Stoke Gifford

Source: South Gloucestershire Core Strategy (2013)

3.15.2 Some town centres have developed an evening economy. Some have lost retail space to financial (A2) services, but mergers have decreased that pressure over recent years. Some centres and local parades have lost retail units, but gained take-away facilities. This is reflected in the increasing proportion of shopping frontage in non-shop A1 retail use (e.g. cafes and food take-away outlets, building societies and similar). The retail profile has also changed with an increase in lower value A1 shop units.

3.15.3 Overall, across the district, vacancies of A1 shops in 2016 was 8.6%. This represents a decrease of 1.5% in the A1 vacancy rate recorded in August 2015 (10.1%) and the lowest vacancy rate in the last seven years. In August 2016: Filton had the highest A1 vacancy rate (20%) which equates to 4 vacant A1 units; and both Emersons Green and Bradley Stoke had no vacant A1 units (0%).

(Source: 2016 South Gloucestershire Council, Annual Monitoring Report)

3.16 Local Centres

3.16.1 There are some 50 local centres within the north and east fringe urban areas. The towns Yate, Thornbury, and the villages of Winterbourne and Frampton Cottrell also have small recognisable centres. New local centres are proposed within the new and developing residential areas, and a new local centre is currently under construction as part of the Cheswick Village development.

3.16.2 Some rural settlements have village/neighbourhood stores, although a large number of rural villages and settlements have limited access to food buying opportunities, unless ordering online or driving to locations containing retail facilities. Social and economic changes have resulted in some closures to local convenience stores others are adapting and have seen shops run by the community. There has been a marked rise in the number of smaller supermarket style convenience stores operated by national retailers (Sainsbury's, Tesco, Coop), which often open in the larger villages and smaller towns. Increasingly, petrol stations are now offering a basic level of convenience goods. The Sustainable Access Profiles, as mentioned in 3.1.2, provide information on rural settlements

with access to local convenience stores, including petrol stations with a food court, newsagents and smaller stores and which provide for basic day to day food items and in cases of national local convenience retailers, sometimes wider food needs.

3.17 Other Retail

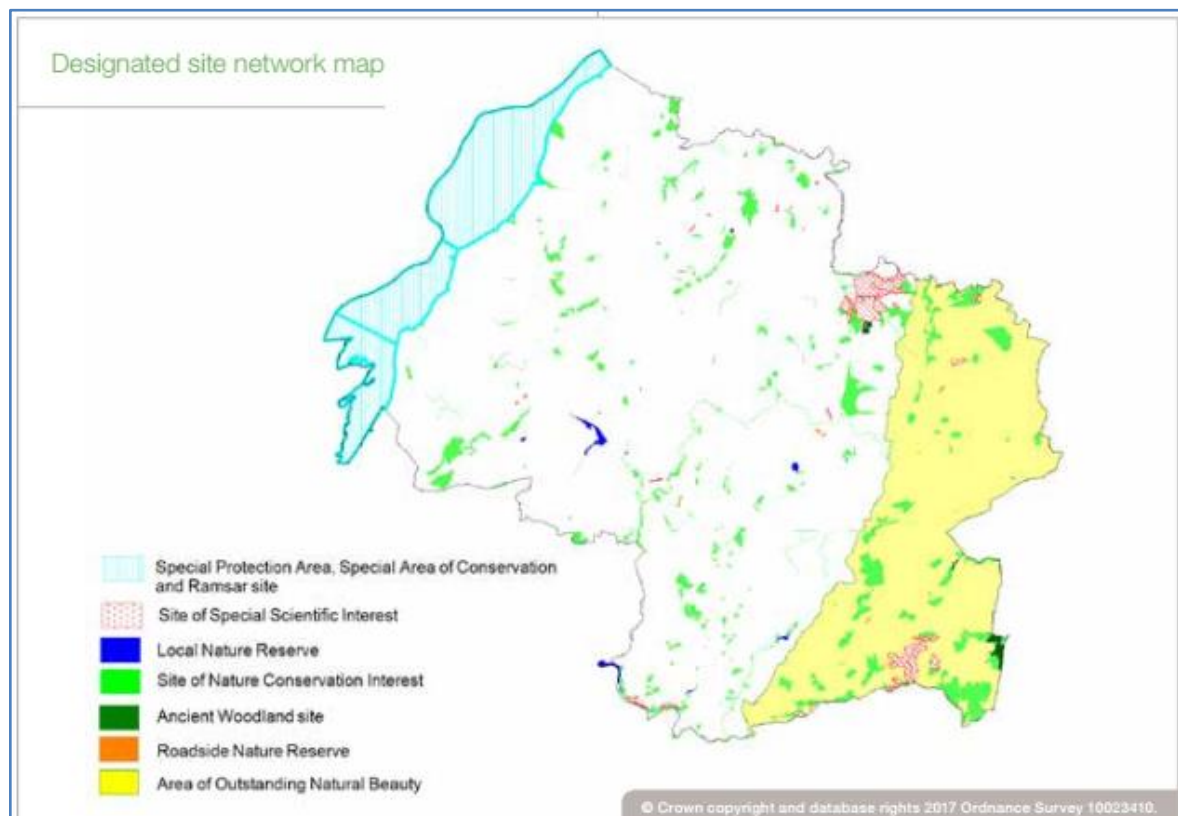
- 3.17.1 There are retailing outlets at Cribbs Causeway, Abbeywood and Longwell Green; Abbeywood is widening its scope to serve local employment and residential areas and moving away from bulky goods retailing.
- 3.17.2 The Aldi (formerly Somerfield) at Bradley Stoke, Asda and Morrisons stores at Cribbs Causeway and Asda at Longwell Green are freestanding superstores.

Environment

3.18 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

- 3.18.1 South Gloucestershire has 9 Local Nature Reserves, with 1 pending, covering a total of over 109 hectares, and 22 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) covering 553 hectares. The South Gloucestershire shoreline between Chittening Warth near Avonmouth and the UA boundary with Gloucestershire forms part of the Severn Estuary and is subject to a series of additional over-lapping nature conservation designations. The Estuary is notified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, covering a total of 4,104 hectares. It is also protected under European law (the Habitats Directive 1992) – it is designated as a Special Protection Area, Special Area of Conservation and RAMSAR site.
- 3.18.2 South Gloucestershire also contains a rich array of wildlife and geology outside these legally protected sites. In reflection of this, there are some 269 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs) and 53 Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites (RIGS), both non-statutory designations and of critical importance for local biodiversity. Its wildlife includes a diverse variety of species of flora and fauna, from the locally notable (Wild Service Tree, Slowworm and Barn Owl), to national rarities (Bullfinch and Adder's Tongue Spearwort) to internationally protected species (such as Great Crested Newt, Dormice and the Lesser Horseshoe Bat). The Forest of Avon covers 57,300 hectares and is home to an array of habitats, forming an important contribution to biodiversity. The Forest of Avon Trust continues to promote this project through various funding sources, including the Woodland Grant Schemes available from the Forestry Commission. South Gloucestershire Council will continue to be one of the many land-owners that work with the Trust.
- 3.18.3 The map below displays the location of Natura 2000 sites within South Gloucestershire. This will inform the Habitat Regulations screening opinion and Sustainability Appraisal. The Habitat Regulations Assessment will also take account of any Natura 2000 Sites within 15km of the district's boundary.
- 3.18.4 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), National and Local Nature Reserves are protected under legislation separate from the planning process, however they form a planning and sustainability consideration.

Figure 4: South Gloucestershire Designated Site Network Map



- 3.18.5 The West of England Nature Partnership exists to create and coordinate a plan for the restoration of the natural environment in the West of England area and to secure delivery by working with partners to integrate that plan into strategies for spatial planning, economic development and public health.
- 3.18.6 The West of England Nature Partnership has undertaken a State of Environment Assessment. It sought an ecosystem service approach, by using existing data and evidence to assess the current provision of ecosystems across the West of England.
- 3.18.7 The Ecosystem Approach seeks to understand the services that the natural environment is providing, by advocating an integrated approach to the way the land is managed and enhanced. To help us understand these services better, a series of ecosystem service and ecological networks maps have been created as evidence for the West of England JSP.
- 3.18.8 The natural environment plays a critical role in our lives, providing us with the food, water, and air essential for life, and the raw materials to fuel our economy. It also provides us with services that pollinate crops, purify water, air and waste, and gives us space for recreation, wellbeing and culture. Development pressures often lead to environmental pressure, degradation and damage.

3.19 Landscape

- 3.19.1 The South Gloucestershire area has a predominantly rural and agricultural landscape, greatly influenced by large-scale scarp, ridges, vales, levels and estuary landforms, overlain by a variety of land cover, in places comprising unique natural or historic features. The landscapes of South Gloucestershire have many contrasts, ranging from the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (which covers 11,828 hectares or 22% of the land area in South Gloucestershire), to the urban landscape within the edge of Bristol. Here the landscape is undergoing significant change, with large areas of new residential and commercial development, such as Cribbs/Patchway, Harry Stoke, and Emersons Green, as well as the large retail and commercial development at Cribbs Causeway.
- 3.19.2 The Council published the South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Area Supplementary Planning Document in 2005. This provides a statement of the existing character of the landscapes of the district and their distinctive attributes and features, subdividing the district into 8 character types and 21 landscape areas. It also contains an assessment of the present condition of the landscape, recent and potential future changes including land use/management and built development and the sensitivity of the landscape to future change. This SPD was refreshed in 2013 and the revised document was adopted in November 2014.

3.20 Green Belt

- 3.20.1 The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the purposes of Green Belt. Although it is a planning tool rather than an environmental designation as such, in places it does support environmental objectives, such as preserving historic towns and assisting easy access to the countryside for urban populations.
- 3.20.2 In order to inform spatial options for the JSP, a two stage WoE joint Green Belt assessment has been undertaken. The first stage assessed the entire WoE Green Belt against the five Green Belt purposes stated in the NPPF. This was to report on the overall function of different Green Belt areas. A stage two Green Belt assessment was then undertaken to understand in more detail the role and contribution of the Green Belt in and around the JSP spatial option areas. The Methodology used to undertake the stage two Green Belt assessment will inform the approach to Green Belt assessment in the nSGLP.
- 3.20.3 Policy CS5 of the Core Strategy (2013) defines the existing extent of the Green Belt in South Gloucestershire.

Figure 5: South Gloucestershire Green Belt



(Source: South Gloucestershire Core Strategy 2013)

3.21 Green Infrastructure

- 3.21.1 Green Infrastructure (GI) is a 'network of multi-functional greenspace, rural and urban, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities' (NPPF).'
- 3.21.2 The protection, provision and enhancement of Green Infrastructure (GI) is recognised as an important issue for the West of England and South Gloucestershire. A West of England GI Strategic Framework was published in 2011. The purpose of the sub-regional framework is to identify:
- a shared vision, objectives and principles for Green Infrastructure across the West of England;

- Green Infrastructure of strategic importance, including Green Infrastructure areas and corridors, which may cross local authority boundaries;
- the benefits delivered by Green Infrastructure, including as part of new development.

3.21.3 The West of England (except North Somerset) GI vision is set out as follows:

“By 2026 the West of England will have an enhanced and sustainable green infrastructure network consisting of a multifunctional, connected and legible network of strategic green sites and corridors that will be widely beneficial to communities, wildlife and the environment to support sustainable growth across the West of England.”

3.21.4 South Gloucestershire Council will work with the West of England to develop a Green Infrastructure Plan which is intended become a Supplementary Planning Document.

3.22 Cultural and Heritage Assets

3.22.1 There are positive opportunities for the historic environment associated with future development such as:

- Developing a stronger sense of place, and local distinctiveness;
- Promoting the innovative reuse of the existing building stock for social, cultural and or economic purposes;
- Delivering heritage-led regeneration opportunities;
- Supporting the vitality and viability of town centre regeneration; and
- Promoting heritage based tourism.

3.22.2 However, the Plan needs to consider potential risks and consequences associated with significant growth such as:

- a loss or erosion of landscape/ townscape character;
- an adverse impact on the historic integrity and setting of the sub region's historic settlements;
- a direct and or indirect impact upon individual heritage assets and their settings;
- traffic congestion, air quality, noise or light pollution and other problems affecting the historic environment.

3.22.3 To assist in determining the significance of any effect on heritage assets South Gloucestershire will have regard to the National Planning Policy Framework, in particular paragraphs 129, 132 and 152. South Gloucestershire's historic environment is important not just for its own sake. It adds to regeneration and is a major draw for business and growth in the area. It is an important element in providing a sense of

place for residents and visitors, a source of immense local pride, and a valuable educational resource.

- 3.22.4 Table 8 below identifies the recognised heritage assets in South Gloucestershire, including those on the Historic England 'Heritage At Risk' register. These numbers give only a taste of the much larger numbers of regionally and locally important sites, monuments and structures that pepper the urban and rural landscape.
- 3.22.5 Listed Buildings are recorded in the councils' Historic Environment Records (HER), which provide data on the location, quality and detail of both designated and non-designated heritage assets, including underground and buried assets. Special regard must be given to the desirability of preserving the setting of a listed building and special attention must be given to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of a Conservation Area in the exercise of planning functions (sections 66 and 72, Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990). To ensure emerging spatial options and policies effect on the historic environment within South Gloucestershire, the HER data will be utilised in the appraisal process. In addition to the HER database, the appraisal process will be supplemented with information on designated Conservation Areas.
- 3.22.6 Conservation Area Character Appraisals assist in understanding the history of an area and why it is special. Where in place these will be utilised in the appraisal process to assist in determining effects, sensitivity of the existing built assets and any appropriate enhancements / mitigation.
- 3.22.7 The following Guidance from Historic England, all subservient to, yet consistent with, the higher level NPPF and PPG, provides valuable assessment tools:
- GPA1 - Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 1 – The Historic Environment in Local Plans (March 2015)
 - GPA2 - Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2 - Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment (March 2015)
 - GPA 3 - Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 - The Setting of Heritage Assets (March 2015)
 - The Historic Environment and Site Allocations in Local Plans Advice Note 3
 - Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment: Historic England Advice Note 8 (Dec 2016)

Historic England also keep a register of all heritage assets on their website here: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/>.

Table 5: Heritage Assets

Asset	South Gloucestershire
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	37
Registered Historic Parks and Gardens	8
Registered Battlefields	1 (part)
Listed buildings	c. 2,000
Conservation Areas	30

- 3.22.8 South Gloucestershire possesses a diverse heritage, ranging from the lowland waterlogged landscapes of the Severn Levels, through the coalfields of north Bristol to the prominent and often exposed archaeology of the Cotswolds, interspersed by areas of rural, semi-rural/urban and urban settlement. Its archaeology ranges from palaeo-environmental deposits to prehistoric hillforts, Roman towns, Saxon burial grounds, medieval planned settlement and nationally significant historic mining.
- 3.22.9 Key to ensuring that this diverse and challenging archaeological and heritage is maintained is Policy CS9 of Core Strategy (2013), which ensures that “heritage assets are conserved, respected and enhanced in a manner appropriate to their significance”. This policy will be supported by Policy PSP2 of the Policies, Sites and Places Plan, once adopted

Climate Change

3.23 CO₂ Emissions, Renewable Energy and District Heating

- 3.23.1 National data was collected at a district level, quantifying CO₂ emissions in 2007, 2012 and 2014:

Table 6: CO₂ Emissions in 2007 to 2014 (k tonne)

Sector	South Glos
2007 Total	2,693
Industrial	1083
Domestic	568
Transport	1020
2012 Total	2,113
Industrial	684
Domestic	518
Transport	892
2014 Total	1886
Industrial	537
Domestic	421
Transport	912
Difference between 2014 to 2007	807

Source: DECC 2005 to 2012 UK local and regional CO₂ emissions: full dataset

- 3.23.2 It is predicted that in South Gloucestershire, as in the rest of the UK, climate change will lead to an increase in average temperatures with greater seasonal variations and an increased risk of flooding and droughts. There will be some positive effects but overall more negative effects. The key impacts in South Gloucestershire are likely to be an increased likelihood of coastal flooding, more heat related deaths in the summer, increased problems relating to ozone in urban areas in summer and, in the short term, an increase in fuel prices which could lead to fuel poverty and the health risks associated with poorly heated homes. It is important to have in place an energy strategy that reduces dependence on fossil fuels by replacing with cleaner and renewable forms of energy generation in order to ensure that there is no shortage of energy in the future.
- 3.23.3 Fossil fuels (coal, gas and oil) are our main source of energy. They are a non-renewable source of energy and when combusted to release energy they release carbon dioxide (CO₂), a major greenhouse gas, as well as other pollutants that are harmful to the environment and to human health. Alternative cleaner, “renewable” or “green” energy sources are available (e.g. solar, wind, tide, geothermal and biomass – energy crops), as well as

more efficient technologies (e.g. Combined Heat and Power – CHP). The Climate Change Act 2008 was the UK Government's response to the United Nations Framework Convention agreement to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. Furthermore, the UK has signed up to achieve a legally binding EU target that 15% of total energy consumed will come from renewable sources by 2020.

3.23.4 The South Gloucestershire Council Climate Change Strategy 2013-2015 outlines local climate change targets for the next 30 years as follows:

- By 2015 reduce CO₂ emissions in South Gloucestershire by 29% of the 1990 baseline.
- By 2020 reduce CO₂ emissions in South Gloucestershire by 35% of the 1990 baseline.
- By 2025 reduce CO₂ emissions in South Gloucestershire by 50% of the 1990 baseline.
- By 2050 reduce CO₂ emissions in South Gloucestershire by 80% of the 1990 baseline.

Source: South Gloucestershire Council Climate Change Strategy 2013-2015

3.24 Flood Risk and Drainage

3.24.1 NPPF requires local planning authorities to adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change, taking full account of flood risk considerations. Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk, but where development is necessary, making it safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere.

3.24.2 Various assessments including Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (SFRA) and strategies to manage flood risk from all sources have been prepared and can support the preparation of the nSGLP. An overall summary of this is presented below.

3.24.3 A sustainable approach to drainage mitigates the impact of new development on flood risk and builds resilience to flooding. It also provides opportunities to remove pollutants from urban runoff at source, and combines water management with green space with benefits for amenity, recreation and wildlife.

3.24.4 West of England Sustainable Drainage Developer Guide Section 1 (March 2015) signposts to existing policy and guidance to support the delivery of a sustainable approach to the drainage of new development in our sub-region.

Table 7: Key flood risk strategies and plans

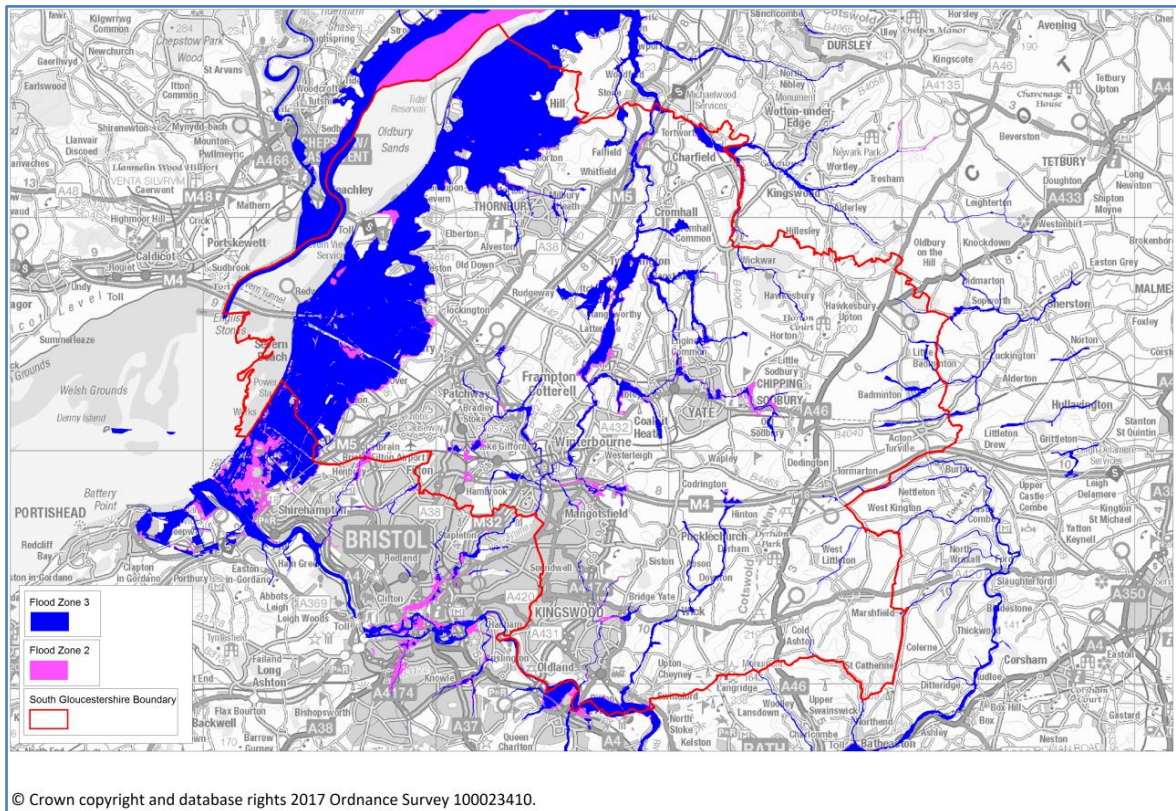
West of England		
WoE Sustainable Drainage Developer Guide March 2015	This guide is primarily intended for use by developers, planners, designers and consultants who are seeking guidance on the requirements for the design and approval of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) in this sub-region of the West of England and Somerset.	Section 1 provides an overview for the sub-regional approach with an introduction to SuDS, an explanation of the application processes, and, technical assistance signposting to design guidance and practical help with applications. Section 2 sets out the character of each authority, the authority-specific technical and procedural requirements, and key contacts for each of the four unitary authorities in the West of England subregion.
South Gloucestershire		
South Gloucestershire SFRA Level 1 2009	<p>Desk based assessment which covers the whole of South Gloucestershire, with focused assessments on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban extension to west of M32 • Urban extension to east of Kingswood • Urban extension at Yate/Chipping Sodbury • Housing development at Cribbs Causeway and Filton • Severnside and • Thornbury <p>Prepared in accordance with PPS25 (pre-NPPF)</p>	<p>Defines extent of FZ 3 and 2. Historic flood outlines events and incidents/call outs. Climate change extents not defined. Agreed by EA that FZ2 should be used as FZ3 inclusive of climate change until proven otherwise.</p> <p>It provides guidance and advice on flood risk management and sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) and Specific Flood Risk Assessments.</p>
Avonmouth/ Severnside Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2011	Aim of the study was to provide evidence to avoid areas of highest flood risk in the Avonmouth area. It also estimated the likely flood risk from the sea and rhyne network to various development sites.	<p>Significant flood risk posed to Avonmouth and Severnside, which is likely to dramatically increase with climate change due to presence of tidal flood defences, flood risk in the present day mostly from the rhyne network.</p> <p>With climate change and sea level rise, defences likely to be</p>

		<p>inadequate and flooding from the sea becomes the greatest risk.</p> <p>Strategic flood defence solution required to enable policy or measure across the area</p>
<p>South Gloucestershire SFRA Level 2 2012</p>	<p>Covers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Gloucestershire Core Strategy strategic development areas : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cribbs/Patchway • North Yate • East of Harry Stoke • University of the West of England; and • the Pickedmoor Brook catchment, near Thornbury 	<p>Defines extent of FZ 3 and 2, depth, velocity, hazard and surface water (30yr and 200yrs) and with climate change. Historic flood outlines events and incidents/call outs.</p> <p>Provides guidance on flood risk management and Flood Risk Assessment requirements for each development area, including overarching principles.</p> <p>Assessed possible off site strategic solutions to flood risk.</p> <p>Climate change has the greatest impact on all the catchments considered. Marked increase in flows on the River Frome catchment specifically at Frenchay and Eastville.</p>

3.24.5 SFRAs prepared may benefit from updating. Following discussion with the Environment Agency, we will consider the requirement to update SFRAs in order to inform the nSGLP.

3.24.6 The current Environment Agency flood zones are shown on figure 6 below.

Figure 6: Environment Agency Flood Zones 3 and 2 (March, 2017)



© Environment Agency copyright and/or database right 2017. All rights reserved. Some features of this map are based on digital spatial data from the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, © NERC (CEH). © Crown copyright and database rights 2004 Ordnance Survey 100024198

Resource Protection

3.25 Water

- 3.25.1 Increasing the resilience of the water environment to tidal, fluvial and surface water flooding in the West of England authorities is a key priority. To achieve this it will be necessary to work in partnership on a catchment wide basis with the Environment Agency and water companies to address adaption measures to respond to impacts such as drought and water shortages through schemes to manage water consumption to achieve more holistic outcomes focused on multi-benefit projects across our administrative boundaries. These include reduced sedimentation of watercourses and associated maintenance costs, reduced risk of flooding and enhancement of the wider environment to improve the public realm through soft engineering solutions. Water quality information and datasets are available from the Environment Agency website.
- 3.25.2 Key plans are summarised below.

Table 8: Key management plans

Wessex Water Water Resources Management Plan (June 2010)	<p>Wessex Water has two unused abstraction licences at Newton Meadows and Monkton Combe that may be invested in, in the future. They are implementing sustainable reduction in abstractions in the Malmesbury area and on the Hampshire Avon, outside of this CAMS area but used to supply water into this catchment.</p> <p>During a drought, in the upper reaches of the Bristol Avon flows can be increased by more than 30MI/d using water taken from boreholes.</p> <p><u>Low volume appliances in new homes</u> Working with developers to provide water efficient appliances in new homes and, where applicable, providing appropriate subsidies</p>
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3.26 Agricultural Land

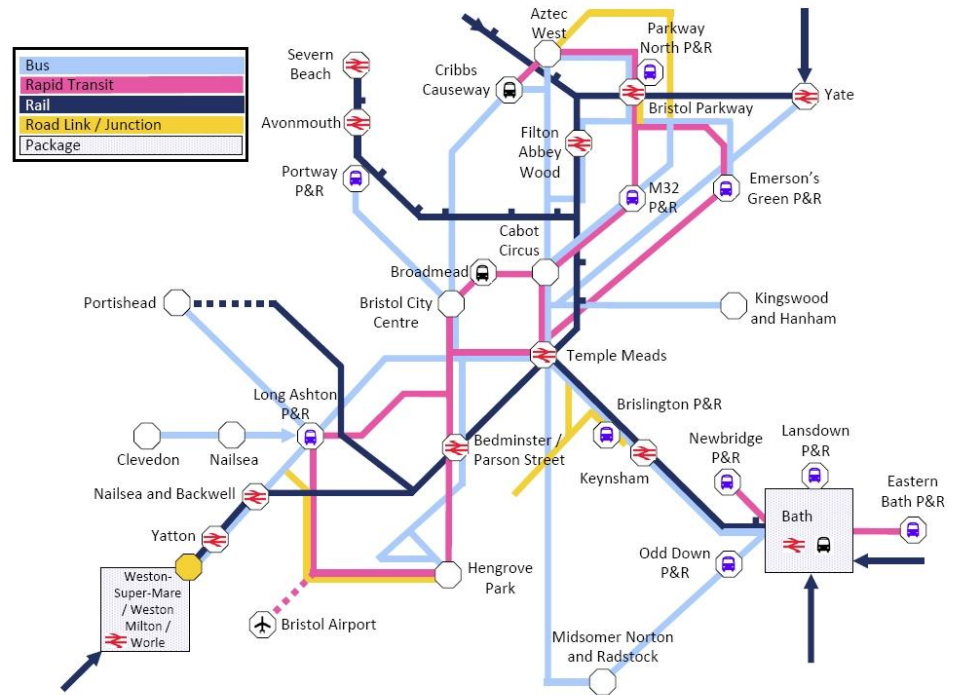
- 3.26.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (para 28) expects local planning authorities to take into account the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land. This is relevant in plan making when decisions are made on which land should be allocated for development. Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, local planning authorities should seek to use areas of poorer quality land in preference to that of a higher quality.

- 3.26.2 The Agricultural Land Classification provides a method for assessing the quality of farmland to enable informed choices to be made about its future use within the planning system. The Agricultural Land Classification system classifies land into five grades, with Grade 3 subdivided into Sub-grades 3a and 3b. The best and most versatile land is defined as Grades 1, 2 and 3a and is the land which is most flexible, productive and efficient in response to inputs and which can best deliver food and non-food crops for future generations. Natural England has a statutory role in advising local planning authorities about land quality issues. Natural England provides further information on Agricultural Land Classification on their website.

3.27 Transport

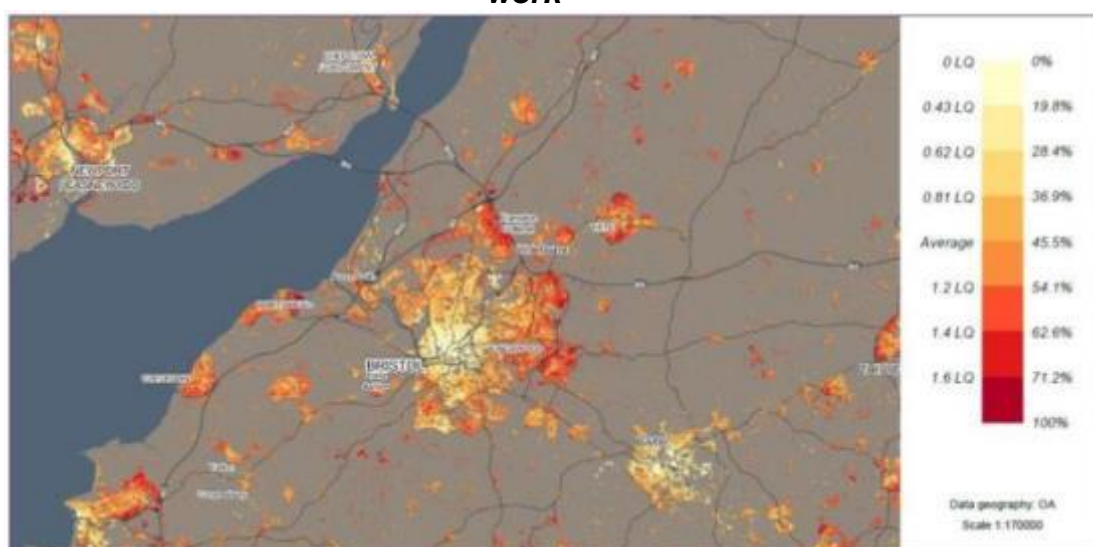
- 3.27.1 The current Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP3) was published in 2011 and sets out the priorities for transport to 2026. In particular, the JLTP3 seeks to achieve a better connected, more balanced and more customer focused transport network. The four West of England authorities, in partnership with the Department for Transport and public transport operators, have invested £80 million to improve key bus corridors as part of the Greater Bristol Bus Network (GBBN) programme which was completed in 2012.
- 3.27.2 In undertaking the JSP a Joint Transport Study is also being prepared to assist in strategic infrastructure delivery across the West of England. This will feed into a new Joint Local Transport Plan 4 that will supersede the JLTP3. It will eventually feed into the nSGLP.

Figure 7: Key transport network (JLTP, 2011)



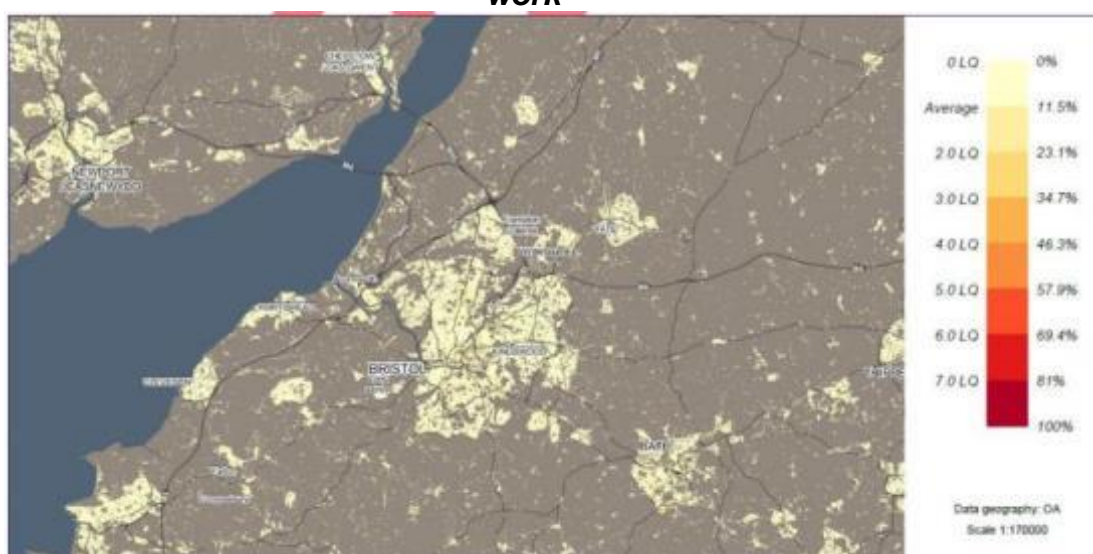
- 3.27.2 The importance of delivering travel improvements, and in particular improved transport infrastructure to support the growth are key themes within the Strategic Economic Plan.
- 3.27.3 The West of England Future Transport Strategy has been commissioned which is intended to provide a clear direction for the long-term development of the transport system in the WoE to 2036 and beyond. This Strategy will be used to assess the nSGLP.

Figure 8: Proportion of residents using private transport to get to work



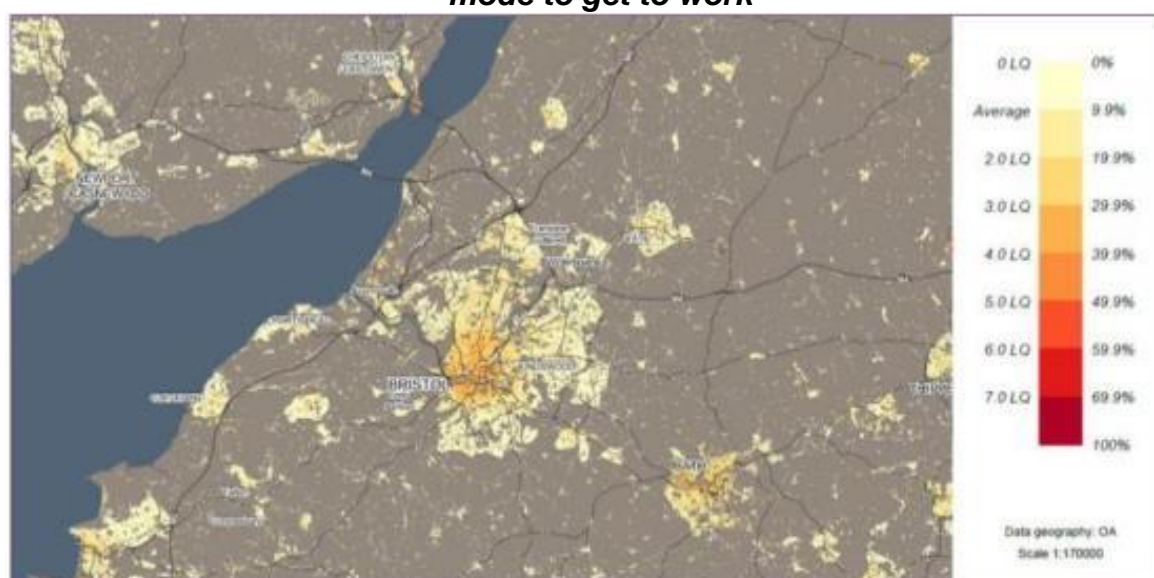
Source: 2011 Census (as visualised at www.datashine.org.uk)

Figure 9: Proportion of residents using public transport to get to work



Source: 2011 Census (as visualised at www.datashine.org.uk)

Figure 10: Proportion of residents who walk, cycle or use another mode to get to work



Source: 2011 Census (as visualised at www.datashine.org.uk)

3.28 Congestion

- 3.28.1 The economic prosperity of South Gloucestershire and high levels of employment, housing and population growth make tackling congestion a major challenge for the Council. Congestion is a feature of many of the major roads in the urban areas of South Gloucestershire. The North Fringe in particular has seen traffic growth of 52% (1991-2006).
- 3.28.2 Bristol remains a hub for commuting and other trips. However commuting patterns are complex and trips across local authority areas are common. Data on travel to work patterns from the 2011 Census shows some 35,000 people travel to work from South Gloucestershire into Bristol to work each day and 29,000 travel in the opposite direction. A further 8,000 people travel from South Gloucestershire to work elsewhere in the West of England. Travel to work 2011 Census data also indicates that there is a tendency for commuters to travel from Gloucestershire (especially from Stroud District) to South Gloucestershire for employment. This pattern of travel may increase with proposed growth.
- 3.28.3 Much of South Gloucestershire has a rural nature and a higher than average car ownership and usage. The 2011 Census identified that 87% of households had at least 1 car or van compared with 74% in England and Wales. The 2011 Census also revealed that there were 158,289 cars or vans in the area.
- 3.28.4 Bristol Airport is the largest airport serving the South West and South Wales, the ninth largest in the UK and the UK's fifth largest outside London. During 2013, air transport movements increased by 8.8% to 55,640 as a result of the transfer of corporate charter movements from Filton and the growth of scheduled services to Europe. Total aircraft

movements increased by 6.7% to 65,299 (compared with 61,206 in 2012 and 66,179 in 2011). Terminal air passengers increased by 3.5%, to a total of 6,125,149. In August 2013, the Airport recorded the busiest month in its history, handling over 700,000 passengers. An estimated 13% of air passengers used public transport for their journey to or from the airport. The number of people working at the airport in summer 2013 was 2,618 (full-time equivalent), up from 2,585 in 2012. Planning permission was granted in February 2011 for a comprehensive expansion of the airport facilities.

- 3.28.5 As the spatial scenarios and policy within the plan are progressed and subjected to appraisal, additional information on transportation will feed into the appraisal scoring and subsequent reporting of effects.

3.29 Waste and Recycling

- 3.29.1 South Gloucestershire Council has responsibility for providing waste and recycling services to 107,000 households.
- 3.29.2 The four West of England unitary authorities (South Gloucestershire, Bristol City, Bath & North East Somerset and North Somerset Councils) adopted the Joint Waste Core Strategy in March 2011. This sits alongside the South Gloucestershire Core Strategy, adopted in December 2013.
- 3.29.3 The 2008-2014 Local Waste Strategy sets a household waste recycling target of 50% by 2020. This has been achieved nine years early with over 52% of household waste having been recycled in 2013/14. In more recent years a slight reduction has been noted, to just under 50% at 49.8% in 2015/16. However, waste to landfill continues to reduce, 12.5% in 2015/16 down from 14.7% the previous year.

(Source: South Gloucestershire Monitoring Report 2016)

3.30 Minerals

- 3.30.1 Mineral working in South Gloucestershire is predominantly Carboniferous Limestone for the aggregates industry. Levels of production dropped in recent years due to the economic downturn, but have begun to rise again since 2013. There are four main quarry units in the district - Chipping Sodbury, Tytherington, Wickwar and Wick. Chipping Sodbury and Tytherington Quarries are operated by Hanson and Wickwar by Cemex. Each of these quarries have extensive processing plant where the aggregate stone is crushed and screened before leaving the site and, particularly in the case of the Cemex unit, this stone is also the main supply for the on-site concrete block making and asphalt plants. Tytherington Quarry has not been worked since 2010 as a result of the downturn in the economy and is currently mothballed. Cromhall and Charfield quarries, which although inactive since the early 1990s, contains significant reserves. Wick Quarry has closed and was sold to a

private individual in 2013 and an application has since been approved for its restoration.

- 3.30.2 Ibstock's Cattybrook Brickworks near Almondsbury produces about 50 million bricks per annum. The clay for this brickworks comes from the adjacent claypit, a clay stockpile beside the former claypit at Shortwood, and from selected imported clays. These clays are blended in varying proportions to produce a range of heritage bricks. Although not a major brick manufacturer, the Brickworks is an important local employer (over 100 employees on site) both directly and indirectly.

4. Developing the SA Framework (Task A4)

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The SA framework provides a way in which sustainability effects can be described, analysed and compared. The process of undertaking a SA involves the identification of sustainability objectives which are used to measure and monitor the success of the plan.

4.2 Development of the Framework

- 4.2.1 The starting point for this SA framework is the JSP Scoping Report. This has been reviewed and updated to ensure relevance to the scope of the nSGLP incorporating elements of the most recent Scoping Report for the Policies Sites and Places Plan. Table 9 below sets out proposed 'effect criteria', relating to each objective. Using a consistent approach as a starting point to score the effects of nSGLP content will allow for transparent appraisal.
- 4.2.2 For selected sustainability objectives, the effect criteria contain circumstances when a 'significant' positive or negative might be likely to occur. In all other instances the extent and magnitude of an effect, along with any other information, such as emerging studies, relating to the sustainability objective, will be considered in determining the degree of significance.
- 4.2.3 A proportionate approach to assessment at each stage of the plan will be undertaken. Not all SA objectives will be used to assess all elements of the plan. i.e., what is appropriate to assess a policy may not be appropriate to assess a potential development site and vice versa. Similarly, some objectives will apply to all assessments and result in the same conclusion and proposed mitigation. As an example, the objective around noise and sensitive development is likely to reflect proposed mitigation through a combination of the Development Management process and building regulations, meaning findings are likely to be consistent for any appraisal undertaken. This may lead to some issues being scoped out from inclusion in the sustainability appraisal framework, as any end findings are unlikely to change or result in different outcomes, despite being subject to the appraisal process.

Table 9: SA objectives suitable for appraising nSGLP

Theme	Sustainability Objective	SEA Topic	Example Effect Criteria	
			Positive Effect	Negative Effect
Improve the health, safety and wellbeing of all	1a. Achieve reasonable access to public open space , taking into account quality and quantity Reasonable Distance <i>Within 400m – Significant positive</i> <i>Beyond 800m - Significant negative</i>	Landscape Human Health Population	Significant Positive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of public open space as part of development that is easily accessible Development in location with existing reasonable access to suitable (in terms of both quantity and quality) public open space Positive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development provides off site open space that is easily accessible by the wider community Development in close proximity to public open space 	Significant Negative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development on public open space which reduces quantity, quality and Accessibility Negative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development does not include provision of open space that is easily accessible or Development in location lacking access to suitable (in terms of both quantity and quality) public open space
	1b. Minimise the impact of noise on sensitive receptors Sensitive uses = residential, schools	Human Health Population	Significant Positive Sensitive developments located away from major roads and infrastructure, heavy industry Positive Construction methods seek to reduce impacts	Significant Negative Sensitive developments located close to noise generating uses e.g. major roads and infrastructure, heavy industry Negative No mitigation in design of development to reduce adverse impact of noise
	1c. Minimise impacts on air quality and locate sensitive development away from areas of poor air quality Sensitive uses = residential, schools, children's facilities, nursery's, elderly people accommodation	Air Climatic factors Human health Population	Significant Positive Sensitive uses placed outside of AQMA Positive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sensitive uses away from road edge Construction methods/design to reduce and, or eliminate air pollution within new sensitive development, including high rise 	Significant Negative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No consideration or inclusion of mitigation techniques/methods proposed for sensitive development in areas of high air pollution and AQMA Development which will significantly increase pollution in and around AQMA Negative

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use trees/vegetation to assist in reducing poor air quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No trees/vegetation used to mitigate poor air quality
	1d. Achieve reasonable sustainable access to healthcare services and facilities (Doctors, Opticians, Pharmacies, Dentists) Reasonable walking and cycling distance GP Surgery 800m Dentist 800m Opticians 800m Pharmacies 800m Reasonable public transport access Significant Positive – Under 20 minutes Positive – Under 30 Negative – 30 to 40 minutes Significant Negative – Over 40 minutes	Material assets Human health Population	Significant Positive Development generating need for health facilities located within reasonable walking and cycling distance of all health facilities OR public transport to locations containing health services and facilities, with journey time under 20 minutes. Positive Development within reasonable walking and cycling distance of some, but not all health services and facilities, AND/OR Public transport to locations containing health services and facilities, with a journey time between 20 and 30 minutes Neutral Development does not have walking and cycling access to any healthcare services and facilities, but has access via public transport with a journey time of under 30 minutes.	Significant Negative Development generating need for health facilities beyond reasonable walking and cycling access to any health facilities AND Public Transport to locations containing health services and facilities that takes over 40 minutes Negative Development within reasonable walking and cycling distance of some, but not all health services and facilities AND/OR Public Transport to locations containing health services and facilities, which takes 30 – 40 minutes
	1e. Achieve reasonable Public Transport Access to hospitals Hospital (BRI, Southmead or Royal Unit Bath)	Material assets Human health Population	Significant Positive Development generating need for access to hospital with public transport connections, journey under 30 minutes, with suitable window for visits and return journey. Positive Development generating need for access to hospital with public transport connections, taking under 1 hour, with suitable window for visits and return journey.	Significant Negative Development generating need for access to hospital with no public transport connections, or connections taking over 1 hour 30 minutes and/or very limited window for visits and limited or no return journey Negative Development generating need for access to hospital with limited public transport connections, or connections taking over 1 hour s and limited possible return journey
Support communities that meet people's needs	2a. Deliver a suitable quantum of high quality housing for South Gloucestershire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDL – 5 locations approximately 7900 dwellings Urban Living – 2900 new homes Non-Strategic – 1300 new homes 	Material assets Population	SDL Criteria TBC Non-Strategic/Urban Living - Positive Deliverable within 5 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites with certainty of achievability (ownership) and availability (ownership) Provide for range of smaller site (below white paper target of 0.5ha) Sites of 150 or less (50per annum) Provides range of	SDL Criteria TBC Non-Strategic/Urban Living - Negative Uncertainty over delivery within 5 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites with limited information on phasing or ownership to guarantee delivery Sites over 150 with limited evidence of phasing and ownership to provide certainty of deliverability within 5 years

			<p>site sizes in locations across rural area AND/OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrable through phasing and ownership information that sites over 150 units have certainty of deliverability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agglomerates housing around one or two settlements
	<p>2b. Deliver a suitable mix of high quality housing types and tenures (including affordable housing) for all parts of society within south Gloucestershire</p>	<p>Material assets</p> <p>Population</p>	<p>Significant Positive</p> <p>Development that assists meeting affordable housing target and lifetime homes AND/OR Development that delivers a well-integrated mix of homes of different types and tenures to support a range of household sizes, ages and incomes</p> <p>Positive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes on a limited basis to meeting affordable housing target and lifetime homes Development that contributes on a limited basis to delivering well-integrated mix of homes of different types and tenures to support a range of household sizes, ages and incomes Sites that make a financial contribution for off-site affordable housing or lifetime homes 	<p>Significant Negative</p> <p>Sites make no contribution on site to affordable housing or lifetime homes</p> <p>Negative Developments that don't deliver a range or good mix of type and tenure.</p>
	<p>2c. Achieve reasonable sustainable access to community facilities (post office, Dedicated Community Centre, Public House, Library) Reasonable walking or cycling distance Post Offices 800m Dedicated Community Centres 800m Public House 800m Library 800m Reasonable public transport access Significant Positive – Under 20 minutes Positive – Under 30 Negative – 30 to 40 minutes Significant Negative – Over 40minutes</p>	<p>Material assets</p> <p>Human health</p> <p>Population</p>	<p>Significant Positive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development generating need for community facilities are within reasonable walking and cycling distance of all facilities, OR public transport to locations containing community facilities, with a journey time under 20 minutes. Provision of community facilities as part of any allocation <p>Positive Development within reasonable walking and cycling distance of some, but not all community facilities, AND/OR public transport to locations containing community services and facilities, with a journey time between 20 and 30 minutes</p>	<p>Significant Negative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development generating need for community facilities beyond reasonable walking and cycling access to any AND public transport to locations containing community facilities, which takes over 40 minutes No provision of community facilities as part of any allocation <p>Negative Development within reasonable walking and cycling distance of some, but not all community services and facilities AND/OR public transport to community services and facilities, which takes 30 – 40 minutes</p>

			Neutral- Development does not have walking and cycling access to community facilities, but has access via public transport with a journey time of under 30 minutes.	
	2d. Achieve reasonable sustainable access to educational facilities (primary schools, secondary schools) Reasonable walking or cycling distance <i>Primary School 2miles</i> <i>Secondary School 3miles</i> Reasonable public transport access <i>Significant Positive – Under 20 minutes</i> <i>Positive – Under 30</i> <i>Negative – 30 to 40 minutes</i> <i>Significant Negative – Over 40minutes</i>	Material assets Population	Significant Positive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development generating need for education facilities are within reasonable walking and cycling distance of primary and secondary schools Development which adds to capacity of educational facilities, where known capacity issues exist. 	Significant Negative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development generating a need for educational facilities beyond a reasonable walking and cycling distance AND public transport to locations containing schools takes over 40 minutes Development which places capacity issues on educational facilities, where known capacity issues exist.
			Positive Development within reasonable walking and cycling distance of a primary OR Secondary school but not both.	Negative Development reliant on public transport journeys of 30-40 minutes to reach a school.
	2e. Achieve reasonable sustainable access to retail and food buying services and facilities (Town and District Centres or local comparison stores, supermarkets and local convenience stores) Reasonable walking and cycling distance <i>Town and District Centre: 1200 metres</i> <i>Supermarkets: 1200 metres</i> <i>Local convenience and comparison stores: 1200metres</i> Reasonable public transport <i>Significant Positive – Under 20 minutes</i> <i>Positive – Under 30</i> <i>Negative – 30 to 40 minutes</i> <i>Significant Negative – Over 40 minutes</i>	Material assets Population	Neutral- Development does not have walking and cycling access to a primary or secondary school, but has access via public transport with a journey time of under 30 minutes.	
			Significant Positive Development generating need for retail and food buying within reasonable walking and cycling distance of all retail and food buying services and facilities OR public transport to town centre and food buying facilities, with journey time under 20 minutes.	Significant Negative Development generating need for retail and food buying beyond reasonable walking and cycling distance of any retail and food buying services and facilities AND Public Transport to town centre and food buying services and facilities takes over 40 minutes
			Positive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development within reasonable walking and cycling distance of some, but not all retail and food buying services and facilities, AND/OR Public transport to town centre and food buying facilities, with journey time between 20 and 30 minutes Development which adds to the retail and leisure services and facilities within a town or district centre. 	Negative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development within reasonable walking and cycling distance of some, but not all retail and food buying services and facilities, AND/OR Public Transport to town centre and food buying services and facilities, which takes 30 – 40 minutes Development that would reduce the retail and leisure services and facilities within a town or district centre

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development which would create a demonstrable increase in footfall and potential use of a centre. 	
			Neutral- Development does not have walking and cycling access to retail and food buying services and facilities, but has access via public transport with a journey time of under 30 minutes.	
	2f. Reduce poverty and income inequality, and improve the life chances of those living in areas of concentrated disadvantage around Kingswood; Staple Hill and Yate	Material assets Population	Significant Positive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development that provides employment opportunities within areas identified as the most deprived 20% of areas in England Development that helps to regenerate the areas identified as the most deprived 20% of areas in England Positive Development that provides good access to employment opportunities for the areas identified as the most deprived 20% of areas in England	Significant Negative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development that does not provide employment opportunity within areas identified as the most deprived 20% of areas in England Development that does not help to regenerate the areas identified as the most deprived 20% of areas in England Negative Development that does not provide good access to employment opportunities for the areas identified as the most deprived 20% of areas in England
	2g. Access to high speed broadband	Population	Significant Positive Access to super-fast broadband Positive Access to good broadband coverage	Significant Negative No access to broadband coverage Negative Uncertain or intermittent broadband coverage
Develop a diverse and thriving economy that meets people's needs	3a. Deliver a reasonable quantum of employment floorspace/land and increase access to work opportunities for all parts of society within South Gloucestershire <i>Reasonable walking and cycling distance</i> <i>2km</i> Reasonable public transport <i>Significant Positive – Under 20 minutes</i> <i>Positive – Under 30</i>	Material assets Population	Significant Positive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development provides additional employment floorspace/land for residential areas within a reasonable walking/cycling distance, or public transport with journey times under 20 minutes Development increases diversity of work opportunity for residential areas, 	Significant negative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development leads to loss of current active or suitable employment site, for residential areas within a reasonable walking/cycling distance or public transport with journey times under 20 minutes Development leads to loss of diversity of work opportunity, for residential areas,

	<p><i>Negative – 30 to 40 minutes</i> <i>Significant Negative – Over 40 minutes</i></p>		<p>within a reasonable walking/cycling distance or public transport with journey time under 20 minutes</p> <p>Positive Development provides additional employment floorspace, for residential areas within a reasonable walking/cycling distance AND/OR public transport with journey time between 20 and 30 minutes</p>	<p>within a reasonable walking/cycling distance or public transport with journey time under 20 minutes</p> <p>Negative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development leads to a part loss of employment floorspace Development decreases access to work opportunities
	<p>3b. Achieve reasonable sustainable access to major employment areas Employment Areas within 2km Enterprise Zones (EZ) Major Employer (100+ employees) Safeguarded Employment Areas Town Centres Reasonable public transport <i>Significant Positive – Under 20 minutes</i> <i>Positive – Under 30</i> <i>Negative – 30 to 40 minutes</i> <i>Significant Negative – Over 40 minutes</i></p>	<p>Material assets</p> <p>Population</p> <p>Air</p> <p>Climatic factors</p>	<p>Significant Positive Development generating need for employment within walking/cycling distance of an Enterprise Zone, or a wide range of unique Safeguarded Employment Areas, Major Employers or Town Centres, AND/OR public transport to an EZ, or a wide range of unique Major Employers, Safeguarded Employment Areas or Town Centres, with journey times under 20 minutes.</p> <p>Positive Development generating need for employment within walking/cycling distance of more than one unique Safeguarded Employment areas, Major employers or Town Centres, AND public transport to any employment areas with a journey time between 20 and 30 minutes</p>	<p>Significant Negative Development generating need for employment beyond walking/cycling distance of any employment areas AND/OR public transport to any employment areas which takes over 40 Minutes</p> <p>Negative Development generating need for employment outside walking and cycling distance of a Safeguarded Employment Area, Major Employer or Town Centre AND/OR public transport to employment areas which takes 30 – 40 minutes</p>
			<p>Neutral- Development does not have walking and cycling access to employment areas, but has access via public transport with a journey time of under 30 minutes</p>	
<p>Maintain and improve environmental quality and assets</p>	<p>4a. Designated Assets: Minimise impact on and where appropriate enhance the historic environment, national heritage assets and their settings Designated Assets Listed Buildings, Grade 1, Grade 11*, Grade II Conservation Areas Scheduled Ancient Monuments Registered Historic Parks and Gardens Registered Battlefields</p>	<p>Cultural heritage</p>	<p>Designated Assets Significant Positive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development that seeks to enhance the significance of any affected heritage asset, historic townscape or landscape Development which brings into use an existing built heritage asset <p>Positive</p>	<p>Designated Assets Significant Negative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development that leads to loss of significance of any affected heritage asset, historic townscape or landscape Development in a location that would lead to loss of character and setting of an asset <p>Negative</p>

			Development that safeguards and protects the significance of any affected heritage asset, historic townscape or landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development that leads to harm or change of significance to a heritage asset Development in a location that would lead to harm of character and setting of an asset
	4b. Undesignated Assets: Minimise impact on and where appropriate enhance the historic environment, local heritage assets and their settings Local Assets: Unregistered Historic Parks and Gardens Non-designated heritage assets Locally Listed Buildings		Significant Positive Positive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development that seeks to enhance the significance of any affected local heritage asset, historic townscape or landscape Development which brings into use an existing built local heritage asset Development that safeguards and protects the significance of any affected local heritage asset, historic townscape or landscape Developments that take account of local unregistered, non-designated or locally listed assets of importance to the local community 	Significant Negative Negative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development that leads to loss of significance of any affected local heritage asset, historic townscape or landscape Development in a location that would lead to loss of character and setting of a local asset Development that leads to harm or change of significance to a local asset Development in a location that would lead to harm of character and setting of a local asset Developments that don't take account of unregistered, non-designated or locally listed assets of importance to the local community
	4c. Minimise impact on and where possible enhance habitats and species (taking account of climate change) International and European designated sites Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) Special Protection Areas (SPA) RAMSAR <i>Note: The HRA will consider these in more detail. SA will recognise where a European Protected Sites might be affected and therefore an Appropriate Assessment as part of the HRA may be required.</i> National Sites and assets SSSI	Biodiversity Geodiversity Climatic factors Fauna & Flora Landscape	Significant Positive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development that creates new wildlife areas of high quality and would support UK Priority Habitats Development that enhances existing and increases connectivity between existing and new wildlife networks, habitats or features 	Significant Negative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development on or adjacent national sites that results in loss or significant harm to designated sites or features Development that results in loss of wildlife networks Negative

	<p>National Nature Reserves Local Nature Reserves UK Priority Habitat Local Sites SNCI Ecological Networks</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development that safeguards, preserves and protects existing national sites habitats or features <p>Positive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development that safeguards, preserves and protects existing local sites habitats or features • Development that maintains the connectivity and integrity of wildlife networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development on or adjacent local sites (including wildlife corridors) that creates harm or loss • Development that would fragment connectivity and integrity of wildlife networks
	<p>4d. Minimise impact on and where appropriate enhance valued landscapes National designations AONB Ancient Woodland Note: <i>The South Gloucestershire Adopted Landscape Character Assessment SPD (Revised 2014) will be used to assess the plan utilising the 21 identified Character Areas and the Landscape Strategy developed for each character area.</i></p>	<p>Cultural heritage Landscape</p>	<p>Significant Positive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development utilises topography and landform to inform proposals and enhance valued landscapes, as defined in the SG adopted Landscape Character Assessment (2014) • Development avoids harm and enhances AONB/Ancient Woodland <p>Positive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development seeks to preserve and protect adverse impacts on the AONB/Ancient Woodland • Development seeks to incorporate the SG adopted Landscape Character Assessment (2014), landscape strategy principles, where applicable 	<p>Significant Negative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development that leads to irreversible damage and loss to sensitive areas of the AONB/Ancient Woodland • Development that does not consider landscape features in proposals, as defined in the SG adopted Landscape Character Assessment (2014) <p>Negative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overbearing or unsympathetic development in and around key landscape features (AONB/Ancient Woodland)

	<p>4e. Deliver a range and quality of, and increased access to new green infrastructure across South Gloucestershire AND protect and enhance existing GI</p> <p>Green Infrastructure typology:</p> <p>Parks and Gardens</p> <p>Amenity Greenspace – including: informal recreation spaces, domestic gardens, village greens, green roofs</p> <p>Natural and semi-natural urban greenspaces – including: woodland and scrub, grassland, heath or moor, wetlands, open and running water</p> <p>Green corridors – rivers and canals including their banks, road and rail corridors, cycling routes, pedestrian paths, and rights of way</p> <p>Other - allotments, community gardens, city farms, cemeteries and churchyards.</p>	<p>Biodiversity</p> <p>Climatic factors</p> <p>Fauna & Flora</p> <p>Landscape</p> <p>Soil</p> <p>Water</p>	<p>Significant Positive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development delivers a range of new GI appropriate to the scheme to a high quality AND is easily accessible Development seeks to enhance existing GI <p>Positive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development delivers some new GI of a reasonable quality and is accessible Development seeks to enhance links to existing and new GI Development avoids loss and severance of existing GI 	<p>Significant Negative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development does not offer any new GI Development does not seek to increase access to existing or new GI Development results in total loss or severance of existing GI <p>Negative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development does not seek to enhance links to existing or new GI Development results in some loss or severance of existing GI
	<p>4f. Promote the conservation and wise use of land, maximising the re-use of previously developed land.</p>	<p>Fauna & Flora</p> <p>Landscape</p> <p>Soil</p>	<p>Positive</p> <p>Major Development on previously developed land/brownfield sites</p>	<p>Negative</p> <p>Development on previously undeveloped greenfield sites</p>
	<p>4g. Protect and enhance valuable Green Belt</p> <p>Purposes of Green Belt land in S.G defined in JSP Stage 1 Green Belt Assessment</p> <p>Grading of some Green Belt areas determined in JSP Stage 2 GB Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major Contribution Limited 	<p>Material assets</p>	<p>Significant Positive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development on land outside of Green Belt, and Development enhances access/recreational benefits of open countryside in to the Green Belt <p>Positive</p> <p>Development on land outside of Green Belt</p>	<p>Significant Negative</p> <p>Development on land inside the Green Belt making Major Contribution to Green Belt purpose(s), leading to urban sprawl, physical merger between towns or settlements or loss of open countryside</p> <p>Negative</p> <p>Development on land inside the Green Belt making a contribution to the Green Belt purpose(s), leading to urban sprawl, perception or reduced distance between towns or settlements or loss of open countryside</p>
			<p>Neutral</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development on Green Belt land identified as making “limited Contribution” to Green Belt and creates a new clearly defined Green Belt boundary. 	

	4h. Minimise the loss of productive land, especially best and most versatile agricultural land.	Landscape Soil	Significant Positive Development that avoids and therefore safeguards the protection of high value agricultural land (1 to 3a) which is also outside of flood risk zones 3a and 3b. Positive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development on land with no current or immediate potential agricultural value • Development that provides or enhances local food growing land of demonstrable value 	Significant Negative Development on land resulting in loss of agricultural value Grade 1 to 3a, which is also outside of flood risk zones 3a and 3b. Negative Development that results in loss of local food growing land of demonstrable value
	4i. Minimise vulnerability to tidal/fluvial flooding (taking account of climate change), without increasing flood risk elsewhere	Climatic factors Water	Significant Positive Highly vulnerable and more vulnerable development in flood zone 1 (as contained in Table 3 of the Flood Risk and Coastal Change PPG). Positive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development proposed in areas of lowest flood risk (as contained in Table 2 and 3 of the Flood Risk and Coastal Change PPG). • Development which mitigates existing flood risk from tidal or fluvial sources 	Significant Negative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly, more and less vulnerable development in flood risk zone 3b (as contained in Table 3 of the Flood Risk and Coastal Change PPG). • Highly vulnerable development in flood risk zone 3a Negative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other development in areas of flood risk (as contained in Table 3 of the Flood Risk and Coastal Change PPG). • Flood defences and mitigation measures would have negative effects on flooding elsewhere
	4j. Minimise vulnerability to surface water flooding and other sources of flooding, without increasing flood risk elsewhere	Climatic factors Water	Significant Positive Development proposed outside of identified high risk surface water areas. Positive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development which includes measures to reduce run off • Development which mitigates existing surface water flood risk. 	Significant Negative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development proposed in identified areas at high risk from surface water flooding. • Development which significantly increases run off, increasing the risk of surface water flooding Negative

				Development that does not consider how to mitigate existing surface water flood risk
	4k. Minimise harm to, and where possible protect and enhance (surface and groundwater) water quality and quantity/availability	Water	<p>Significant Positive Development with potential to protect and enhance surface and groundwater water quality and/or quantity/availability</p> <p>Positive Maximise use and opportunity of grey water recycling</p>	<p>Significant Negative Development posing a risk to water quality and/or quantity/availability</p> <p>Negative Development that does not integrate water saving technologies</p>
Use of natural resources	5a. Reduce non-renewable energy consumption and 'greenhouse' emissions and provide opportunities to link into existing heat networks	Air Climatic factors Material assets	<p>Significant Positive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development that contributes to reducing non-renewable energy consumption and 'greenhouse' emissions Developments that incorporate district heating or other renewable energy supply Development that provide opportunities to link into an existing energy network <p>Positive Development that integrates electric car charging points</p>	<p>Significant Negative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development that does not contribute to reducing non-renewable energy consumption and 'greenhouse' emissions Development that does not incorporate district heating or other renewable energy supply Development that does not provide opportunities to link into an existing energy network <p>Negative Development that does not integrate electric car charging points</p>
	5b. Reduce waste	Material Assets	<p>Significant Positive Development that encourages waste minimisation and the sustainable management of future streams e.g. community recycling or composting infrastructure.</p> <p>Positive Development that seeks to reuse and recycle demolition waste</p>	<p>Significant Negative Development that does not minimise waste or provide for recycling/composting</p> <p>Negative Development that does not seek to recycle demolition waste</p>
	5c. Minimise consumption and extraction of minerals	Material Assets	<p>Significant Positive Development that seeks the greatest possible reuse of old material in new construction</p> <p>Positive Development that provides for the reuse and recycling of minerals/materials</p>	<p>Significant Negative Development that does not seek to reuse or recycle materials</p> <p>Negative Development that only has limited reuse/recycling of materials</p>

5. Next Stages and Methodology

5.1 What happens next?

5.1.1 This Scoping Report is the first stage of the SA process (Stage A). The stages that follow are:

- Developing and refining options (Stage B)
- Appraising the effects of the Plan (Stage C)
- Consulting on the Plan and the SA Report (Stage D)
- Monitoring the implementation of the Plan

5.2 Developing and refining options (Stage B)

5.2.1 During the preparation of the nSGLP, the council will develop various policy options capable of meeting the spatial planning objectives of the Plan. Each reasonable policy option, including the 'do nothing' option, will be tested against the SA Framework to determine their performance in sustainability terms.

5.2.2 Initially the various policy options will be appraised against SA objectives, in order to identify whether their effects are positive, negative or uncertain; whether such effects will arise in the short, medium or long term; and whether they will be temporary or permanent.

5.3 Appraising the effects of the plan (Stage C)

5.3.1 The next stage of the SA process is to assess, in more detail, each preferred policy option, in order to determine whether it is likely to have a significant effect on the environment and sustainable development (see Table 10 below). The purpose of this stage is to predict and evaluate the effects of policies and proposals so that, where adverse effects are predicted, consideration will be given to what mitigation measures may be required. This stage will lead to the production of the final SA Report.

5.3.2 Each preferred policy option will be assessed and, where necessary, recommendations made for refining the policy option included in the process. At this stage, if there are limitations in the data that is available, it is expected that the predictions regarding the policy impacts may be broad based and qualitative rather than detailed and quantitative. Where possible, the potential effects will be quantified, but, where this is not possible, a subjective judgment will need to be made.

5.3.3 Completion of this process will make it possible to decide if any of the policies are likely to have any adverse impacts. Where adverse impacts are predicted, information will be presented on the measures proposed to prevent, reduce or offset these adverse effects. Where an adverse effect cannot be mitigated, the council will consider deleting or modifying the policy. Even if a policy does not have any adverse

impacts, the council will, where possible, seek to enhance its positive and beneficial effects.

5.3.4 Where policies are proposed for alteration in light of the SA process, these will be highlighted in the final SA Report. The SA process will also provide a commentary on any sustainability issues that arise during the refinement of the preferred policy options. Conclusions on the overall sustainability effects of the preferred policy options will also be provided as part of the final SA Report.

5.3.5 Table 10 below sets out SEA regulation requirements for how significant effects on the environment should be determined. These criteria will be used throughout Stages B and C of the SA process, but will also be applied to the determination of significant effects on social and economic circumstances, as well as the environment, so that the likely significant effects on broader sustainability may be determined.

Table 10: SEA Regulations criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment (Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations 2004)

1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to -
 - (a) the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;
 - (b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;
 - (c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;
 - (d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and
 - (e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to -
 - (a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;
 - (b) the cumulative nature of the effects;
 - (c) the transboundary nature of the effects;
 - (d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);
 - (e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);
 - (f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to -
 - (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;
 - (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or
 - (iii) intensive land-use; and
 - (g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

5.4 Consulting on the plan and sustainability appraisal (Stage D)

- 5.4.1 A final SA Report will be available for consultation alongside the Publication version of the nSGLP. If changes are made following this consultation period, the final SA Report will need to be amended as appropriate to reflect any changes.
- 5.4.2 The revised final SA report will be submitted to the Secretary of State alongside the submission of the nSGLP, which will be subject to independent examination by a Planning Inspector. The independent examination will consider whether the SA process has been incorporated into the production of the submitted Plan and whether the requirements of the SEA Directive have been met.

5.5 Monitoring the implementation of the plan

5.5.1 It is a requirement of the SEA Directive that the significant environmental effects of the implementation of Plans must be monitored to identify any unforeseen adverse effects and to enable appropriate remedial action to be taken. SA monitoring will allow the council to answer the following questions:

- Were the assessment's predictions of sustainability effects accurate?
- Is the plan contributing to the achievement of desired SA objectives and targets?
- Are mitigation measures performing as well as expected?
- Are there any adverse effects? Are these within acceptable limits, or is remedial action desirable?

5.5.2 SA monitoring will be undertaken annually following adoption in line with the requirement to produce an Authority's Monitoring Report. Further information on monitoring will be set out in the final SA Report.

Appendix 1: Consultation Questions

1. Have all relevant plans and programmes been referenced?
2. Is any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?
3. Are any judgments made concerning baseline information incorrect?
4. Are there any additional sustainability issues within South Gloucestershire that need to be considered in the development of the New Local Plan document?
5. Do you agree with the proposed Sustainability Appraisal Framework?
6. Are the objectives and effect criteria set out appropriate?
7. Is the proposed methodology for the next stages of the Sustainability Appraisal correct?
8. Are there any other comments you would like to make?

Appendix 2: Equalities Impact Assessment Framework for nSGLP

Equality Impact Assessment		
1	Name of strategy, project or policy:	
2	Officer completing assessment:	
3	Contact details:	
4	What is the main purpose of the strategy / project / policy	
5	List the main activities of the project / policy (for strategies list the main policy areas):	
6	Have you consulted on this policy?	
7	Have you explained your policy to people who might be affected by it directly or indirectly? Who are they and why are they affected? – give details	
You may find it useful to complete section 14 'Equality Target Groups' before completing section 8-14		
8	Who will be the main beneficiaries of the strategy / project / policy?	
9	What improvements to the strategy, project or policy could mitigate adverse equalities impact?	
10	Have you set up equalities monitoring systems to carry out regular checks on the effects your policy has on: a) racial groups b) other equality target groups - Give details.	

11	Have you introduced changes you planned, with any necessary training? Does everyone involved in the policy know and understand what you have done? – Give details.	
12	How is the success of the policy and functions measured? – Give details of equality outcomes.	
13	What are your equality related performance indicators for this policy?	

14	Equality Target Group(s)	Positive Impact – it could benefit		Negative Impact – it could disadvantage		Reason(s)
	Equal Opportunities / or Improved relations	High ✓	Low ✓	High ✓	Low ✓	
14.1	Gender					
	Women / Girls					
	Men / Boys					
14.2	Race					
	Asian or Asian British People					
	Black or Black British People					
	Chinese people					
	People of mixed heritage					
	White People (including Irish people)					

	Travellers (Gypsy/Roma/Irish heritage)					
	Any other ethnic background					
14.3	Disabled people					
14.4	Lesbians, gay men and bisexuals					
14.5	Transgender people					
14.6	Older people (60+)					
14.7	Children and Young people (0-19)					
14.8	Faith groups					

Appendix 3: Review of Plans Programmes and Policies

Scope of the review of Plans and Programmes

European Directives and commitments established at the European level

The review refers to a number of the more important Directives, such as the *Directive on Conservation of Wild Birds* (79/4098/EC) and the Directive on the *Conservation of natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora* (92/43/EEC).

National Strategies, Plans and Programmes

The review identifies a number of high level policy and strategy documents including the NPPF (2012) and NPPG (2014).

Regional Strategies, Plans and Programmes

A number of regional strategies exist. These have been listed in the following review and include the West of England Joint Local Transport Plan 3 2011 – 2026 (2011) and the West of England Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2013).

Local Strategies, Plans and Programmes

The review refers to the main strategies, etc of South Gloucestershire Council, such as the Core Strategy (December 2013) and the Affordable Housing SPD (2014).

Title of Policy, plan and programme	Objectives	Implications for Plan
General		
The World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, Commitments arising from Johannesburg Summit (September 2002)	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>A number of the sustainable development commitments originating from WSSD, are relevant to land use planning, and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate energy into country-led poverty reduction processes. • Remove market barriers and create a level playing field for renewable energy and energy efficiency. • Greater resource efficiency (incl. decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation). • Support business innovation and take-up of best practice in technology and management; work on waste and producer responsibility. <p>Targets:</p> <p>There are a number of follow-up processes, but no specific targets.</p>	<p>Many of these commitments are followed up and elaborated in more in detail in UK guidance and strategies.</p> <p>Consider policies to support objectives.</p>
United Nations Millennium Declaration (2000)	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. • Achieve universal primary education • Promote gender equality and empower women. • Reduce child mortality. • Improve maternal health. • Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. • Ensure environmental sustainability. • Develop a global partnership for development. <p>Targets:</p> <p>By 2015 all 191 UN Member states have pledged to meet these goals:</p>	<p>The declaration and the goals have a key focus on developing countries and issues such as poverty, gender equality and education. However the declaration also contains commitments to address a broad range of issues some of which have relevance to identifying policy actions and priorities, particularly those relating to</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TARGET FOR 2015: Halve the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day and those who suffer from hunger. • TARGET FOR 2015: Ensure that all boys and girls complete primary school. • TARGETS FOR 2005 AND 2015: Eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and at all levels by 2015. • TARGET FOR 2015: Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five. • TARGET FOR 2015: Reduce by three quarters the ratio of women dying in childbirth. • TARGET FOR 2015: Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and the incidence of malaria and other major diseases. • Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources. • By 2015, reduce by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water. • By 2020, achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers. • Develop further an open trading and financial system that includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction — nationally and internationally. • Address the least developed countries' special needs, and the special needs of landlocked and small island developing states. • Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt problems. • Develop decent and productive work for youth. • In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries. • In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies — especially information and communications technologies. 	environmental sustainability.
DEFRA Securing the Future – UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>The Strategy sets out five guiding principles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Living within environmental limits 2. Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society 3. Achieving a sustainable economy 4. Promoting good governance 5. Using sound science responsibly <p>Priorities for UK action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable production and consumption. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change and energy. • Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement. • Sustainable communities <p>Targets</p> <p>Does not contain any targets but does include the following key commitments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Producing an integrated policy approach for protecting and enhancing natural resources with stakeholders in 2005. • Researching environmental limits and environmental inequalities. • Taking account of natural systems as a whole, through the use of an ecosystems approach. • Bringing together all the UK Government's policy frameworks, targets and strategies for natural resources. • Modernising the delivery framework through the creation of new agencies to manage the marine and terrestrial environments. • Launching Environmental Stewardship to incentivise farmers to deliver environmental benefits. • Addressing problems of degraded resources and environmental inequalities by enhancing the role of the Environment Agency, the creation of the Integrated Agency, and by strategic partnership work nationally and locally between Defra and the Department of Health and their agencies. • Working with international partners to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss worldwide. • Encouraging partner countries globally to integrate principles of sustainable development into poverty reduction and development processes, assisting developing countries in negotiation and implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, and supporting multilateral institutions such as the UN Environment Programme. 	
DCLG National Planning Policy Framework (2012)	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>In delivering sustainable development the key planning objectives should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building a strong, competitive economy. • Ensuring the vitality of town centres. • Supporting a prosperous rural economy. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting sustainable transport. • Supporting high quality communications infrastructure. • Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes. • Promoting healthy communities. • Protecting greenbelt land. • Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change. • Conserving and enhancing the natural environment. • Conserving and enhancing the historic environment. • Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals. 	
DCLG National Planning Practice Guidance (2014)	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>The launch of National Planning Practice Guidance was announced in March 2014. The aim of the NPPG is to replace a large quantity of old guidance and make it a more simpler system for everyone to use. It is a web based tool split into 41 sections of which relevant categories are included below.</p>	Consider policies which support this guidance.
DEFRA Climate Change UK Programme (2006)	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve business' use of energy, stimulate investment and cut costs. • Stimulate new, more efficient sources of power generation. • Promote better energy efficiency in the domestic sector, saving householders money. • Improve the energy efficiency requirement of the Building Regulations. • Continue cutting emissions from agriculture. • Ensure the public sector takes a leading role. 	
The Carbon Plan: Delivering our Low Carbon Future (2011)	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make existing homes and buildings more energy efficient. • Deliver heating and electricity through renewable sources reducing the use of fossil fuels. • Support people in making low carbon travel choices. • Reduction in domestic transport emissions through low emission technologies. <p>Targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All homes and buildings to have emission footprints close to zero by 2050 	

West of England Duty to Cooperate schedule	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify the strategic planning issues affecting more than one unitary authority area in the West of England; • To define the processes for taking these issues forward; and • To document the outcomes delivered. <p>In order to deliver the objectives of this guidance the schedule demonstrates a table showing a key theme, issues and anticipated delivery outcome/benefits , the Local Authorities which are affected , any actions required and a proposed action date and by whom.</p> <p>There are no specific targets relating to this guidance.</p>	Ensures that cross boundary issues are consulted on at a strategic level
South Gloucestershire Local Plan Core Strategy 2006 – 2027 (2013)	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing and adapting to climate change. • Managing future development. • Managing economic prosperity. • Providing housing for all. • Improve existing communities. • Tackling congestion and improving accessibility. • Managing the environment and heritage. • Improving health and wellbeing. 	Ensure that commitments identified in the Core Strategy are carried through, as well as ensuring that new policies are consistent with the Core Strategy
SGC emerging Policies Sites and Places Plan	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responding to Climate Change and High Quality Design • Managing Future Development • Tackling Congestion and Improving Accessibility • Managing the Environment and Heritage • Maintaining Economic Prosperity • Providing Housing and Community Infrastructure 	Ensure that commitments identified in the PSP Plan are carried through, as well as ensuring that new policies are consistent with the PSP Plan
New Local Plan – Prospectus Document (January 2018)	<p>Objectives</p> <p>To seek opinion on the structure and general coverage of the new Local Plan for South Gloucestershire.</p>	Inform targets and objectives relating to delivery of housing and other land uses. Inform

		commitment to protection and enhance of key natural and built assets.
Adopted Stroud Local Plan (November 2015)	<p>Objectives</p> <p>Homes and Communities: Strategic Objective SO1: Accessible communities <i>Maintaining and improving accessibility to services and amenities for our communities, with:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthcare for all residents • Affordable and decent housing for local needs • Active social, leisure and recreation opportunities • Youth and adult learning opportunities <p>Economy and infrastructure: Strategic Objective SO2: Local economy and jobs <i>Providing for a strong, diverse, vibrant local economy that enables balanced economic growth, coupled with enhanced job opportunities across the District</i></p> <p>Strategic Objective SO3: Town centres and rural hinterlands <i>Improving the safety, vitality and viability of our town centres, which link to and support the needs of their rural hinterlands</i></p> <p>Strategic Objective SO4: Transport and travel <i>Promoting healthier alternatives to the use of the private car and seeking to reduce CO2 emissions by using new technologies, active travel and/or smarter choices, working towards a more integrated transport system to improve access to local goods and services</i></p> <p>Our environment and surroundings: Strategic Objective SO5: Climate Change and environmental limits <i>Promoting a development strategy that mitigates global warming, adapts to climate change and respects our environmental limits by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Securing energy efficiency through building design • Maximising the re-use of buildings and recycling of building materials • Minimising the amount of waste produced and seeking to recover energy • Promoting the use of appropriately located brownfield land 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Supporting a pattern of development that facilitates the use of sustainable modes of transport</i> • <i>Minimising and mitigating against future flood risks, recycling water resources and protecting and enhancing the quality of our District's surface and groundwater resources</i> <p>Strategic Objective SO6: Our District's distinctive qualities <i>Conserving and enhancing Stroud District's distinctive qualities, based on landscape, townscape and biodiversity</i></p>	
Adopted Joint Core Strategy for Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury (December 2017)	<p>Ambition 1 – A thriving economy Strategic Objective 1 – Building a strong and competitive urban economy Strategic Objective 2 – Ensuring vitality of town centres Strategic Objective 3 – Supporting a prosperous rural economy</p> <p>Ambition 2 – A sustainable natural, built and historic environment Strategic Objective 4 – Conserving and enhancing the environment Strategic Objective 5 – Delivering excellent design in new developments Strategic Objective 6 – Meeting the challenges of climate change</p> <p>Ambition 3 - A healthy, safe and inclusive community Strategic Objective 7 – Promoting sustainable transport Strategic Objective 8 – Delivering a wide choice of quality homes Strategic Objective 9 – Promoting healthy communities</p>	

1. Improve Health and Well-being		
UK Fuel Poverty Strategy, (2001)	Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End fuel poverty for vulnerable households by 2010. 	
ODPM Sustainable Communities in the South West – Building for the Future (2003)	Objectives/Actions: Document does not contain any ‘objectives’ for the Region, but contains an ‘Action Plan’ which includes action such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will help empower people and public services in disadvantaged communities by investing in the skills and know-how they need to turn their communities around (total funding of £148,500 for 2002/03). We will continue to work with SWRDA to establish a ‘centre of excellence’, providing services to enable the sharing of best practice on regeneration and renewal. • We will plan in the main towns and cities for growth, and transport infrastructure and services that reduce the need for travel and support sustainable development as with the Greater Bristol Strategic Transport Study. • We will work with local authorities to develop and implement effective local transport plans to tackle the region’s transport needs at a local level and support the delivery of key schemes supporting sustainable growth such as the Poole Harbour Bridge, Gloucester South West by-pass and Barnstaple downstream bridge. • We will use the planning system and other strategies to ensure that communities develop in a way that reduces the need to travel, particularly by private car. • We will develop in rural areas an increasing range of transport opportunities that reduce dependence on the private car, supporting initiatives such as the Cornwall Centre of Excellence in rural transport and innovative schemes such as the Wiltshire Wiggly Bus and On Call buses in Plymouth and Caradon. Does not contain any targets.	Consider policies to achieve this Action Plan.

SGC Sustainable Community Strategy (2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure resources are used wisely, reduce carbon emissions, prevent pollution and waste, and conserve and enhance the environment for future generations. • Promote a greater understanding and mutual respect between different sectors and a selection of the community; empower all people to participate and become involved in decisions which affect the area. • Find simple and effective ways of working together that improve efficiency, make the most of the resources and ensure value for money. 	
NICE Guidance	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>This guide recommends taking a number of actions in combination, because multiple interventions, each producing a small benefit, are likely to act cumulatively to produce significant change. It includes recommendations on:</p> <p><u>planning</u> <u>development management</u> <u>clean air zones</u> <u>reducing emissions from public sector transport services and vehicle fleets</u> <u>smooth driving and speed reduction</u> <u>walking and cycling</u> <u>awareness raising</u></p> <p>Targets:</p> <p>Include zero and low emission travel e.g. walking and cycling in plans; electric charging point provision; support car sharing car hub schemes; minimise exposure of vulnerable groups to air pollution; site living accommodation away from roads; avoid street and building configurations that encourage pollution to build up; include landscaping features such as trees and vegetation (green walls/roofs); funding options for use of CIL including air monitoring and measures to reduce road traffic emissions.</p>	Consider policies to achieve this guide.

<p>Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)</p>	<p>Objective:</p> <p>The JSNA is used by health and social care organisations as an evidence base for commissioning and developing services. It is also used by other organisations, including the voluntary and community sector, to plan services that meet the needs of the local population.</p> <p>It is concerned with wider social factors that have an impact on people's health and wellbeing, such as housing, poverty and employment, the 'wider determinants' of health.</p> <p>Targets:</p> <p>Priority challenges – Wider determinants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise the overall attainment for education and skills, increasing aspiration whilst closing the gap in achievement between the most disadvantaged groups – children living in poverty, looked after children and those with disabilities. • Ensure the existing and future housing stock in South Gloucestershire is of a suitable standard, available and affordable for those most in need with schemes in place to facilitate easier discharge from hospital. • Ensure that local population intelligence and evidence about links between the built environment and health are used to inform new development planned for South Gloucestershire and the West of England over the next 20 years and ensure that this new development contributes to improving our physical and mental health, and diminishing inequalities in health. • Consider air and noise pollution as part of the new developments that are taking place as well as in the areas identified where levels are high. • Reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime particularly for individuals and communities where rates of crime, anti-social behaviour or the fear of crime are disproportionately high. • Reducing alcohol misuse and related crime. • Develop a community assets model that supports individuals to maintain independence and improve their health and wellbeing. • Securing sustainable domestic abuse support services and addressing areas of unmet need. 	<p>Consider policies to achieve this needs assessment</p>
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<p>Health and Well-being Strategy</p>	<p>Objective:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve educational attainment and raise aspirations through promotion of health and wellbeing in schools and colleges. 2. Promote and enable positive mental health and wellbeing through the life-course. 3. Promote and enable good nutrition, physical activity and a healthy weight through the life-course. 4. Maximise the potential of our built and natural environment to enable healthy lifestyles and prevent disease. 	<p>Consider policies to achieve this strategy</p>
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2. Support communities that meet people's needs		
DCLG Written Statement to Parliament Planning and Travellers (July 2013)	<p>Objective:</p> <p>There is a call to revoke equality and diversity in planning as previous unauthorised developments have created tensions between travellers and the settled population, harming community cohesion.</p> <p>Targets:</p> <p>This ministerial statement abolishes top down targets, increases projection of the green belt and aligned the planning system for traveller sites with that for settled housing.</p>	The single issue for unmet demand is not sufficient evidence for providing traveller sites or conventional housing sites in the Green Belt.
DCLG Planning Policy for Travellers Sites March (2015)	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>To ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional nomadic way of life for travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community.</p> <p>In order to deliver the objectives of this guidance, when preparing development plans and considering planning applications, local authorities should;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make their own assessment of need for the purpose of planning; • Ensure that local planning authorities, working collaboratively, develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites; • Encourage local planning authorities to plan for sites over a reasonable timescale; • Plan-making and decision-taking should protect the Green Belt from inappropriate development; • Promote a more private traveller site provision while recognising that there will always be those travellers who cannot provide their own sites; • Plan-making and decision-taking should aim to reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments and make enforcement more effective; • Ensure that Local Plans include fair, realistic, and inclusive policies; • Increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply; 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce tension between settled and traveller communities in plan-making and planning decisions; • Enable provision of suitable accommodation from which travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure; and • To have due regard for the protection of local amenity and local environment. 	
NPPG Rural Housing (2014)	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>Understand the importance of providing housing to sustain other rural facilities such as schools, local shops, public houses, places of worship and local services.</p> <p>In order to deliver the objectives of this guidance, when preparing development plans and considering planning applications, local authorities should;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considering rural housing options at strategic, local and neighbourhood levels; • Avoid blanket policies which restrict development; and • Recognise that different sustainable transport policies and measures will be required in different communities and opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary from urban to rural areas. 	
DCLG Housing White Paper, February 2017	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for the right homes in the right places • Build homes faster • Diversify the housing market • Help people now 	Monitor and consider the objectives of the white paper as it progresses
DCLG Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England (2011)	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>The Housing Strategy sets out a package of reforms to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get the housing market moving again; • Lay the foundations for a more responsive, effective and stable housing market in the future; • support choice and quality for tenants, and • improve environmental standards and design quality. 	Consider policies to achieve this Strategy
Homelessness Act (2002)	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duty of local housing authority to formulate a homelessness strategy. 	

West of England Strategic Housing Market Assessment	The 2009 West of England Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) was undertaken by the six authorities that made up the West of England Housing Market Area, as defined in 2009. The SHMA is currently being refreshed, in line with the requirement of the NPPF and NPPG, in order to support the review of the Core Strategy (Adopted Dec 2013).	Consider policies to help deliver non-strategic housing growth in the district where there is community support
South Gloucestershire Council (2013) Housing Strategy for South Gloucestershire 2013 – 2018	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>The aim of the strategy is for everyone in South Gloucestershire to be able to live in a good quality home that meets their needs and that they can afford. The Council will work with partners to tackle the range of housing issues that affect residents to achieve the following ambitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable, sustainable and investing in communities. • Quality, choice, right for you. • Friendly, safe communities we are proud of Well-planned places for a greener future. 	
South Gloucestershire Council Rural Affordable Housing Pledge (2013)	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>The aim of this document is encourage rural communities to consider their current and future housing needs and long term sustainability.</p>	
South Gloucestershire Council Affordable Housing SPD (2014)	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm the revised policy context as national and local level affecting the provision of affordable housing. • Set out the means by which the new requirement for 35% affordable housing in new housing developments can be achieved on-site, taking account of viability considerations • Enable the delivery of an appropriate mix of affordable housing suitable in tenure, type, size and location to meet identified housing need, drawing on evidence from the most recent Strategic Market Housing Assessment. • Contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, economically, socially and environmentally; for example providing jobs and homes to local communities, enhancing social cohesion, improving living conditions for all households, and ensuring that developments respect the local environment. • Highlight the revised thresholds of sites on which a proportion of affordable housing will be sought and indicate how such sites will be defined. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the role of Affordable Rent, as recently introduced tenure in affordable housing. • Outline the factors which may reduce the amount of affordable housing contribution and the appraisal mechanisms that will be used to determine this. • Set down how more affordable housing might be provided in rural areas for local communities, with support of some market housing and define Extra Care housing and provide guidance for its provision, including when it would be appropriate to seek affordable housing as part of new provision. • Address the scope for self-build housing to provide “affordable housing” distinguishing self build from other low cost market housing which might fall outside the definition of affordable housing. 	
SGC Sustainable Access Profiles (January 2017)	Individual Sustainable Access Profiles provide evidence on the level of walking, cycling and public transport access to key services and facilities from 54 settlements across South Gloucestershire	Consider these profiles in sustainability objectives, allocations and policies
SGC Sustainable Access Methodology (January 2017)	<p>Rationale and justification for approach to assessing sustainable access from rural villages and settlements, to key services and facilities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reasonable distances to access: community facilities, health facilities, retail and food buying facilities, employment opportunities and education facilities 2. Criteria used to determine rural settlements and villages connected by public transport to locations containing key services and facilities. <p>Utilised to construct the January 2017 Sustainable Access Profiles.</p>	Consider the profile methodology in sustainability objectives, allocations and policies

3. Develop the economy in ways that meet people's needs

The Portas Review:
An independent
review into the future
of our high streets.
Mary Portas 2011

Objectives/Recommendations

- Put in place a “Town Team”: a visionary, strategic and strong operational management team for high streets.
- Empower successful Business Improvement Districts to take on more responsibilities and powers and become “Super-BIDs”.
- Legislate to allow landlords to become high street investors by contributing to their Business Improvement District.
- Establish a new “National Market Day” where budding shopkeepers can try their hand at operating a low-cost retail business.
- Make it easier for people to become market traders by removing unnecessary regulations so that anyone can trade on the high street unless there is a valid reason why not.
- Government should consider whether business rates can better support small businesses and independent retailers.
- Local authorities should use their new discretionary powers to give business rate concessions to new local businesses.
- Make business rates work for business by reviewing the use of the RPI with a view to changing the calculation to CPI.
- Local areas should implement free controlled parking schemes that work for their town centres and we should have a new parking league table.
- Town Teams should focus on making high streets accessible, attractive and safe.
- Government should include high street deregulation as part of their ongoing work on freeing up red tape.
- Address the restrictive aspects of the ‘Use Class’ system to make it easier to change the uses of key properties on the high street.
- Put betting shops into a separate ‘Use Class’ of their own.
- Make explicit a presumption in favour of town centre development in the wording of the National Planning Policy Framework.
- Introduce Secretary of State “exceptional sign off ” for all new out-of-town developments and require all large new developments to have an “affordable shops” quota.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large retailers should support and mentor local businesses and independent retailers. • Retailers should report on their support of local high streets in their annual report. • Encourage a contract of care between landlords and their commercial tenants by promoting the leasing code and supporting the use of lease structures other than upward only rent reviews, especially for small businesses. • Explore further disincentives to prevent landlords from leaving units vacant. • Banks who own empty property on the high street should either administer these assets well or be required to sell them. • Local authorities should make more proactive use of Compulsory Purchase Order powers to encourage the redevelopment of key high street retail space. • Empower local authorities to step in when landlords are negligent with new “Empty Shop Management Orders”. • Introduce a public register of high street landlords. • Run a high profile campaign to get people involved in Neighbourhood Plans. • Promote the inclusion of the High Street in Neighbourhood Plans. • Developers should make a financial contribution to ensure that the local community has a strong voice in the planning system. • Support imaginative community use of empty properties through Community Right to Buy, Meanwhile Use and a new “Community Right to Try”. • Run a number of High Street Pilots to test proof of concept. 	
NPPG Ensuring the vitality of town centres (2014)	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generate local employment. • Promote beneficial competition within and between town centres. • Create attractive and diverse places where people want to live, visit and work. <p>In order to deliver the objectives of this guidance, when preparing development plans and considering planning applications, local authorities should;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess and plan to meet the main town centre uses in full, adopting a town centre first approach; 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be mindful of the different rates of development in town centres compared with out of town centre; • Improve the quality of car parking in town centres; • Use both sequential and impact testing; • Work with the private sector, Portas Pilot organisations, town teams, neighbourhood planning groups, town centre management organisations and other relevant groups to produce a strategic vision for town centres. • Take full account of relevant market signals keeping allocations under regular review; and • Assess the health of a town centre using relevant indicators. 	
West of England Strategic Economic Plan 2015 – 2030 (2014)	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create the right conditions for business to thrive. Give confidence and certainty to our investors to attract and retain investment to stimulate and incentivise growth. • Ensure a resilient economy, which operate within the environmental limits. That is low carbon and resource efficient economy, increases natural capital and is proofed against future environmental, economic and social shocks. • Create places where people want to live and work, through delivery of cultural infrastructure, including broadband, transport and housing to unlock suitable locations for economic growth. • Shape the local workforce to provide people with skills that businesses need to succeed and that will provide them with job opportunities. • Ensure all our communities share in the prosperity, health and well-being and reduce the inequality gap. <p>Targets</p> <p>The West of England LEP aims to exceed the Oxford Economics baseline growth figure of 65,000 jobs and 2.6% GVA growth up to 2030.</p>	
South Gloucestershire Council Economic Development Strategy 2012 – 2016 (2012)	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve productivity and competitiveness, and safeguard and increase jobs in key sectors. • To increase the number, survival rates and growth rates of starter and small enterprises to maintain a diverse, vibrant, sustainable economy. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To raise aspirations and skill levels through our schools, colleges and universities and meet the skill and workforce needs of local employers. • Improve standards in our schools so young people realise their aspirations and are well prepared for the future. • To ensure that all parts of South Gloucestershire are all groups share the benefits of economic development, in particular priority neighbourhood areas, rural areas and disadvantaged groups including young people and families. • To meet the land, premises and infrastructure requirements of businesses where that is sustainable and consistent with strategic employment and regeneration objectives. • To sustain and improve the vibrancy and vitality of town and district centres. 	
South Gloucestershire Local Economic Assessment (2011)	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve productivity and competitiveness, and safeguard and increase jobs in key sectors. • To increase the number, survival rates of starter and small enterprises including social enterprises to maintain a diverse, vibrant, sustainable economy. • To raise aspirations and skill levels through our schools, colleges and universities and meet the skill and workforce needs of local employers. • Improve standards in our schools so young people realise their aspirations and are well prepared for the future. • To ensure that all parts of South Gloucestershire and all groups share the benefits of economic development, in particular priority neighbourhood areas, rural areas and disadvantaged groups including young people and families. • To meet the land, premises and infrastructure requirements of businesses where that is sustainable and consistent with strategic employment and regeneration objectives. • To sustain and improve the vibrancy and vitality of town and district centres. <p>There are no specific targets relating to this document.</p>	

4. Provide access to meet people's needs with least damage to communities and the environment		
NPPG Travel plans, transport assessments and statements in decision-taking (2014)	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel plans, Transport Assessments and Statements are all ways of assessing and mitigating the negative impacts of a development. • Required for all developments which generate significant amounts of movements. • Travel Plans are long term management strategies for integrating proposals for sustainable travel into the planning process. They should where possible be considered in parallel to development proposals. • Travel Assessments are thorough assessments of a developments implication. • Travel statements are used to asses impacts in the instance where transport implications are thought to be less severe. • It is at the discretion of local planning authorities, developers, relevant transport authorities, and neighbourhood planning organisations as to what method should be used in what proposal. <p>Targets:</p> <p>There are no specific targets in relation to this document.</p>	Transport Assessments can beneficially inform their Local Plans (for example, in order to facilitate the use of sustainable modes of transport).
CLG Manual for Streets (2007)	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A more collaborative approach between design professionals and other stakeholders. • Include all modes of transport, pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users. • Apply a user hierarchy to the design process with pedestrians at the top. • Recognise the importance of streets as places for social interaction. • Promote an inclusive environment that recognises the needs of all people. • Transform the quality of our streets in order to deliver the following; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Help to build and strengthen the communities in which they serve; ○ Meet the needs of all users, by embodying the principles of inclusive design; ○ Form part of a well-connected network; ○ Are attractive and have their own identity; ○ Cost effective to construct and maintain; and ○ Safe. 	

<p>CLG Guidance on Transport Assessment (2007)</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports National Planning Practice Guidance on Transport Assessments. • Assists stakeholders in determining whether an assessment may be required. Provides guidance on the content and preparation of TA's. <p>Targets:</p> <p>There are no specific targets in relation to this document.</p>	
<p>West of England Joint Local Transport Plan 3 2011 – 2026 (2011)</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce greenhouse gases. • Promote walking, cycling and public transport. • Reduce the number of road casualties. • Implement Air Quality Management Areas. • Improve personal security on the transport network. • Improve access to health and employment. • Assist regeneration in deprived areas. • Improve access for rural residents. • Tackle congestion. • Support access to houses and jobs. • Increase capacity and reliability of transport networks. • Maintain, manage and make the best of transport assets. • Enhance the public realm. • Promote better access to leisure facilities. • Minimise the impact of the natural and historic environment. <p>Targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UK Climate Change Act has established legally binding targets requiring the Government to reduce the country's CO2 emissions by 34% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 from a 1990 baseline figure. Road transport must make a contribution to these targets. 	

5. Maintain and improve environmental quality and assets

<p>Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979)</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>The Convention aims to ensure conservation of wild flora and fauna species and their habitats. Special attention is given to endangered and vulnerable species, including endangered and vulnerable migratory species specified in appendices. The Parties undertake to take all appropriate measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild flora and fauna species. Such measures should be included in the Parties planning and development policies and pollution control, with particular attention to the conservation of wild flora and fauna. The Parties undertake to promote education and disseminate general information concerning the need to conserve species of wild flora and fauna and their habitats. The aims of the convention are threefold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to conserve wild flora and fauna and natural habitats; • to promote co-operation between States; and • to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species, including endangered and vulnerable migratory species <p>General obligation for each Contracting Party to take action individually, with respect to the conservation of wild flora and fauna and all natural habitats in general, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting national conservation policies; • having regard for conservation in regional planning policies and pollution abatement; and • promoting education and information. <p>Targets:</p> <p>Does not contain any targets.</p>	<p>Consider policies to achieve these objectives</p>
<p>Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of international importance especially waterfowl habitat (1971)</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>The Convention makes the following commitments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 2: Signatories will designate wetland sites to be included in the list of wetlands of international importance and promote the conservation and wise use of these. • Article 3: Under the Convention there is a general obligation for the Contracting Parties to include wetland conservation considerations in their national land-use planning. They have 	<p>Consider policies to achieve these objectives</p>

	<p>undertaken to formulate and implement this planning so as to promote, as far as possible, “the wise use of wetlands in their territory”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 4: Contracting Parties have also undertaken to establish nature reserves in wetlands, whether or not they are included in the Ramsar List, and they are also expected to promote training in the fields of wetland research, management and stewardship <p>Targets Does not contain any targets.</p>	
Bonn Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (1979)	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>The Convention was agreed based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition that wild animals in their innumerable forms are an irreplaceable part of the earth’s natural system which must be conserved for the good of mankind. • Awareness that each generation of man holds the resources of the earth for future generations and has an obligation to ensure that this legacy is conserved and is used wisely. • Consciousness of the ever-growing value of wild animals from environmental, ecological, genetic, scientific, aesthetic, recreational, cultural, educational, social and economic points of view. • Concern particularly with those species of wild animals that migrate across or outside national jurisdictional boundaries. • Recognition that the States are and must be the protectors of the migratory species of wild animals that live within or pass through their national jurisdictional boundaries. • The conviction that conservation and effective management of migratory species of wild animals require the concerted action of all States within the national jurisdictional boundaries of which such species spend any part of their life cycle. <p>Targets:</p> <p>Does not contain any targets.</p>	Consider policies to achieve these objectives
Directive on Conservation of Wild Birds (2009/147/EC)	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>The main provisions of the Directive include:</p>	Consider policies to achieve these objectives

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The maintenance of the favourable conservation status of all wild bird species across their distributional range (Article 2) with the encouragement of various activities to that end (Article 3). • The identification and classification of Special Protection Areas for rare or vulnerable species listed in Annex I (PDF 106KB) of the Directive, as well as for all regularly occurring migratory species, paying particular attention to the protection of wetlands of international importance (Article 4). (Together with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive, SPAs form a network of pan-European protected areas known as Natura 2000.) • The establishment of a general scheme of protection for all wild birds (Article 5). • Restrictions on the sale and keeping of wild birds (Article 6). • Specification of the conditions under which hunting and falconry can be undertaken (Article 7). • (Huntable species are listed on Annex II.1 (PDF 29KB) and Annex II.2 (PDF 73KB) of the Directive). • Prohibition of large-scale non-selective means of bird killing (Article 8). • Procedures under which Member States may derogate from the provisions of Articles 5-8 (Article 9) — that is, the conditions under which permission may be given for otherwise prohibited activities. • Encouragement of certain forms of relevant research (Article 10). • Requirements to ensure that introduction of non-native birds do not threatened other biodiversity (Article 11). <p>Targets:</p> <p>Does not contain any targets.</p>	
Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna & Flora (Directive 92/43/EC) (The Habitats Directive).	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The aim of this Directive shall be to contribute towards ensuring bio-diversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora in the European territory of the Member States to which the Treaty applies. • Measures taken pursuant to this Directive shall be designed to maintain or restore, at favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of Community interest. • Measures taken pursuant to this Directive shall take account of economic, social and cultural requirements and regional and local characteristics. 	Consider policies to achieve these objectives

	<p>Targets:</p> <p>Does not contain any targets.</p>	
NPPG Considering and enhancing the historic environment (2014)	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect and enhance heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance; • Ensure heritage assets remain used and valued; and • Where a heritage asset is justifiably lost or partially lost steps are taken to interpret its contribution to the understanding of our past. <p>In order to deliver the objectives of this guidance, when preparing development plans and considering planning applications, local authorities should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify specific opportunities within the area for the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets; • Consider the relationship and impact of other policies on the delivery of a strategy for conservation; and • Hold clear and up to date information on designated and non-designated heritage assets. <p>Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no specific targets relating to this document. 	
NPPG Climate Change (2014)	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the delivery of appropriately sited green energy; and • Reduce greenhouse gases through effective spatial planning. <p>In order to deliver the objectives of this guidance, when preparing development plans and considering planning applications, local authorities should;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the need to travel through provision of sustainable transport; • Provide opportunities for renewable and low energy technologies; 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for decentralised energy and heating; • Promote low carbon design approaches to reduce energy consumption in buildings; • Consider future climate risks such as flooding and availability of water; • Engage with appropriate partners; and • Advise developers on how to reduce energy consumption through materials and design. <p>There are no specific targets relating to this document.</p>	
NPPG Planning and Flood Risk (2014)	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>The NPPG section on Flood Risk contains strict guidance on how local authorities should act on flood risk assessments in the preparation of its local plan and the decision making process. It states that the tests as set out in the NPPF should be followed and where the tests are not met, new development on flood risk sites should not be allowed.</p> <p>In order to deliver the objectives of this guidance, when preparing development plans and considering planning applications, local authorities should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a flood risk assessment of the area which will inform the local plan; • For sites over 1 hectare developers should undertake a site specific flood risk assessment; • Apply a sequential test approach to site selection and decision taking; • Where development is located in areas at risk of flooding, it should be appropriately flood resilient, resistant and safe for the developments lifetime; and • Seek flood risk management opportunities to reduce the causes and effects of flooding. 	
NPPG Planning and Coastal Change (2014)	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>Reduce risk from coastal change by avoiding inappropriate development in vulnerable areas,</p> <p>In order to deliver the objectives of this guidance, when preparing development plans and considering planning applications, local authorities should;</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate Coastal Zone Management to integrate terrestrial and marine planning regimes; • Identify Coastal Change Management Areas likely to be affected by physical change to the coast; • Clear what development will be appropriate in Coastal Management Areas; and • Make provision for development and infrastructure that needs to be relocated away from Coastal Management Areas. <p>There are no specific targets relating to this document.</p>	
NPPG Air Quality (2014)	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>In order to deliver the objectives of this guidance, when preparing development plans and considering planning applications, local authorities should;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider what development is being proposed and where it is situated; • Encourage sustainable transport; • Take into account air quality management areas; • Take account of potential cumulative impact of a number of smaller developments on air quality as well as the effect of more substantial developments; • Consider the impact of point source pollution; and • Consider ways in which new development would be appropriate in locations where air quality is likely to be a concern and not give rise to unacceptable risks from pollution <p>Targets</p> <p>Refers to 2008 Ambient Air Quality Directive sets legally binding limits for concentrations in outdoor air of major air pollutants that impact public health.</p>	
NPPG Land affected by contamination (2014)	<p>There are no specific objectives and targets relating to this guidance but when preparing development plans and considering planning applications, local authorities should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider a strategic, phased approach to dealing with potential contamination if this is an issue over a wide area, and in doing so, recognise that dealing with land 	

	<p>contamination can help contribute to achieving the objectives of EU directives such as the Water Framework Directive;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use sustainability appraisal to shape an appropriate strategy, including through work on the 'baseline', appropriate objectives for the assessment of impact and proposed monitoring; • Allocate land which is known to be affected by contamination only for appropriate development – and be clear on the approach to remediation; • Have regard to the possible impact of land contamination on neighbouring areas (e.g. by polluting surface water or groundwater); and • Be clear on the role of developers and requirements for information and assessments. 	
NPPG Land Stability (2014)	<p>There are no specific objectives and targets relating to this guidance but when preparing development plans and considering planning applications, local authorities should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying specific areas where particular consideration of landslides, mining hazards or subsidence will be needed; • Including policies that ensure unstable land is appropriately remediated, prohibit development in specific areas, or only allow specific types of development in those areas; • Circumstances where additional procedures or information, such as a land stability or slope stability risk assessment report, would be required to ensure that adequate and environmentally acceptable mitigation measures are in place; and • Removing permitted development rights in specific circumstances. 	
NPPG Light Pollution (2014)	<p>There are no specific objectives and targets relating to this guidance but when preparing development plans and considering planning applications, local authorities should apply a test to a number of questions to assess whether or not the artificial light being proposed would result in light pollution.</p>	

NPPG Tree Preservation Orders in conservation areas (2014)	There are no specific objectives or targets in relation to this guidance. This guidance outlines the responsibility of the land owner and the responsibility of the council in question to inform relevant members of the public.	
NPPG Natural Environment (2014)	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Authorities should seek to make a significant contribution to the achievements of the commitments made by Government in its Biodiversity Strategy 2020; • Move away from a net loss of biodiversity to achieving net gains for nature; and • Conserve and enhance the natural environment and reduce pollution. <p>In order to deliver the objectives of this guidance, when preparing development plans and considering planning applications, local authorities should;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek opportunities to work collaboratively with other partners to deliver a strategic approach towards protecting and enhancing the natural environment; • Consider the opportunities that individual development proposals may provide to enhance biodiversity; • Assess the need for an ecological survey; and • Consider the effect of a development on habitats or species in the natural environment. <p>There are no specific targets relating to this document.</p>	
NPPG Noise (2014)	<p>There are no specific objectives and targets, but when preparing development plans and considering planning applications, local authorities should consider the following in relation to noise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether or not a significant adverse effect is occurring or likely to occur; • The time of day and frequency of the noise; • Local topology and topography; and • General character of the noise. 	

DEFRA and Environment Agency Flood risk standing advice (FRSA) for local planning authorities	Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish whether an application is lower risk; • Decide when to consult EA; • Determine what a consultation should contain; • Understand how to make a decision on lower-risk sites; • Know what information is required to make an assessment of flood risk. 	
DEFRA Working with the grain of nature – A Biodiversity Strategy for England (2002 - Reviewed 2011)	Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture: encouraging the management of farming and agricultural land so as to conserve and enhance biodiversity as part of the Government's Sustainable Food and Farming Strategy; • Water: aiming for a whole catchment approach to the wise, sustainable use of water and wetlands; • Woodland: with the management and extension of woodland so as to promote enhanced biodiversity and quality of life; • Marine and coastal management: so as to achieve the sustainable use and management of our coasts and seas using natural processes and the ecosystem-based approach; and • Urban areas: where biodiversity needs to become a part of the development of policy on sustainable communities, urban green space and the built environment. 	
Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) (2000)	Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasises the public's right of access to open country and common land, and gives additional protection to Sites of Special Scientific Interest. 	
DETR Government Rural White Paper: Our Countryside – the Future – a Fair Deal for Rural England (2000)	Objectives The Paper lists the Government's rural policy objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective 1: To facilitate the development of dynamic, competitive and sustainable economies in the countryside, tackling poverty in rural areas. • Objective 2: To maintain and stimulate communities, and secure access to services that is equitable in all the circumstances, for those who live or work in the countryside. • Objective 3: To conserve and enhance rural landscapes and the diversity and abundance of wildlife (including the habitats on which it depends). • Objective 4: To increase opportunities for people to get enjoyment from the countryside. To open up public access to mountain, moor, heath and down and registered common land by the end of 2005. 	Consider policies to achieve these objectives and targets

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective 5: To promote government responsiveness to rural communities through better working together between central departments, local government, and government agencies and better cooperation with non-government bodies. <p>These objectives will be taken forward in Departmental Public Service Agreement targets and their subsidiary Service Delivery agreements.</p> <p>Targets</p> <p>Contains Rural Services Standard, which set out minimum standards and targets covering access to and the delivery of public services in rural areas. Some of the more relevant standards and targets are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Government services to be available on line by 2005. • Presumption against closure of rural schools; • Formal requirement on the Post Office to maintain the rural network of post offices and to prevent any avoidable closures of rural post offices. <p>Targets set for the proportion of the rural population living within about 10 minutes' walk of an hourly or better bus service to increase from 37% to 50% by 2010, with an intermediate milestone of 42% by 2004.</p>	
English Heritage A Strategy for the Historic Environment in the South West (2004	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional priorities include: • Continue to improve our knowledge and understanding of the South West's historic environment and reflect this in informed and positive conservation and enhancement of the historic environment. • Put conservation at the heart of urban renewal and regeneration strategies, initiatives and proposals right across the South West. • Encourage wider appreciation and conservation of the historic dimension of rural areas. <p>Explore ways in which agri-environment and other funding initiatives could provide further support for the sustainable management of this part of the South West's historic resource. Agri-environment schemes should be more closely tailored to the characteristics and potential of the rural historic environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase our understanding of the South West's coastal and maritime historic environments and wetland landscapes as a matter of urgency. Work with those responsible for managing these environments and, where appropriate, seek adequate protection. • Promote the design of buildings and landscape that is sensitive to its location. Our aim should be to enhance the South West's historic environment and, ultimately, to add to it by championing appropriate and contemporary solutions to design problems. 	Consider policies to achieve these objectives and targets

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the use of traditional conservation and management skills wherever possible and ensure professionals have a good understanding of current best practice. Encourage opportunities for training across the South West. • Ensure the education sector in the South West takes full account of the value of the historic environment. Promote the widest understanding and appreciation of the historic environment at local, county and regional levels. • Remove physical, cultural and social barriers that inhibit access, understanding or enjoyment of the South West's historic environment. • Tackle the legacy created by poor management and maintenance of the historic environment across the South West. Encourage regular inspections and repairs, together with the positive re-use of redundant historic buildings. • Develop a co-ordinated research Strategy for the South West to fill key gaps in our understanding of the historic environment. • Improve communication between the public, private and voluntary interests on historic environment issues in the South West. • Increase the historic environment's contribution to the economic well being of the region by encouraging and supporting its sustainable use and sensitive reflection in new development. <p>Targets:</p> <p>The strategy contains a number of actions, some of which will be directly relevant to planning authorities and the development of the RSS. These actions are linked to 'goals and timescales' and 'outcomes', For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action: Promote policies to support the positive and appropriate re-use of historic buildings • Goal and Timescale: Consider development of model policies by end of 2005 • Outcome: Fewer redundant buildings • Action: Encourage regeneration strategies, development plans, and development control decisions to reflect the positive economic potential of the historic environment • Goal and Timescale: All plans to contain positive policies encouraging the sustainable implementation of the HE's economic potential <p>Outcome: Greater emphasis on reflecting the HE in development and regeneration proposals, thereby bringing economic, social and conservation benefits</p>	
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English Heritage Buildings at Risk Register	Objective: To document the health of the nation's built heritage through an annually updated list of sites most at risk of being lost through neglect, decay and inappropriate development	Source for monitoring indicators on built heritage at risk
South Gloucestershire Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment – Level 1	Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide an assessment of the impact of all potential sources of flooding in accordance with PPS25, including an assessment of any future impacts associated with climate change; • To provide the information required to apply the Sequential Test for identification of land suitable for development in line with the principles of PPS25; • To provide an evidence based report to inform the SA of Development Plan Documents (DPDs) with regard to catchment wide flooding issues which affect South Gloucestershire; • To allow South Gloucestershire Council to assess the flood risk for specific areas of search and setting out the requirements for site specific FRAs; • Enable planning policies to be identified to minimise and manage flood risks; • To provide advice regarding Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and a review of suitable techniques, in terms of the soils and geology throughout South Gloucestershire; • To enable South Gloucestershire Council to use the SFRA as a basis for decision making at the planning application stage. 	
South Gloucestershire Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment – Level 2	Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To facilitate the application of the Sequential and Exception Tests; • Consider the detailed nature of flood hazards taking account of the presence of flood risk management measures, including flood defences; • Allow a sequential approach to site allocation to be undertaken within a flood zone; • Allow development of the policies and practices required to ensure that development within Flood Zones 2 and 3 satisfies the requirements of the Exceptions Test. 	
The Severn Estuary Shoreline Management Plan 2 (February 2017)	Objective To provide more certainty for landowners, residents and businesses; to know how the coast will be managed by regulators during the next 100 years, so that they can plan ahead and	

	<p>make decisions about investments, homes, development and the management of their resources.</p> <p>Developed in partnership by local authorities, regulators and other stakeholders, a Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) is a high level non-statutory policy document designed to assist coastal flood and erosion risk management planning. It provides a large-scale assessment of the risks (to people, property, the natural and historic environment) associated with coastal erosion and flooding at the coast over the long-term. It also proposes policies to help manage these risks sustainably over the next hundred years.</p> <p>The SMP enables planners and regulators to plan for and manage the way that the coast will change. This could be by maintaining or improving defences, by enabling the natural processes to play a greater role, creating new natural habitat or by helping areas that are at risk of flooding at some point in the future to cope with and limit the impact of flooding events.</p>	
Cotswolds AONB Management Plans 2013 - 2018	<p>The Cotswolds AONB Management Plan 2013 – 2018 is currently under review.</p> <p>The plan currently covers a wide range of issues that affect the area including; development and transport, rural land management, natural resources, biodiversity and the historic environment.</p>	
South Gloucestershire Biodiversity Plan (2007)	<p>Objectives</p> <p>Contribute towards safeguarding and benefitting the species and habitats making up the plan and to provide an identity and focus for nature conservation work throughout South Gloucestershire.</p>	
South Gloucestershire Conservation Area Appraisals (various)	<p>Objective: To set out the main features that contribute to the distinctive character and appearance of the conservation areas</p>	
JSP Green Belt Stage 1 Assessment (2015)	<p>Objective: Provide information on the function of Green Belt in WoE area, as it relates to the five NPPF Green Belt purposes.</p>	Inform Sustainability Objective and baseline information on Green Belt quality.
Towards the Emerging Spatial	<p>Objectives: Provide further detailed information on value of selected individual parcels within the Green Belt. The selected areas corresponded to land assessed as having potential as a growth location in the 2016 draft of the Joint Spatial Plan (JSP).</p>	Inform Sustainability Objective and baseline

Strategy: Green Belt Assessment Stage 2		information on Green Belt quality.
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APPENDIX 4 – SCOPING REPORT CONSULTATION RESPONSES

The following table sets out the comments received to the September 2017 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping Report, by responder and provides a council's response to each comment. The SA Scoping Report has been revised accordingly.

Consultee	Comment Received	Council Response
Environment Agency	<p>Welcomes extensive coverage to flood risk and climate change issues.</p> <p>Section 3.24.5 – agree that existing SFRA “may benefit from updating” for both the Avonmouth/Sevenside SFRA 2011 and South Gloucestershire SFRA Level 2, 2012. As part of the Avonmouth Sevenside Enterprise Area Ecology Mitigation and Flood Defence project (ASEA) - new modelling flood data representing the new proposed defences, can be used as part of the SFRA Level 2 update. Utilise JSP SFRA which EA have provided latest flood modelling outputs to, if not, agree that the existing SGC SFRA Level 1 and 2 should be updated using all best available flood modelling.</p> <p>Page 110 – Would be beneficial to refer to the Local Flood Risk Standing Advice for Avonmouth / Sevenside as well as the Environment Agency Flood Risk Standing Advice.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted. A review of the SFRA will be determined by the site allocations in the new Local Plan.</p> <p>Avonmouth/Sevenside Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2011 is referred to on page 44. No change required.</p> <p>Noted, SA SR updated.</p>

	<p>Page 113 - Reference to the South Gloucestershire Council SFRA consider referring to Level 1 as well as Level 2.</p> <p>Welcomes Sustainability Objective and supporting text regarding biodiversity, and focus on assessing the potential effect on national and local ecological designations.</p> <p>Welcome Sustainability Objective relating to water quality improvements. Inclusion of measures to protect and enhance surface and groundwater would be preferable. Also request that potential impacts on water quality/quantity are fully considered.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted. SA SR objective 4i amended from '<i>Minimise harm to, and where possible improve, water quality and availability</i>' to 'Minimise harm to, and where possible protect and enhance (surface and groundwater) water quality and quantity/availability'. Example effects updated to reflect change. Please see amended SA framework in the final SA SR, available on our SA webpages.</p>
Gloucestershire County Council	<p>Travel to work 2011 Census data indicates propensity for commuters to travel from Gloucestershire (especially from Stroud District) to South Gloucestershire for employment. This may increase with proposed growth, resulting in possible negative impacts to highway safety, noise and air quality on highway pinch points. SA SR should reflect this.</p> <p>Highway works on M5 J14 may also impact the surrounding environment.</p>	<p>Noted. SA SR paragraph 3.28.2 updated.</p> <p>Noted.</p>

	Adopted Stroud Local Plan and the emerging Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy should be considered.	Noted. SA SR Appendix 3: Review of Plans Programmes and Policies updated.
Historic England	<p>Approach seems fine.</p> <p>Separate Heritage objective is preferred. Including all distinct environmental considerations in a single objective risks a misleading assessment score as one aspect may perform well, whilst another may not, therefore cancelling out acute affects.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted. SA SR objective 4a amended to refer to designated assets and a new objective created to deal with undesignated assets, as follows: 'Undesignated Assets: Minimise impact on and where appropriate enhance the historic environment, local heritage assets and their settings'. Example effects updated to reflect change. Please see amended SA framework in the final SA SR, available on our SA webpages.</p>
Natural England	<p><i>1. Have all relevant plans and programmes been referenced?</i></p> <p>List appears reasonably comprehensive, but consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Severn Estuary Shoreline Management Plan • Cotswolds AONB Management Plans. <p><i>2. Is any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?</i></p>	Noted. SA SR updated.

	<p>The Magic website holds natural environment data in a downloadable GIS format. http://magic.defra.gov.uk/. Local environmental record centres are also a source of additional information, principally ecological. Other local organisations that may hold environmental information include: Local Nature Partnership, Wildlife Trust, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and Nature Improvement Areas.</p> <p>The Annual Monitoring Report is another source of evidence regarding significant environmental effects of the current local plan (in line with SEA legislation), including biodiversity evidence for any plan adopted after the NPPF came into effect (27 March 2012).</p> <p><i>3. Are any judgments made concerning baseline information incorrect?</i></p> <p>The baseline information and key issues identified in relation to biodiversity, landscape and public access appear reasonable.</p> <p><i>4. Are there any additional sustainability issues within South Gloucestershire that need to be considered in the development of the nSGLP document?</i></p>	<p>Noted. Once the plan progresses and identifies sites and locations for development, these sources will be utilised for the SA process and the suggested organisations consulted and engaged with.</p> <p>The AMR is recognised as a source of existing information and will be used as part of the evidence in assessing the plan as sites, locations and policies emerge.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
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	<p>A coordinated and cross boundary approach is needed to protect and enhance the natural environment when planning for growth. Reference to green infrastructure and ecological networks welcomed, but would like a commitment to progressing a joint approach to planning and resourcing GI with WoE neighbouring authorities.</p> <p><i>5. Do you agree with the proposed Sustainability Appraisal Framework?</i></p> <p>The framework might benefit from additional questions or prompts to ensure full range of green infrastructure functions and ecosystem services are recognised and provided for within new development.</p> <p><i>6. Are the objectives and effect criteria set out appropriate?</i></p> <p>Comments on objectives included:</p> <p><i>A. 1a. Achieve reasonable access to public open space</i></p>	<p>The plan is being produced in accordance with DtC requirements. SGC is committed to working with the WoE combined authority on the Joint Spatial Plan, including on the production of a Green Infrastructure Plan for the WoE, as set out in the JSP. This is reflected in a new paragraph 3.21.4 in the SA SR. Please see the final SA SR, available on our SA webpages.</p> <p>Noted. New GI objective added: 'Deliver a range and quality of, and increased access to new green infrastructure across South Gloucestershire AND protect and enhance existing GI' Please see amended SA framework in the final SA SR, available on our SA webpages.</p> <p>All comments on the objectives are noted. SA SR updated, as necessary. Please see amended SA framework in the final SA SR, available on our SA webpages.</p>
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	<p>Also consider impacts on existing recreational assets (quality and or extent) - suggest adding "...and avoids impacts on the quality and extent of existing recreational assets, such as formal or informal footpaths"</p> <p><i>B. 4b. Minimise impact on and where possible enhance habitats and species (taking account of climate change)</i></p> <p>International and European designated sites should be included.</p> <p>Geodiversity should be added to SEA Topic column.</p> <p>Under Significant positive, the term "integrates" would benefit from further clarification - or replace with 'protects'?</p>	<p>Objective amended to include reference to quality and quantity. Sustainable access is considered under the set of accessibility aspects under Objective 1 and through the new GI objective.</p> <p>Added international and European Sites to objective 4b (now 4c). Added a note to better explain the relationship between the SA process and the HRA/AA process, as follows: <i>The HRA will consider these in more detail. SA will recognise where a European Protected Sites might be affected and therefore an Appropriate Assessment as part of the HRA may be required.</i></p> <p>SEA Topic list updated where necessary.</p> <p>'Integrates' has been amended to better reflect meaning, i.e. connectivity. Other example affects have been updated accordingly to remove repetition. Please see amended SA framework in the final SA SR, available on our SA webpages.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
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	<p>Under significant negative - distance, in relation to potential impacts, will depend on the nature/scale of development, the site sensitivities and potential pathways.</p> <p><i>C. 4c. Minimise impact on and where appropriate enhance valued landscapes</i></p> <p>There are valued landscapes outside AONBs and Ancient Woodland, European Landscape Convention, all landscapes matter. All landscapes should be managed, planned and where appropriate, protected through a landscape character approach to be distinctive and highly valued while delivering a full range of ecosystem goods and services.</p> <p><i>D. 4d. Promote the conservation and wise use of land, maximising the re-use of previously developed land</i></p> <p>Under significant positive, Brownfield sites can be important for biodiversity - some contain Priority Habitats called "open mosaic habitats on previously developed land".</p>	<p>Added a note to objective 4c (now 4d) to refer to the South Gloucestershire Adopted Landscape Character Assessment SPD (Revised 2014). Example affects have been updated. Please see amended SA framework in the final SA SR, available on our SA webpages.</p> <p>Noted. However the plan will be assessed as a whole, covering a wide range of objectives. Priority Habitats, including open mosaic habitats will be</p>
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	<p><i>E. 4f. Minimise the loss of productive land, especially best and most versatile agricultural land</i></p> <p>Under SEA Topic, welcome ref to soil.</p> <p>This is a finite resource which should be considered outside BMV land grades 1-3b, as well as being a growing medium for food, timber and other crops, it is a store for carbon and water, a reservoir of biodiversity and a buffer against pollution.</p> <p><i>6. Is the proposed methodology for the next stages of the Sustainability Appraisal correct?</i></p> <p>The following indicators may be appropriate to include in the final SA Report.</p> <p>Biodiversity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of planning approvals that generated any adverse impacts on sites of acknowledged biodiversity importance. • Percentage of major developments generating overall biodiversity enhancement. • Hectares of biodiversity habitat delivered through strategic site allocations. 	<p>considered under 4c. No change to this objective.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted. These will be considered when we set the SA Report at a future iteration of the plan.</p>
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	<p>Landscape:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of new development in AONB with commentary on likely impact. <p>Green infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of the population having access to a natural greenspace within 400 metres of their home. • Length of greenways constructed. • Hectares of accessible open space per 1000 population. <p><i>8. Are there any other comments you would like to make?</i></p> <p>Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment - The scoping report includes references to the Habitat Regulations in section 1.3 <i>Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)</i> and in section 3.18 <i>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</i>. The scoping report's interpretation of relationship between the SEA and HRA draws a distinction in relation to the assessment of Natura 2000 Sites. This differs slightly from Natural England's understanding of the SEA Regulations. The SEA Regulations incorporate an assessment of the implications of a project, plan or programme for European sites, where there is the potential for a European site</p>	<p>Noted. SA SR updated. Added a note to the SA Framework to better explain the relationship between the SA process and the HRA/AA process, as follows: <i>The HRA will consider these in more detail. SA will recognise where a European Protected Sites might be affected and therefore an Appropriate Assessment as part of the HRA may be required.</i></p>
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	<p>to be affected. Whilst a SEA should incorporate a rigorous assessment of impacts upon European sites that is fit for purpose, it cannot and should not replace a Habitat Regulations Assessment where one is required. A SEA may not go to the level of detail and certainty necessary to meet the requirements of the Habitat Regulations. The assessment documents can make reference to each other, and are likely to rely upon the same evidence for conclusions drawn, but each is a legal requirement, with different approaches and requirements, and should therefore remain as stand-alone documents.</p>	
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