

Stroud District Local Plan Review Examination

**Matter 11b Transport – Dedicated Hearing Session with
Stroud District Council, National Highways, the Highway Authority,
and South Gloucestershire Council on updated evidence/responses on
the strategic road network**

**To be held at 10 am on Tuesday 20 October 2026 at
Stroud District Council Offices, Ebley Mill, Ebley Wharf, Stroud, GL5 4UB**

Agenda

Participants:

Stroud District Council
National Highways
Gloucestershire County Council
South Gloucestershire Council

Background and Scope of this Session

This hearing session will be a focused discussion with specific participants as listed above. Other interested parties may observe the session. No further statements are to be submitted on this matter.

The transport modelling undertaken as part of the evidence for the submitted Stroud Local Plan Review (2021) (the Plan) considered two scenarios: delivering growth without mitigation; and delivering growth with mitigation. The modelling with mitigation included all-movement grade-separated roundabout upgrades at M5 J12 and J14. Impacts from the planned growth on both the strategic road network (SRN) and the local road network (LRN) were assessed on this basis. Such schemes were identified in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan when the Plan was submitted for Examination.

Since then, National Highways (NH) has published additional SRN modelling work (dated June 2025), which has assessed the effective reserve capacity of M5 J12, J13 and J14, and the level of growth that can be accommodated at these junctions during the plan period. The findings of the assessment are clearly set out in the reports, and in summary identify that:

- some growth can be accommodated at J12 subject to certain site allocations remaining undeveloped until a grade-separated roundabout is completed; and
- a grade-separated roundabout for J14 is not now required during the plan period. Instead, NH has agreed that an Interim Scheme agreed with developers in Charfield (South Gloucestershire) is to be delivered.

Having considered the evidence, our concerns are that two key assumptions with the Plan transport modelling have now changed. Firstly, the level of growth/allocations proposed in the Plan require modifying. Secondly, the grade-separated improvements to J12 and J14 will not now be delivered during the plan period. Concerns have been raised that effects of these changes on the LRN have not been adequately assessed.

Whilst NH did not specifically model the impacts of growth on the LRN within their latest reports, as this falls outside of their remit, significant congestion impacts have been identified where the SRN intersects the LRN. As potential traffic patterns and their distribution across the LRN have not been assessed as part of this new evidence, we cannot be certain of what impacts there may be on the operation of the LRN across the Plan area. There is a gap in the evidence base.

The purpose of this hearing session is therefore to explore this issue so that we can understand what implications (if any) there are for this Local Plan Examination. The hearing session will focus on the following agenda questions:

Q1: Is there agreement that there is currently a gap in the up-to-date evidence relating to the effects of growth on the LRN as described above?

Q2: How significant is this issue? Would it need to be addressed for the Plan to be found sound or is it something that could appropriately be assessed, following adoption of the Plan, as part of the Development Management process?

Q3: If it needs to be addressed for the Plan to be found sound could the work be undertaken as part of the ongoing Examination?

Q4: If so, when would this work be undertaken and how long would it take? Would a further pause in the Examination be necessary?

Q5: Would the revised growth modifications within the Plan affect the timing and delivery of planned transport infrastructure? For example, if a site allocation that is proposed to be removed from the Plan is expected to support a wider package of transport improvements, what would be the effect? Are these significant? Please provide examples if this is so.