



# Local Plan Review Issues and Options Consultation



## Stroud District Local Plan Review

### Issues and Options Paper

October 2017

### Stroud District Youth Council Workshop 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018



Name	School	Year Group	Town/ village where you live
Helen Johnstone			
Conrad Moore			
Steve Miles			
Alexandra Parker	Stroud High	11	Watledge, Nailsworth
Isabelle Llewellyn	Thomas Keble	11	Forest Green, Nailsworth
Helen March	Archway	11	Kings Stanley
Rebecca Hunt	Stroud High	13	Cashes Green
Lily Haines	Stroud High	9	Central Stroud (town)
Luna Stephens	KLB	13	North Nibley
Jonty Fuller	KLB	12	Charfield
Thomas Haynes	Rednock	13	Cam
George Adamson	Denmark Road	12	Hardwicke
Katie Pugh	Archway	8	Westrip
Tom Wickham-Bassett	Archway	10	Stroud Town



The background to the workshop was explained which followed on from earlier discussions with the **Stroud District Youth Council** regarding the on-going (Stroud District Council) review of the Adopted Local Plan. A PowerPoint presentation was given. This broadly introduced to the youth group what planning is about, the role of the Local Plan and its purpose; and why a review was being undertaken now. It was explained that every area should have a Local Plan which covers a 20 year period and sets the strategy for distributing future growth.

It has policies for protecting the built and natural environment and includes a vision for local areas. The Local Plan also provides a context for neighbourhood plans as well as the policy context for considering planning applications.



Officers explained that the objective for the workshop was to gather young peoples' views on the Issues and Options for the future with a view to developing a future growth strategy for the District.



The young people were split into two groups for breakout activities each with an advisor and facilitator. The first activity was focussed upon Living in Stroud District today and asked what do you value within your local area and the wider Stroud District? Are the needs of young people being met?



The second activity was based on Stroud District in 10 – 15 years time and asked what would encourage them to stay or return to live in Stroud District in the future?

Key points were scribed on a flipchart and findings were presented by a nominated group member at the end of the breakout session.



Finally amongst the whole group a short presentation from planning officers outlined 4 main options when choosing a Local Plan Development Strategy. There was also discussion on was there another way perhaps using a combination of options? There was a vote with people giving reasons for their choice. Responses were recorded on a flipchart.



All present were thanked for their input. It was agreed a report of the workshop would be drafted, circulated and agreed by the Youth Council.



The workshop outcomes would then be reported as part of the formal evidence base accompanying the Local Plan Review.

It was also agreed that officers would inform and engage the Stroud District Youth Council through the remaining formal stages in Plan production over the next five years. It was further agreed to note what aspects the Youth Council feedback were agreed with and where feedback had contributed to the Local Plan Review debate. The SDYC wanted assurance that their input had helped shape future policy direction.





**The Workshop Feedback**

### **Activity 1 - Living in Stroud District today:**

- **What do you value within your local area and the wider Stroud District?**
- **Are the needs of young people in the District being met?**

Led discussion to identify:

- What is special about where you live/ District as a whole?
- What do you value?
- What would you miss if you moved elsewhere?
- What is missing/ are there any unmet needs of young people?

Key themes discussed:

#### **1. Family/ friends**

- No strong affiliation or generational ties to the local area.
- Young people look to move away from area - not considered a stay here “forever” place.
- Considered a good place for young families and for retirement.
- Villages feel like retirement villages.
- Access to friends limited - only possible to walk/ bus to meet friends in larger towns.

#### **2. Community**

- Stroud District seen as having a strong sense of identity and individuality as “quirky” in terms of people, places and politics.
- Better sense of community amongst older generations.
- Youth Community too Stroud focused – need public support for more youth forums/ groups and a higher profile for youth groups, including the Youth Council, across the District.
- Town centres not seen as sociable or welcoming places for young people.

#### **3. School**

- Good schools and a wide range of education choices (public, Grammar, state, mixed, village) across the District.
- Lack of mixing between schools and elitism – need to break down barriers and encourage mixing between schools.
- Schools make good provision for mixed needs but often lack space to expand.
- Support village schools.
- Access to schools is good but difficult to socialise with school friends in the evenings.



#### 4. Leisure activities

- Quality countryside and opportunities to walk and explore.
- Limited youth arts and culture opportunities (excluding Museum in the Park).
- Good access to sports in school. Outside school sports provision is focused on towns and limited access to niche sports.
- Lack of teenage activity provision.
- Lack accessibility to leisure activity provision in towns and cities in terms of public transport and cost (activity and transport costs)

#### 5. Facilities

- Broadband provision/ social media identified as important – poor speed and gaps in provision identified at Cam, Uley, Berkeley and Nailsworth.
- Lack of cafe culture in towns – aspiration for “more French”/ continental style atmosphere.
- Lack of meeting areas in towns.
- Cost of hiring publicly available venues for youth activities too high. Concern that village halls/ community spaces are underused because they are too expensive but may be lost in the future because underused.
- Cinemas are too expensive and not linked to train/ bus times.
- Support allotments/ community spaces.
- Need to encourage more recycling.
- Need to capitalise on Stroud’s ‘green’ identity and promote low carbon, recycled materials, eco homes.

#### 6. Transport

- Lack of independent accessibility to places and people
- Lack of access to public transport in terms of services provided and cost.
- Buses:
  - Too expensive – have to pay adult fare at 16
  - Need to be more frequent
  - Need to link to trains
  - Need to link more places/ provide services to more villages
- Trains:
  - Lack of access to trains and city destinations
  - Need more student rail fare offers
- Too much reliance on parents with cars
- Need more cycleway provision/ cycle lanes

#### 7. Other issues:

- Value views/ countryside/ quality of natural environment/ cultural identity of Stroud



### Activity 2 – Stroud District in 10 – 15 years time:

- What would encourage you to stay or return to live in Stroud District in the future?
- What are the key issues to address to ensure a thriving area to live work and visit?

Key themes discussed:

#### 1. Local economy and jobs

- Need to provide sustainable long term jobs with career development prospects. District perceived as having start up and small businesses but lacking larger companies offering career progression opportunities.
- Need to provide more graduate level jobs outside public services and degree specific professions.
- Limited job opportunities - need to provide more job opportunities in general.
- Need for improved public transport connections within the District and further afield to Bristol, Gloucester and Cheltenham.
- Need rail link from Stroud to Bristol
- Need for better interconnectivity of bus and rail services.
- Need for more frequent and cheaper bus services, including later evening buses.
- Need for more rural bus services.
- Need bus services to connect new places.
- Need for better information on local bus services.

#### 2. Affordable Housing

- Need for housing to be more affordable but concerned to ensure housing isn't just built anywhere.
- Key workers need to have access to good housing
- Need to provide smaller and cheaper houses.
- Integrated social and market housing.
- Better use of brownfield sites - upper storeys of buildings above shops/ cafes.
- Would like to see characterful new development – “not boring and bog standard”.
- Space to build own houses.

#### 3. Environment

- Don't want to see villages turned into towns.
- Keep the green character of the area.
- Emphasis on environmentally friendly development incorporating zero carbon and renewable energy technologies.

#### 4. Health and Wellbeing

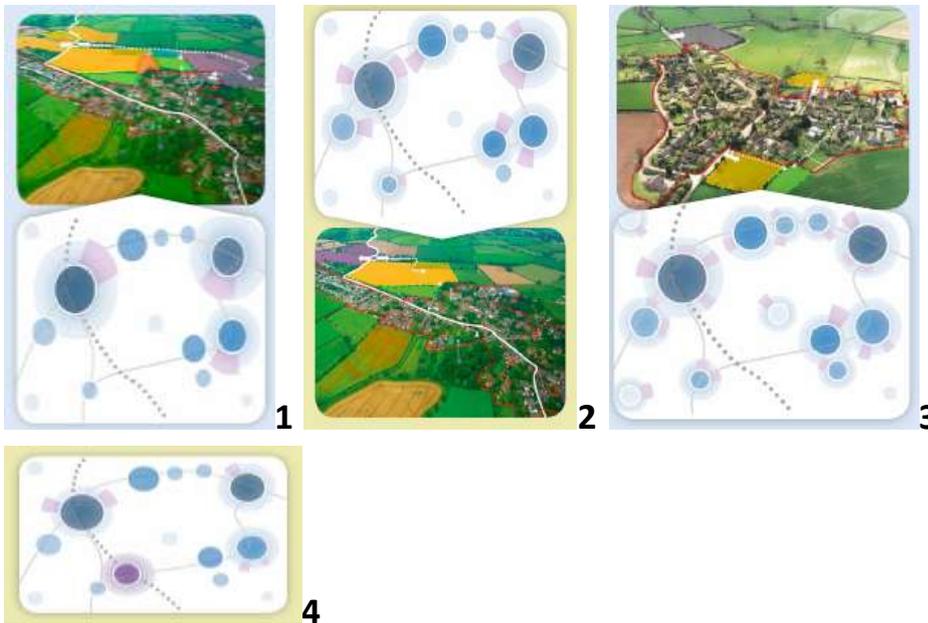
- Ensure upkeep of green places for walks.



- More cycling provision.
- 5. Town centres**
  - Group split with some highlighting a need for better shops (High Street shops) in Stroud and others specifically not wanting High Street chain stores to maintain the individuality of Stroud town centre, including emphasis on local products.
  - Want town centres to have a more dynamic, creative atmosphere with more activities for young people to get involved in/ do. Traditional town centres perceived as boring for young people eg. Wotton, Berkeley.
- 6. Homes and communities**
  - Keep village primary schools.
  - Keep libraries.
  - Provide multi-functional community spaces at affordable rates for youth groups.
  - Provide more youth centres.



### Activity Three: Growth strategy for the future



**How should we meet future development needs?**

*Do you have a preferred option? Or would some combination of these approaches be the best way to meet our future needs? Please explain why.*

**Option 1:** Continue to concentrate housing and employment development at a few large sites located adjacent to the main towns in the district

**Option 2:** Take a more dispersed approach with some medium sized housing and employment sites on the edge of the larger villages, as well as towns

**Option 3:** Disperse development across the district with most villages including at least one small to medium site allocated to meet local needs

**Option 4:** Identify a growth point in the district to include significant growth, either as an expansion of an existing settlement, or to create a new settlement

**Option 5:** Do you have an alternative strategy option that you would like us to consider?



Which one of the suggested four growth strategies is most appropriate? Do you have an alternative suggestion?

Growth Strategy Option				
1	2	3	4	Other
3 votes	4 votes	2 votes	1 vote	Combination of 1 & 3 (1 vote)

Growth Strategy	Comments
1	Brownfield first, then greenfield
	Find un-used land eg. brownfield site, in local areas to create unique developments with lots of character in small pockets.
	Because then we can still retain some rural charm.
2	Does not 'remove' countryside villages.
3	Use everything you possibly can before hitting green-fields, and then grow out evenly.
	Nice balance of numbers and respect for capacity of town.
4	A new area providing more housing for people living in bad conditions
Combination of 1 & 3	We shouldn't allow existing villages to stagnate however more housing creates more benefits and jobs which would encourage a younger and more diverse population

Discussion points:

- General concern that brownfield land is developed first to minimise loss of farmland and loss of green character of the District.
- Concern about creating large, characterless housing developments.
- Concerned that road infrastructure is improved to cater for increased populations.