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Sustainability Appraisal Report for the Stroud District Local Plan Review – Draft Plan

Prepared by LUC
November 2019

Project Title: Sustainability Appraisal of the Stroud District Local Plan Review – Draft Plan

Client: Stroud District Council

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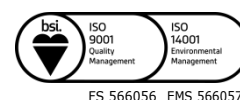
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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Sustainability Appraisal Report has been prepared by LUC on behalf of Stroud District Council as part of the integrated Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Stroud District Local Plan Review.
- 1.2 This report relates to the Stroud District Local Plan Review – Draft Plan (November 2019) and it should be read in conjunction with that document.

Context for the Stroud District Local Plan Review

- 1.3 Stroud District sits within the county of Gloucestershire. The District is approximately 45,325ha in size, taking up approximately 17.1% of the total area of Gloucestershire. It is mostly rural in character with 51.6% of the land classed as rural¹. The population density in the most rural parts of the District is less than one person per hectare².
- 1.4 The first tier settlements in the District are Stroud, Stonehouse and Cam and Dursley, as set out in the adopted Local Plan (and retained in the Local Plan Review). These settlements are located on the A419 and A4135 respectively – these roads provide relatively easy motorway access at the M5 which passes through the western part of the District. Approximately 22km of the Severn Estuary shoreline falls within the jurisdiction of Stroud District Council³.
- 1.5 The town of Stroud is positioned as the focal point of the 'Five Valleys' (Chalford Valley, Nailsworth Valley, Ruscombe Valley, Slad Valley and Painswick Valley)⁴, providing it with a dramatic landscape setting and connection with the wider countryside. Existing market towns and large villages of the District include Berkeley, Cam, Dursley, Minchinhampton, Nailsworth, Painswick, Stonehouse, and Wotton-Under-Edge.
- 1.6 Much of the land in the eastern portion of the District beyond the more sizeable settlements falls within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) which has been designated in recognition of its rich, diverse and high quality landscape. Significant areas of land at the Severn Estuary have been designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA), a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a Ramsar site and these areas fall partly within the boundaries of the District to the south west. Additional important biodiversity sites in the District include Cotswold Commons and Beechwoods National Nature Reserve (NNR) and Cotswold Beechwoods SAC both of which are in close proximity to Painswick and Rodborough Common SAC immediately to the south of Stroud.
- 1.7 The Stroud Valleys were among the earliest cloth making areas in Britain. As such, factories and mills are present within the District from these times with surviving structures mainly centred on the town of Stroud. Following the decline of the textile industry in the District the factories and mills have mainly been used for other industrial purposes, or have been converted to alternative uses such as residential and office use⁵. Stroud District Council is currently based in Ebley Mill which is thought to have been present in Stroud town since 1393.
- 1.8 Given its historic past unsurprisingly the District is home to numerous heritage assets, many of which are located within the 41 Conservation Areas currently designated. The Industrial Heritage Conservation Area (IHCA) which covers the length of the Cotswold Canals for approximately 23km, is notable for being one of the largest conservation areas in Britain.

¹ Defra (June 2011) *Local Authority Rural-Urban Classification*

² Gloucestershire County Council (October 2013) *Census Briefing for Commissioners*

³ EPR for Stroud District Council *Severn Estuary (Stroud District) Visitor Survey Report*

⁴ Stroud District Council (January 2009) *Public Realm Strategy: Stroud town centre*

⁵ Local Development Framework: Scott Wilson for Stroud District Council (June 2009) *Local Development Framework: Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report*

The Local Plan Review

- 1.9 Stroud District Council adopted its current Local Plan in November 2015, which sets out the planning strategy for the District up to 2031. Although the Plan was adopted relatively recently, an early review is being commenced in order to ensure that it remains up to date and can meet future needs for development over the 20 year period up to 2040.
- 1.10 An Issues and Options consultation for the Local Plan Review was published in October 2017 and a series of public consultation events were held during autumn 2017. These events were designed to gather feedback on key issues of particular concern in Stroud District today, the matters most likely to grow in importance over the next 20 years and options for addressing key issues and providing for future needs.
- 1.11 The Emerging Strategy Paper was published for consultation in winter 2018. The document set out the Council's emerging strategy for meeting development needs over the 20 year plan period. It also highlighted other options for this strategy and the potential policy approach the Council was considering taking to address the key priorities and needs of the District.
- 1.12 The current stage of consultation is on the Draft Plan, taking place from 20th November 2019 to 22nd January 2020. The Draft Plan identifies the housing, employment, retail and community development that is required to meet local needs up until 2040. It sets out the strategy for distributing development within the District and policies for protecting and conserving the natural and built environment. This is the final stage of informal engagement on the plan before the Pre-submission consultation takes place in Autumn 2020.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.13 Sustainability Appraisal is a statutory requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It is designed to ensure that the plan preparation process maximises the contribution that a plan makes to sustainable development and minimises any potential adverse impacts. The SA process involves appraising the likely social, environmental and economic effects of the policies and proposals within a plan from the outset of its development.
- 1.14 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is also a statutory assessment process, required under the SEA Directive⁶, transposed in the UK by the SEA Regulations (Statutory Instrument 2004, No 1633). The SEA Regulations require the formal assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment and which set the framework for future consent of projects requiring Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)⁷. The purpose of SEA, as defined in Article 1 of the SEA Directive is *'to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans....with a view to promoting sustainable development'*.
- 1.15 SEA and SA are separate processes but have similar aims and objectives. Simply put, SEA focuses on the likely environmental effects of a plan whilst SA includes a wider range of considerations, extending to social and economic impacts. National Planning Practice Guidance⁸ shows how it is possible to satisfy both requirements by undertaking a joint SA/SEA process, and to present an SA report that incorporates the requirements of the SEA Regulations. The SA/SEA of the Stroud District Local Plan Review is being undertaken using this integrated approach and throughout this report the abbreviation 'SA' should therefore be taken to refer to 'SA incorporating the requirements of SEA'.
- 1.16 At the time of writing, the situation regarding the UK's withdrawal from the European Union remains uncertain. Until the UK leaves the EU, the EU law summarised in this section remains applicable to the UK. Even following the UK's exit from the EU, most EU law will continue to apply as a result of provisions in the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 (EUWA).⁹ As such the SA of

⁶ SEA Directive 2001/42/EC

⁷ Under EU Directives 85/337/EEC and 97/11/EC concerning EIA.

⁸ <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/>

the Stroud Local Plan will continue to fulfil a requirement of legal compliance as part of the plan making process.

Meeting the requirements of the SEA Regulations

- 1.17 This report is the SA Report for the Stroud District Local Plan Review – Draft Plan (November 2019). **Table 1.1** below signposts how the requirements of the SEA Regulations have been met within this report.

Table 1.1: Requirements of the SEA Regulations and where these have been addressed in this SA Report

SEA Regulation Requirements	Where covered in this SA report
Preparation of an environmental report in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated (Reg. 12). The information to be given is (Schedule 2):	
a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	Chapters 1 and 3.
b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme	Chapter 3 and Appendix 2.
c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	Chapter 3 and Appendix 2.
d) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC.	Chapter 3 and Appendix 2.
e) The environmental protection, objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental, considerations have been taken into account during its preparation	Chapter 3.
f) The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. (Footnote: These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects)	Chapters 4, 5 and 6 and Appendices 3, 5, 6 and 7.
g) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme;	Chapters 4, 5 and 6 and Appendices 3, 5, 6 and 7.
h) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;	Chapter 2 and Appendix 8.
i) a description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Reg. 17;	Chapter 7.
j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings	A separate non-technical summary document will be prepared to accompany the final version of the Environmental Report.

SEA Regulation Requirements	Where covered in this SA report
The report shall include the information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision-making process and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process to avoid duplication of the assessment (Reg. 12(3))	Addressed throughout this SA report.
<p>Consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report (Reg. 12(5)) 	Consultation on the SA Scoping Report was undertaken between April and June 2018.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> authorities with environmental responsibility and the public, shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme (Reg. 13) 	Consultation was undertaken in relation to the Stroud District Local Plan Review: Emerging Strategy Paper between November 2018 and January 2019. Consultation in relation to the Draft Local Plan is being undertaken between 20 th November 2019 to 22 nd January 2020. The consultation document is accompanied by this SA report.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> other EU Member States, where the implementation of the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment of that country (Reg. 14). 	N/A
Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making (Reg. 16)	
<p>Provision of information on the decision: When the plan or programme is adopted, the public and any countries consulted under Reg. 14 must be informed and the following made available to those so informed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the plan or programme as adopted a statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental report, the consultation opinions expressed and the results of consultations entered into have been taken into account, and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and the measures decided concerning monitoring 	To be addressed after the Local Plan Review is adopted in a separate SEA/SA Adoption Statement. However, the reasons for selecting the sites included in the Emerging Strategy Paper and Draft Local Plan are set out in Appendix 8.
Monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the plan's or programme's implementation (Reg. 17)	To be addressed after the Local Plan Review is adopted.
Quality assurance: environmental reports should be of a sufficient standard to meet the requirements of the SEA Regulations.	This report has been produced in line with current guidance and good practice for SEA/SA and this table demonstrates where the requirements of the SEA Regulations have been met.

Structure of this report

1.18 This chapter has introduced the SA process for the Stroud District Local Plan Review. The remainder of the report is structured into the following sections:

- Chapter 2: Methodology** describes the approach that is being taken to the SA of the Local Plan Review, and provides an outline of the reasonable alternatives that have been considered at each stage in the plan preparation.

- **Chapter 3: Sustainability Context for Development in Stroud** describes the relationship between the Stroud District Local Plan Review and other relevant plans, policies and programmes; summarises the social, economic and environmental characteristics of the District and identifies the key sustainability issues.
- **Chapter 4: Sustainability Appraisal Findings for the Draft Plan Policies** summarises the SA findings for the draft policies that are included in the Draft Plan consultation.
- **Chapter 5: Sustainability Appraisal findings for the Draft Plan Sites** summarises the SA findings for the site allocations that have been included in the Draft Plan.
- **Chapter 6: Cumulative effects for the Draft Plan** presents the cumulative SA findings for all policies and sites included by the Council as part of the Draft Plan.
- **Chapter 7: Monitoring** describes the approach that should be taken to monitoring the likely significant effects of the Draft Plan and proposes monitoring indicators.
- **Chapter 8: Conclusions** summarises the key findings from the SA of the Draft Plan and describes the next steps to be undertaken.

1.19 The main body of the report is supported by a number of appendices (in a separate document) as follows:

- **Appendix 1** presents the consultation comments received in relation to the SA Scoping Report and Emerging Strategy Paper for the Local Plan Review and explains how they have been addressed.
- **Appendix 2** presents the updated baseline information for Stroud District.
- **Appendix 3** presents a summary of the SA findings for the policy options considered as part of the Issues and Options consultation paper (October 2017).
- **Appendix 4** presents the assumptions that have been used in the appraisal of site options.
- **Appendix 5** presents a summary table and the detailed SA matrices for all of the site options that have been considered since the Local Plan Review commenced (including updates to reflect updated evidence base).
- **Appendix 6** presents a summary of the SA effects identified for the Key Issues, Needs for the District, Vision, Strategic Objectives, Policies and Sites included in the Emerging Strategy Paper (November 2018).
- **Appendix 7** presents the detailed SA matrices for the sites included in the Draft Plan and their accompanying policy requirements.
- **Appendix 8** sets out an audit trail of the site and policy options considered during preparation of the Local Plan Review and provides the Council's reasons for selecting or rejecting each one.

2 Methodology

- 2.1 In addition to complying with legal requirements, the approach being taken to the SA of the Stroud District Local Plan Review is based on current best practice and the guidance on SA/SEA set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance, which involves carrying out SA as an integral part of the plan-making process. **Table 2.1** below sets out the main stages of the plan-making process and shows how these correspond to the SA process.

Table 2.1: Corresponding stages in plan making and SA

Local Plan Step 1: Evidence Gathering and engagement
SA stages and tasks
Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives • 2: Collecting baseline information • 3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems • 4: Developing the SA framework • 5: Consulting on the scope of the SA
Local Plan Step 2: Production
SA stages and tasks
Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1: Testing the Local Plan objectives against the SA framework • 2: Developing the Local Plan options • 3: Evaluating the effects of the Local Plan • 4: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects • 5: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan
Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1: Preparing the SA Report
Stage D: Seek representations on the Local Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal Report
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1: Public participation on Local Plan and the SA Report • 2(i): Appraising significant changes
Local Plan Step 3: Examination
SA stages and tasks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2(ii): Appraising significant changes resulting from representations
Local Plan Step 4 & 5: Adoption and Monitoring
SA stages and tasks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3: Making decisions and providing information
Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring • 2: Responding to adverse effects

- 2.2 The sections below describe the approach that has been taken to the SA of the Stroud District Local Plan Review to date and provide information on the subsequent stages of the process.

Stage A: Scoping

- 2.3 The SA process began in April 2018 with the production of a Scoping Report for the Local Plan Review. The SA Scoping Report was prepared by LUC on behalf of Stroud District Council.
- 2.4 The Scoping stage of the SA involves understanding the social, economic and environmental baseline for the plan area as well as the sustainability policy context and key sustainability issues. The Scoping Report presented the outputs of the following tasks:

- Policies, plans and programmes of relevance to the Local Plan Review were identified and the relationships between them and the Local Plan Review and the SA were considered, enabling any potential synergies to be exploited and any potential inconsistencies and incompatibilities to be identified and addressed.
- Baseline information was collected on environmental, social and economic issues in Stroud District. This baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring the likely effects of options for policies and site allocations and helps to identify alternative ways of dealing with any adverse effects identified.
- Key sustainability issues for Stroud District were identified.
- A Sustainability Appraisal framework was presented, setting out the SA objectives against which options and subsequently policies would be appraised. The SA framework provides a way in which the sustainability impacts of implementing a plan can be described, analysed and compared. It comprises a series of sustainability objectives and associated sub-questions that can be used to 'interrogate' options and draft policies during the plan-making process. These SA objectives define the long-term aspirations of the District with regard to social, economic and environmental considerations. During the SA, the performances of the plan options (and later, policies) are assessed against these SA objectives and sub-questions.

- 2.5 Public and stakeholder participation is an important part of the SA and wider plan-making processes. It helps to ensure that the SA report is robust and has due regard for all appropriate information that will support the plan in making a contribution to sustainable development. The SA Scoping Report was published between April and June 2018 for a five week consultation period with the three statutory consultees (Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England) and the general public.
- 2.6 **Appendix 1** lists the comments that were received during the Scoping consultation and describes how each one has been addressed. In light of the comments received a number of amendments have been made to the review of plans, policies and programmes, the baseline information and the key sustainability issues.
- 2.7 As well as changes that have been made to address consultation comments, some parts of the Scoping Report, namely the review of plans, policies and programmes and the baseline information, have been subject to a general update as part of the preparation of this SA Report in order to ensure that they reflected the current situation in Stroud District. Updated versions of the review of plans, policies and programmes and the baseline information are presented in **Chapter 3** and **Appendix 2**. The review of plans, policies and programmes and the baseline information will continue to be updated as appropriate throughout the SA process to ensure that they remain current.
- 2.8 **Table 2.2** overleaf presents the SA framework for the Stroud District Local Plan Review which includes 17 headline SA objectives along with their associated sub-questions. The table also shows how all of the 'SEA topics' (as listed in Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations) have been covered by the SA objectives in Stroud's SA framework, reflecting the fact that an integrated approach is being taken to the SA and SEA of the Local Plan Review. A small number of changes have been made to some of the sub-objectives in the SA framework since it was presented in the Scoping Report, in response to comments received during the Scoping consultation – these changes are detailed in **Appendix 1**.

Table 2.2: SA framework for the Stroud District Local Plan Review

SA Objective	Sub-Objective	Relevant SEA Topics
Social		
SA 1: To provide affordable, sustainable and decent housing to meet local needs.	SA 1.1: Does the Plan deliver the range of types, tenures and affordable homes the District needs over the Plan Period? SA 1.2: Does the Plan increase the supply of affordable homes in urban and rural areas? SA 1.3: Does the Plan reduce the percentage of unfit/ non-decent homes?	Population; Human Health; and Material Assets
SA 2: To maintain and improve the community's health with accessible healthcare for residents, including increasing levels of physical activity, especially among the young.	SA 2.1: Does the Plan improve access to doctors' surgeries and health care facilities? SA 2.2: Does the Plan encourage healthy lifestyles and provide opportunities for sport and recreation, including through the provision of green infrastructure and public open space? SA 2.3: Does the Plan contribute to narrowing health inequalities?	Population; and Human Health
SA 3: To encourage social inclusion, equity, the promotion of equality and a respect for diversity and meet the challenge of a growing and ageing population	SA 3.1: Does the Plan promote equality of access and opportunity and social inclusion through adequate provision and distribution of local community services? SA 3.2: Does the Plan meet the challenge of a growing and ageing population? SA 3.3: Does the Plan help to limit the potential for fuel poverty in the District?	Population; and Human Health
SA 4: To reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and disorder and the fear of crime.	SA 4.1: Does the Plan promote principles of good urban design to reduce the potential for crime in the District? SA 4.2: Does the Plan assist in reducing the fear of crime?	Population; and Human Health
SA 5: To create and sustain vibrant communities.	SA 5.1: Does the Plan help to improve residential amenity (including potential to reduce light, smell and noise pollution) and sense of place? SA 5.2: Does the Plan help to improve the satisfaction of people with their neighbourhoods as places to live and encourage ownership? SA 5.3: Does the Plan safeguard and enhance the identity of the District's existing communities and settlements? SA 5.4: Does the Plan promote regeneration in the District? SA 5.5: Does the Plan provide, protect or enhance locations for cultural activities, including the arts?	Population; Human Health; and Material Assets
SA 6: To maintain and improve access to all services and facilities.	SA 6.1: Does the Plan promote compact, mixed-use development? SA 6.2: Does the Plan promote the provision of new and the protection of existing services and	Population; and Material Assets

SA Objective	Sub-Objective	Relevant SEA Topics
	<p>facilities at sustainable locations?</p> <p>SA 6.3: Does the Plan encourage the protection of existing town centres including their vitality and viability?</p>	
Environmental		
<p>SA 7: To create, protect, enhance, restore and connect habitats, species and/or sites of biodiversity or geological interest.</p>	<p>SA 7.1: Does the Plan avoid adverse effects on designated and undesignated biodiversity and geodiversity assets within and outside the District, including the net loss and fragmentation of green infrastructure and damage to ecological networks?</p> <p>SA 7.2: Does the Plan outline opportunities for improvements to the conservation, connection and enhancement of ecological assets, particularly at risk assets?</p> <p>SA 7.3: Does the Plan provide and manage opportunities for people to come into contact with resilient wildlife places whilst encouraging respect for and raising awareness of the sensitivity of such locations?</p>	<p>Biodiversity; Flora; Fauna; and Landscape</p>
<p>SA 8: To conserve and enhance the local character and distinctiveness of landscapes and townscapes and provide sustainable access to countryside in the District.</p>	<p>SA 8.1: Does the Plan protect and enhance the District's sensitive and special landscapes (including the Cotswolds AONB), and townscapes?</p> <p>SA 8.2: Does the Plan prohibit inappropriate development that will have an adverse effect on the character of the District's countryside and settlements?</p> <p>SA 8.3: Does the Plan promote the accessibility of the District's countryside in a sustainable and well-managed manner?</p> <p>SA 8.4: Does the Plan prevent coalescence between settlements?</p> <p>SA 8.5: Does the Plan protect and enhance the District's natural environment assets (including parks and green spaces, common land, woodland and forest reserves) public realm?</p>	<p>Landscape; Biodiversity; Flora; and Fauna</p>
<p>SA 9: To conserve and/or enhance the significant qualities, fabric, setting and accessibility of the District's historic environment.</p>	<p>SA 9.1: Does the Plan avoid adverse effects on the District's designated and undesignated heritage assets (e.g. Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed buildings, Historic Parks and Gardens and Conservation Areas), including their setting and their contribution to wider local character and distinctiveness?</p> <p>SA 9.2: Does the Plan outline opportunities for improvements to the conservation, management and enhancement of the District's heritage assets, particularly at risk assets?</p> <p>SA 9.3: Does the Plan promote sustainable and appropriately managed access to as well as enjoyment and understanding of the local historic environment for the District's residents and visitors?</p> <p>SA 9.4: Does the Plan help to preserve and record archaeological features?</p>	<p>Cultural Heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage</p>
<p>SA 10: To ensure that air quality</p>	<p>SA 10.1: Does the Plan avoid, minimise and mitigate the effects of poor air quality?</p>	<p>Air; Climatic Factors; and</p>

SA Objective	Sub-Objective	Relevant SEA Topics
continues to improve.	<p>SA 10.2: Does the Plan promote more sustainable transport patterns and reduce the need to travel, particularly in areas of high congestion, including public transport, walking and cycling?</p> <p>SA 10.3: Does the Plan promote more sustainable transport patterns in rural areas?</p> <p>SA 10.4: Does the Plan facilitate the continued restoration, management and promotion the canal towpaths as part of the transport infrastructure</p>	Human Health
SA 11: To maintain and enhance the quality of ground and surface waters and to achieve sustainable water resources management in the District.	<p>SA 11.1: Does the Plan seek to avoid deterioration and where possible improve the water quality of the district's rivers and inland water?</p> <p>SA 11.2: Does the Plan enable the use of recycled water and generally reduce the need to make use of water resources?</p> <p>SA 11.3: Does the Plan minimise inappropriate development in Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, Drinking Water Safeguard Zones and Source Protection Zones?</p>	Water; Biodiversity; Fauna; and Flora
SA 12: To manage and reduce the risk of flooding and resulting detriment to public wellbeing, the economy and the environment.	<p>SA 12.1: Does the Plan reduce the risk of flooding from all sources including rivers, watercourses and sewer flooding to people and property?</p> <p>SA 12.2: Does the Plan minimise development in areas prone to flood risk and areas prone to increasing flood risk elsewhere, taking into account the impacts of climate change?</p> <p>SA 12.3: Does the Plan increase the provision of sustainable drainage at new developments?</p> <p>SA 12.4: Does the Plan promote flood risk reduction and improvement to the flood regime?</p>	Water; Soil; Climatic Factors; and Human Health
SA 13: To improve efficiency in land use and protection of soil quality through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings and encouraging urban renaissance.	<p>SA 13.1: Does the Plan encourage the appropriate provision of housing development on previously developed land as opposed to greenfield sites?</p> <p>SA 13.2: Does the Plan maximise the provision of employment development on previously developed land as opposed to greenfield sites?</p> <p>SA 13.3: Does the Plan encourage housing densities which would make efficient use of land?</p> <p>SA 13.4: Does the Plan ensure land is remediated where appropriate?</p> <p>SA 13.5: Does the Plan reduce the loss of soil and high grade agricultural land to development?</p>	Soil; and Climatic Factors
SA 14: To implement strategies that help mitigate global warming by actively reducing greenhouse gases and adapt to unavoidable climate change within the District.	<p>SA 14.1: Does the Plan promote energy efficiency and the generation of clean, low carbon, decentralised and renewable electricity and heat?</p> <p>SA14.2. Does the Plan promote the incorporation of small-scale renewable in developments?</p> <p>SA 14.3: Does the Plan promote and facilitate the use of electric cars and sustainable modes of transport?</p> <p>SA 14.4: Does the Plan encourage the use of designs and materials which will promote energy efficiency at new development in the District?</p>	Climatic Factors; and Air

SA Objective	Sub-Objective	Relevant SEA Topics
	SA 14.5: Does the Plan promote the use of locally and sustainably sourced, and recycling of materials in construction and renovation?	
SA 15: To minimise the amount of waste produced, maximise the amount that is reused or recycled, and seek to recover energy from the largest proportion of the residual material, and achieve the sustainable management of waste.	SA 15.1: Does the Plan seek to promote the handling of waste in line with the waste hierarchy? SA 15.2: Does the Plan reduce the production of hazardous waste?	Soil; and Climatic Factors
Economic		
SA 16: To deliver, maintain and enhance sustainable and diverse employment opportunities, to meet both current and future needs.	SA 16.1: Does the Plan allow for an adequate supply of land and the delivery of infrastructure to meet the District's employment needs? SA 16.2: Does the Plan provide for accessible employment opportunities? SA 16.3: Does the Plan support the prosperity and diversification of the District's rural economy? SA 16.4: Does the Plan support equality of opportunity for young people and job seekers and opportunity for the expansion and diversification of business?	Population; and Material Assets
SA 17: To allow for sustainable economic growth within environmental limits and innovation, an educated/ skilled workforce and support the long term competitiveness of the District.	SA 17.1: Does the Plan seek to promote business development and enhance productivity? SA 17.2: Does the Plan maintain and enhance the economic vitality and vibrancy of the District's town centres and tourist attractions? SA17.3: Does the Plan promote the image of the District as an area for investment and will it encourage inward investment? SA17.4: Does the Plan promote access to education facilities for residents? SA17.5: Does the Plan help to support increased economic activity throughout the District?	Population; and Material Assets

SA Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects

- 2.9 Developing options for a plan is an iterative process, usually involving a number of consultations with the public and stakeholders. Consultation responses and the SA can help to identify where there may be other 'reasonable alternatives' to the options being considered for a plan.
- 2.10 Regulation 12 (2) of the SEA Regulations requires that:
"The (environmental or SA) report must identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of—
(a) implementing the plan or programme; and
(b) reasonable alternatives, taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme."
- 2.11 Regulation 16 (4) (d) of the SEA Regulations also requires that on adoption of the plan a statement is prepared that includes:
"The reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with."
- 2.12 Any alternatives considered for the plan need to be 'reasonable'. This implies that alternatives that are not reasonable do not need to be subject to appraisal. Examples of unreasonable alternatives could include policy options that do not meet the objectives of the plan or national policy (e.g. the National Planning Policy Framework) or site options that are unavailable or undeliverable.
- 2.13 The SA findings are not the only factors taken into account by a local planning authority when selecting options to take forward in a plan. Indeed, there will often be an equal number of positive or negative effects identified for each option, such that it is not possible to 'rank' them based on sustainability performance in order to select an option. Factors such as public opinion, deliverability and conformity with national policy will also be taken into account by plan-makers when selecting options for their plan.
- 2.14 This section summarises how the appraisal of options has fed into the development of the Stroud District Local Plan Review. **Appendix 8** presents an audit trail of the site and policy options considered to date during preparation of the Local Plan Review and an outline of the reasons for the Council's decision making about which policy options to take forward or discount.

Identification and appraisal of policy options

- 2.15 High level options for the policies to be included in the Local Plan were identified by the Council officers preparing the Plan and published in the Local Plan Review Issues and Options Paper for consultation in October 2017. Reasonable alternative options for various policy topics were drawn from the most up-to-date evidence and guided by the national level policy set out in the NPPF.
- 2.16 The initial policy options were subject to SA by LUC during summer 2018 and the findings were presented to the Council officers preparing the Plan in an internal summary note in August 2018, so that the SA findings could inform decision making about which policy options to take forward in the Emerging Strategy Paper. This summary note was a working document which was intended to inform the preparation of the Local Plan and it was not made publicly available at the time. However, the SA findings for the policy options are now presented in **Appendix 3** of this SA Report.
- 2.17 The Emerging Strategy Paper (November 2018) developed the policy options into a set of Key Issues and Needs for the District, a Vision, Strategic Objectives, Emerging Growth Strategy, Settlement Boundaries, 'Mini-Visions for the Parish clusters and potential site allocations. These were all subject to SA by LUC and the findings were presented in the November 2018 SA Report accompanying the Emerging Strategy Paper, along with a description of the likely cumulative effects if the Emerging Strategy was implemented. The likely sustainability effects identified for all elements of the Emerging Strategy Paper are summarised in **Appendix 6** of this SA Report.

- 2.18 The current version of the Local Plan Review (the Draft Plan November 2019) has taken on board the consultation responses and SA findings from the Emerging Strategy consultation and revised the Key Issues, Needs for the District, Vision and Strategic Objectives, and now sets out six Core Policies, draft visions for the parish clusters and draft site allocations with policy requirements, along with a number of Delivery Policies covering homes and communities, economy and infrastructure and environment and surroundings. These elements of the Draft Plan have been subject to SA and the findings are described in **Chapter 4** of this SA Report (the SA effects of the draft site allocations are summarised in **Chapter 5**).

Identification and appraisal of site options

- 2.19 The Council identified potentially available and suitable reasonable alternative site options from various sources, including the Council's Strategic Assessment of Land Availability (SALA)⁹, the Brownfield Register and sites promoted through the Issues and Options and Emerging Strategy consultation stages.
- 2.20 The latest assessment undertaken as part of the SALA update has been carried out in accordance with the Council's detailed methodology statement published in February 2016, taking account of guidance which is set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance for undertaking a combined assessment of land available for housing and economic development. All sites located within or adjacent to the most sustainable settlements have been assessed as part of this process. A study threshold of sites capable of delivering 5 or more dwellings, or economic development, other residential development, retail or community uses on sites of 0.25 ha (or 500m² of floor space) and above was set at the outset of the assessment process to make the most efficient use of resources.
- 2.21 At each stage in the Local Plan Review, once the Council had identified the reasonable alternative site options they were subject to SA by LUC. As with the policy options, the first round of SA findings were presented to the Council officers preparing the Local Plan in an internal summary note in August 2018, so that the SA findings could inform decision making about which site options to take forward in the Local Plan Review. This summary note was a working document which was intended to inform the preparation of the Local Plan Review and it was not made publicly available at the time. However, a summary table showing the SA effects identified and the detailed SA matrices for all of the reasonable alternative site options considered to date can be found in **Appendix 5** of this SA Report. Note that all of the site option appraisals in Appendix 5 (whether originally appraised at the Emerging Strategy stage or this current Draft Plan stage) have been updated to reflect updated baseline evidence provided by the Council and some minor revisions to the SA assumptions used (as explained further ahead in this chapter).
- 2.22 The sites that have now been taken forward as proposed site allocations in the Draft Plan (November 2019) have been subject to SA by LUC taking into account the information set out for each draft site allocation in Chapter 3 of the Draft Plan. The detailed SA matrices for the draft site allocations are presented in **Appendix 7** of this SA Report, and the findings are summarised in **Chapter 5**.
- 2.23 As noted above, **Appendix 8** presents the audit trail of all reasonable alternative site options considered and the Council's reasons for including them or not in the Emerging Strategy Paper, and including them or not as draft site allocations in the Draft Plan and for the use proposed.

SA Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal report

- 2.24 This SA Report describes the process that has been undertaken to date in carrying out the SA of the Stroud District Local Plan Review. It sets out the findings of the appraisal of policy and site options, and the emerging strategy policy approaches and sites, highlighting any likely significant effects (both positive and negative, and taking into account the likely secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term and permanent and temporary effects). It also

⁹ Stroud District Council (October 2018) *Strategic Assessment of Land Availability (SALA) (2019 update published as part of Draft Plan consultation evidence base)*

describes the reasons for selecting or rejecting certain options during the preparation of the Stroud District Local Plan Review.

SA Stage D: Consultation on the Stroud District Local Plan Review – Draft Plan and this SA Report

- 2.25 Stroud District Council is inviting comments on the Draft Plan and this SA Report. Both documents are being published on the Council’s website for consultation between 20th November 2019 to 22nd January 2020.
- 2.26 **Appendix 1** presents the consultation comments that were received in relation to the SA Scoping Report and Emerging Strategy Paper and explains how each comment has been addressed in the SA work undertaken since then.

SA Stage E: Monitoring implementation of the Local Plan Review

- 2.27 Recommendations for monitoring the likely significant social, environmental and economic effects of implementing the Stroud District Local Plan Review are presented in **Chapter 7**.

Appraisal methodology

- 2.28 The reasonable alternative policy and site options for the Local Plan Review have been appraised against the SA objectives in the SA framework (see **Table 2.2** earlier in this section), with scores being attributed to each option or policy to indicate its likely effects on each SA objective as follows:

Figure 2.1: Key to symbols and colour coding used in the SA of the Stroud District Local Plan Review

++	Significant positive effect likely
++/-	Mixed significant positive and minor negative effects likely
+	Minor positive effect likely
+/- OR ++/--	Mixed minor or significant effects likely
-	Minor negative effect likely
--/+	Mixed significant negative and minor positive effects likely
--	Significant negative effect likely
0	Negligible effect likely
?	Likely effect uncertain

- 2.29 Where a potential positive or negative effect is uncertain, a question mark was added to the relevant score (e.g. +? or -?) and the score has been colour coded as per the potential positive, negligible or negative effect (e.g. green, yellow, orange, etc.).
- 2.30 The likely effects of options and policies need to be determined and their significance assessed, which inevitably requires a series of judgments to be made. The appraisal has attempted to

differentiate between the most significant effects and other more minor effects through the use of the symbols shown above. The dividing line in making a decision about the significance of an effect is often quite small. Where either (++) or (--) has been used to distinguish significant effects from more minor effects (+ or -) this is because the effect of an option or policy on the SA objective in question is considered to be of such magnitude that it will have a noticeable and measurable effect taking into account other factors that may influence the achievement of that objective. However, scores are relative to the scale of proposals under consideration.

- 2.31 Mixed effects have only been presented where directly opposing effects (i.e. positive and negative) have been identified through the appraisal (e.g. +/-, ++/-, --/+ and ++/--). For some SA objectives, it is possible that a policy or site might have a minor positive effect in relation to one aspect of the policy and a significant positive effect in relation to another aspect (giving a score of +/++). However, in these instances, only the most significant score is shown in the appraisal tables. Similarly if a policy or site could have a minor and significant negative effect (-/-) for the same SA objective, only the significant negative score is shown in the appraisal tables. The justification text relating to the appraisal describes where the various elements of the policy or site being appraised might have potential to result in effects of differing magnitude.
- 2.32 The likely sustainability effects of the Draft Plan (November 2019) are summarised in **Chapter 4** and **Chapter 5**. An assessment of the potential cumulative impacts of the Draft Plan as a whole is presented in **Chapter 6**.

Assumptions applied during the SA

- 2.33 SA inevitably relies on an element of subjective judgement. However, in order to ensure consistency in the appraisal of the site options, detailed sets of assumptions were developed and applied, with a separate set of assumptions relating to each type of site option. These assumptions set out clear parameters within which certain SA scores would be given, based on factors such as the distance of site options from features such as biodiversity designations, public transport links and areas of high landscape sensitivity. The assumptions are presented in **Appendix 4** and were applied through the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) data.
- 2.34 The assumptions applied when considering the reasonable alternatives and the subsequent potential sites have been updated following further new evidence presented as part of the Local Plan Review as well as comments received from the statutory consultees.
- 2.35 The Settlement Role and Function Study Update 2018¹⁰ proposed a number of changes to the settlement hierarchy for the District. This work has been used to inform the inclusion of a revised settlement hierarchy in the Draft Plan (Policy CP3). Updates to the settlement hierarchy in the Draft Plan also reflect additional support for brownfield development and the proposed development strategy. The changes have removed the 'fifth tier' resulting in settlements previously identified as 'fifth tier' settlements being reclassified as fourth tier settlements. These fourth tier settlements are now subdivided between Tier 4a settlements (which may be unable to meet residents' day to day requirements but are relatively well-connected and accessible settlements) and Tier 4b settlements (which lack the range of services to meet day to day requirements and are generally inaccessible with significant environmental constraints). This work also divided the previously identified third tier settlements between Tier 3a and Tier 3b settlements. Tier 3a settlements are those which have been identified as providing access to a good range of local services and facilities. Tier 3b settlements have been identified as providing access to a more basic level of services and facilities. Changes have been made to the assumptions relating to SA objective 6 in light of this new evidence.
- 2.36 As part of the consultation comments received on the SA Report for the Local Plan Review: Emerging Strategy Paper the Environment Agency recommended an update to SA objective 12, which has now been revised.
- 2.37 Revisions to SA objective 6 and SA objective 12 are detailed in **Appendix 4**. The changes to these SA objectives have been denoted by underlined text. In light of these changes, revisions

¹⁰ Stroud District Council (May 2019) *Settlement Role and Function Study Update 2018*

have been made to the appraisal matrices for all site options considered to date (as shown in **Appendix 5**).

Difficulties encountered and data limitations

- 2.38 It is a requirement of the SEA Regulations that consideration is given to any data limitations or other difficulties that are encountered during the SA process.
- 2.39 During the appraisal of the policy options the fact that options had not yet been worked up in detail (comprising only suggested policy approaches) meant that at times it was difficult to assess in detail the likely effects of the options on each SA objective. Once draft policies are worked up in more detail it is possible to draw more certain conclusions about their likely effects.
- 2.40 There was a need to appraise a large number of site options consistently. In order to address this issue, detailed assumptions relating to each of the SA objectives were developed and applied during the appraisal of site options (as described above).
- 2.41 A number of limitations relating to the GIS data that was used to apply the assumptions are recognised:
- The available data for Local Geological Sites (relevant to SA objective 7: biodiversity and geodiversity) showed their locations only as a central point and not a site boundary. The proximity of site options to Local Geological Sites was therefore only able to be measured in relation to that central point.
 - The available data for flood zones 3a and 3b was combined as flood zone 3 and did not distinguish between 3a and 3b. This resulted in some uncertainty in the scores, as set out in the assumptions (see **Appendix 4**).
 - The available data for agricultural land classification did not distinguish between Grade 3a (considered to be high quality) and 3b (not considered to be high quality). This again resulted in some uncertainty in the scores, as set out in the assumptions (see **Appendix 4**).
- 2.42 GIS data used to inform the assessment was generally only available for the extent of Stroud District, which could affect the SA findings for sites on the edge of the District.
- 2.43 The landscape sensitivity study and the SALA heritage assessment work which was used to inform the appraisal of site options against SA objectives 8: landscape and 9: historic environment did not cover every site option. Where the evidence did not cover a particular site, an uncertain (?) score was applied (see assumptions in **Appendix 4**).
- 2.44 The SALA accessibility assessment was only appropriate for using in the appraisal of residential and mixed use sites, but not employment site options. The assumptions that were used for the appraisal of employment site options (see **Appendix 4**) therefore draws on GIS data showing the location of bus stops (but not frequency of services from each bus stop). This dataset showed the location of all bus stops, including some that may not be well-served by existing bus services.
- 2.45 Due to the sensitivity of data relating to schools' capacities it was not possible to appraise the draft site allocations individually in relation to impacts on access to education facilities. However, the findings of Gloucestershire County Council's School Places Strategy¹¹ have been used to provide an overview of where problem issues relating to capacity might emerge as new growth provided over the plan period.

¹¹ Gloucestershire County Council (November 2018) *School Places Strategy 2018-2023*

3 Sustainability Context for Development in Stroud District

- 3.1 The Draft Local Plan sets out support for the delivery of new housing, employment, retail and community development that will meet local requirements up to 2040. It includes the proposed development strategy for distributing development within the District and policies for protecting and conserving the natural and built environment.
- 3.2 The Draft Local Plan presents the key priorities for the District. These have been updated from the key issues originally presented in the Emerging Strategy Paper. These priorities provide the starting point for the updated policies contained in the Draft Local Plan which are to guide growth over the plan period. Updated priority issues for Stroud have been identified as:
- Moving the District towards becoming Carbon Neutral by 2030.
 - Ensuring new housing development is located in the right place and supported by the right services and infrastructure.
 - Conserving and enhancing Stroud District's countryside and biodiversity.
 - Maximising the potential of brownfield sites to contribute to housing supply.
 - Developing strategies to avoid, reduce and mitigate the indirect impacts of development on the natural environment.
 - Addressing the lack of affordable housing the District.
- 3.3 The document also provides an overview of what the District is to look like as guided by the principles of the Local Plan Review over the twenty year period up to 2040. This aspirational vision of the District is supported by the inclusion of seven strategic objectives which provide a more tangible way of taking forward the overall vision for the District.
- 3.4 The strategic objectives included relate to achieving accessible, healthy, inclusive and safe communities; promoting the local economy and jobs opportunities across the District; supporting town centres and rural hinterlands; promoting healthier and more sustainable modes of transport; supporting climate change mitigation and respecting environmental limits; and conserving and enhancing the District's landscape, heritage, townscape and biodiversity.
- 3.5 Chapter 2 of the Draft Local Plan presents a description of the options considered for the proposed development strategy; i.e. where new development will be provided in Stroud District. Headline needs of the District related to specific locations in Stroud District as well as the overall housing and employment requirements over the plan period are also described. In effect the six 'Core Policies' which sit at the heart of the Plan define and provide the delivery mechanism for the Draft Plan's proposed development strategy. They also set out the target of achieving Carbon Neutral by 2030, as well as defining the hierarchy for growth (with associated settlement development limits updates provided in the related appendix) and include place making and environmental development principles for strategic sites. Changes to settlement development limits have been made at Berkeley, Cam, Cambridge, Dursley, Eastington, Hardwicke, Hillesley, Horsley, Kings Stanley, Leonard Stanley, Middleyard, Miserden, Newtown, Stonehouse, Stroud, Uley and Whitminster. Where changes have been made to settlement development limits they reflect physical changes since the last boundary review and the intended function of the settlements in question in terms of managing future growth.
- 3.6 The 'Making Places' chapter of the Draft Local Plan provides the spatial vision for Stroud District and the eight distinct parts of the District. Place-making 'mini visions' have been included for each of these distinct areas. This section also sets out the draft site allocations for the Draft Plan. These are presented in relation to the settlements at which they lie or which they are mostly closely related.

- 3.7 The Draft Local plan also contains chapters which contain overarching Core Policies as well as Delivery Policies relating to the following topics and associated approaches:
- Homes and communities: delivering the District’s housing target with a range of dwelling sizes, types and tenures, delivering more affordable homes and achieving mixed and balanced places, which have access to services and amenities that meet local needs and help build sustainable communities.
 - Economy and infrastructure: supporting economic growth by delivering a range and mix of employment uses, sites and types in the most appropriate location for the particular use supported by and integrated with housing and other community infrastructure.
 - Environment and surroundings: moving the District towards becoming Carbon Neutral by 2030, adapting to the effects of climate change and providing resilience for the future, whilst ensuring that development protects, conserves or enhances our local environment.

Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

- 3.8 Annex 1 of the SEA Directive requires:
- (a) *"an outline of the...relationship with other relevant plans or programmes"; and*
- (e) *"the environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation"*
- 3.9 In order to establish a clear scope for the SA it is necessary to review and develop an understanding of the environmental, social and economic objectives contained within international and national policies, plans and strategies that are of relevance to the Stroud District Local Plan Review. Given the SEA Directive requirements above, it is also necessary to consider the relationship between the Stroud District Local Plan Review and other relevant plans, policies and programmes.
- 3.10 This chapter summarises the relevant international and national policies, plans and programmes which should be taken into consideration during preparation of the Stroud District Local Plan Review and its SA, as well as those plans and programmes which are of relevance at a regional and local level. The objectives of these plans and programmes were taken into account when drafting the SA framework in **Chapter 2**.
- 3.11 A number of changes to the policy review presented below have been made since it was originally presented in the Scoping Report (April 2018), as a result of comments received from consultees (see **Appendix 1**).

International

- 3.12 **United Nations (UNESCO) World Heritage Convention** (1972): Promotes co-operation among nations to protect heritage around the world that is of such outstanding universal value that its conservation is important for current and future generations.
- 3.13 **International Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention)** (1976): International agreement with the aim of conserving and managing the use of wetlands and their resources.
- 3.14 **International Convention on Biological Diversity** (1992): International commitment to biodiversity conservation through national strategies and action plans.
- 3.15 **United Nations Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (the 'Aarhus Convention')** (1998): Establishes a number of rights of the public (individuals and their associations) with regard to the environment. The Parties to the Convention are required to make the necessary provisions so that public authorities (at national, regional or local level) will contribute to these rights to become effective.
- 3.16 **United Nations Declaration on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Declaration)** (2002): Sets broad framework for international sustainable development, including building a

humane, equitable and caring global society aware of the need for human dignity for all, renewable energy and energy efficiency, sustainable consumption and production and resource efficiency.

- 3.17 **United Nations Declaration on Forests (New York Declaration)** (2014): Sets out international commitment to cut natural forest loss by 2020 and end loss by 2030.
- 3.18 **United Nations Paris Climate Change Agreement** (2015): International agreement to keep global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.
- 3.19 **European Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe** (1985): Defines 'architectural heritage' and requires that the signatories maintain an inventory of it and take statutory measures to ensure its protection. Conservation policies are also required to be integrated into planning systems and other spheres of government influence as per the text of the convention.
- 3.20 **European Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention)** (1979): Aims to ensure conservation and protection of wild plant and animal species and their natural habitats, to increase cooperation between contracting parties, and to regulate the exploitation of those species (including migratory species).
- 3.21 **European Nitrates Directive** (1991): Identifies nitrate vulnerability zones and puts in place measures to reduce water pollution caused by the introduction of nitrates.
- 3.22 **European Urban Waste Water Directive** (1991): Protects the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water collection, treatment and discharge, and discharge from certain industrial sectors.
- 3.23 **European Habitats Directive** (1992): Together with the Birds Directive, the Habitats Directive sets the standard for nature conservation across the EU and enables all 27 Member States to work together within the same strong legislative framework in order to protect the most vulnerable species and habitat types across their entire natural range within the EU. It also established the Natura 2000 network.
- 3.24 **European Air Quality Framework Directive** (1996) and **Air Quality Directive** (2008): Put in place measures for the avoidance, prevention, and reduction in harmful effects to human health and the environment associated with ambient air pollution and establish legally binding limits for the most common and harmful sources of air pollution.
- 3.25 **European Drinking Water Directive** (1998): Protects human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.
- 3.26 **European Landfill Directive** (1999): Prevents and reduces the negative effects on the environment from the landfilling of waste by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills.
- 3.27 **European Water Framework Directive** (2000): Protects inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater.
- 3.28 **European Landscape Convention** (2002): Promotes landscape protection, management and planning. The Convention is aimed at the protection, management and planning of all landscapes and raising awareness of the value of a living landscape.
- 3.29 **European Environmental Noise Directive** (2002): Sets out a hierarchy for the avoidance, prevention and reduction in adverse effects associated with environmental noise, including noise generated by road and rail vehicles, infrastructure, aircraft and outdoor, industrial and mobile machinery.
- 3.30 **European Waste Framework Directive** (2008): Sets out the waste hierarchy requiring the reduction of waste production and its harmfulness, the recovery of waste by means of recycling, re-use or reclamation and final disposal that does not harm the environment, including human health.
- 3.31 **European Birds Directive** (2009): Requires the maintenance of all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state in the European territory at a level which corresponds in particular to

ecological, scientific and cultural requirements, while taking account of economic and recreational requirements.

- 3.32 **European Floods Directive (2007)**: A framework for the assessment and management of flood risk, aiming at the reduction of the adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity.
- 3.33 **European Industrial Emission Directive (2010)**: Lays down rules on integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from industrial activities. It also lays down rules designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole.
- 3.34 **European Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (2010)**: Aims to promote the energy performance of buildings and building units. Requires the adoption of a standard methodology for calculating energy performance and minimum requirements for energy performance.
- 3.35 **SEA Directive 2001 Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (2001)**: Aims to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.
- 3.36 **Directive 2015/1513 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 98/70/EC relating to the quality of petrol and diesel fuels and amending Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (2015)**: This Directive creates a common framework for the use of renewable energy in the EU so as to limit greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and promote cleaner transport, and includes a sustainability objective relating to increasing energy provided from renewable sources.
- 3.37 **Strategic Plan 2016-2020 (2016)**: In order to contribute to achieving the overall goals set at EU level, the Commission has set a number of General Objectives based on the priorities outlined by President Juncker. The SA should consider the general and specific objectives when developing the sustainability framework.
- 3.38 **Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) (2018)**: The RHI aims to increase the amount of renewable energy used for heating. Include a sustainability objective relating to increasing energy provided from renewable sources.

National

- 3.39 **The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**¹² is the most significant national policy context for the Local Plan Review. The publication of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in 2018 (as updated in February 2019) which is supported by the online Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)¹³ provides a particularly important context for the production of the SA. The Local Plan must be consistent with the requirements of the NPPF, which sets out information about the purposes of local plan-making. It states that in addition to being positively prepared, justified and effective, Local Plans will be considered sound if they are capable of:
- "enabling the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in (the) Framework."*
- 3.40 The presumption in favour of sustainable development is to be given priority in plan-making and in the decision making process. Specific to the plan-making process this will mean that:
- "a) plans should positively seek opportunities to meet the development needs of their area, and be sufficiently flexible to adapt to rapid change;*
- b) strategic policies should, as a minimum, provide for objectively assessed needs for housing and other uses, as well as any needs that cannot be met within neighbouring areas , unless:*

¹² Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (February 2019) *National Planning Policy Framework*

¹³ <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/>

- i. *the application of policies in this Framework that protect areas or assets of particular importance provides a strong reason for restricting the overall scale, type or distribution of development in the plan area; or*
- ii. *any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole."*

3.41 In addition to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development the NPPF also requires Local Plans to be prepared positively in a way that is 'aspirational but deliverable'. This means that opportunities for appropriate development should be identified in order to achieve net gains across the three overarching objectives of sustainable development: that is to say achieving the economic, social and environmental objectives of the planning system. Significant adverse impacts on these objectives should be avoided however and, where possible, alternative options which reduce or eliminate these types of impacts should be taken forward. Where this is not possible mitigation followed by compensatory measures should be pursued.

3.42 National policy within the NPPF of most relevance to the emerging Local Plan Review has been summarised below.

3.43 The Government is also setting out goals for managing and improving the environment within the next 25 years within its **environment plan**¹⁴. The document seeks to influence planning at a local level and therefore will be relevant to the scope of the SA and the Local Plan Review process. Reference has been included within each topic below to the relevant text from the environment plan.

Population Growth, Health and Wellbeing

3.44 The **NPPF** includes as part of its social objective the promotion of "*strong, vibrant and healthy communities*" by:

- *"ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and*
- *by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being."*

3.45 Ultimately planning policies and planning decision making should "*aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places*".

3.46 The document states that strategic policies should set out the pattern, scale and quality of development and make sufficient provision for "*housing (including affordable housing) ... [as well as] community facilities (such as health, education and cultural infrastructure)*". Policies should reflect "*the size, type and tenure of housing needed*". This policy approach is to include but should not be limited to housing requirements relating to affordable homes, families with children older people, students, people with disabilities, service families, travellers, those who rent their homes and people wishing to commission the construction of their own homes. At major developments providing new housing planning policies and decisions should be expected at least 10% of new provision to be delivered for affordable home ownership subject to conditions and exemptions.

3.47 To help to diversify opportunities for builders, promote a better mix of site sizes and increase the number of schemes that can be built-out quickly to meet housing need, the NPPF states that at least 10% of the sites allocated for housing through a local authority's plan should be half a hectare or smaller.

3.48 Where there is an identified need, development of sites not already allocated for housing to provide entry-level homes suitable for first-time buyers is to be supported by local planning authorities unless such need is already to be met at other locations within the authority area. These sites should comprise of entry-level homes that offer one or more types of affordable housing.

¹⁴ HM Government (January 2018) *A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment*

- 3.49 The document also promotes a theme of enhancing healthy and safe communities which is to be achieved by creating places which *"promote social interaction (and) enable and support healthy lifestyles."*
- 3.50 As part of this approach social, recreational and cultural facilities and services that the community needs should be provided guided by planning policies which:
- *"plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services;*
 - *support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community;*
 - *guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services."*
- 3.51 Plan making through the guidance of the NPPF recognises the important role of access to open spaces and other facilities which provide opportunities for sport and physical activity has in terms of health and well-being of communities. The importance of delivering a sufficient choice of school places to meet the needs of existing and new communities is also recognised in the document and local planning authorities should take a *"proactive, positive and collaborative approach to meeting this requirement"*.
- 3.52 The NPPF also sets out that the standard method provided in national planning guidance should be used to undertake a local housing need assessment identifying the minimum number of homes needed. The **Housing Delivery Test Measurement Rule Book**¹⁵ provides this standard method allowing for calculation of objectively assessed housing need using government household forecasts adjusted for local house prices and local earnings. Unmet need from neighbouring areas will also need to be taken into account as part of the calculation.
- 3.53 **A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment** sets out goals for improving the environment over the next 25 years. It details how the Government will work with communities and businesses to leave the environment in a better state than it is presently. The document identifies six key areas upon which action will be focused. Those of relevance to the topics of population growth, health and wellbeing are using and managing land sustainably; and connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing. These two key areas are of relevance to the emerging Local Plan Review as follows:
- Using and managing land sustainably:
 - Embed an 'environmental net gain' principle for development, including housing and infrastructure.
 - Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing:
 - Help people improve their health and wellbeing by using green spaces including through mental health services.
 - Encourage children to be close to nature, in and out of school, with particular focus on disadvantaged areas.
 - 'Green' our towns and cities by creating green infrastructure and planting one million urban trees.
 - Make 2019 a year of action for the environment, working with Step Up To Serve and other partners to help children and young people from all backgrounds to engage with nature and improve the environment.

Economy

- 3.54 The **NPPF** contains an economic objective to *"help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity."*

¹⁵ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (July 2018) *Housing Delivery Test Measurement Rule Book*

- 3.55 It also requires that planning seeks to *"create the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt"* with policies required to *"set out a clear economic vision and strategy which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth"*. Policies addressing the economy should also seek *"to address potential barriers to investment, such as inadequate infrastructure, services or housing, or a poor environment."*
- 3.56 Planning policies are also required specifically to address support for the rural economy. Sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in rural areas should be supported, both through conversion of existing buildings and well-designed new buildings, while the diversification of the rural economy and promotion of sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments is also supported
- 3.57 The NPPF also supports the role of town centres as functioning at the heart of local communities. This support is required to provide for a *"positive approach to [town centres] growth, management and adaptation."* Included within this support is a requirement to *"allocate a range of suitable sites in town centres to meet the scale and type of development needed, looking at least ten years ahead."*

Transport

- 3.58 The **NPPF** requires that *"transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making"*. The scale, location and density of development should reflect *"opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure"*. To help reduce congestion and emissions, and improve air quality and public health the planning system should focus significant development *"on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes."* The draft revised framework also requires that planning policies support an appropriate mix of uses across an area to further help reduce the need to travel as well as the provision of high quality walking and cycling network.
- 3.59 While the framework promotes the use and development of sustainable transport networks it also requires that *"where there is robust evidence, sites and routes which could be critical in developing infrastructure to widen transport choice and realise opportunities for large scale development"* should be identified and protected.

Air, Land and Water Quality

- 3.60 The **NPPF** states that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued soil and the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land. Policies should also prevent new and existing development from *"contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution."*
- 3.61 The document also requires that strategic policies should seek to make the most effective use of land in meeting local requirements making as much use as possible of previously-developed or 'brownfield' land. Furthermore policies should *"support appropriate opportunities to remediate despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated or unstable land"*.
- 3.62 **A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment**¹⁶: Of the key areas in the document around which action will be focused, those of relevance in terms of the protection of air, land and water quality are using and managing land sustainably; recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes; and increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste. The three key areas of relevance to the emerging Local Plan Review are as follows:
- Using and managing land sustainably:
 - Embed a 'net environmental gain' principle for development, including natural capital benefits to improved and water quality.
 - Protect best agricultural land.
 - Improve soil health, and restore and protect peatlands.
 - Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes:

¹⁶ HM Government (2018) A Green Future: Our 23 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/673203/25-year-environment-plan.pdf

- Respect nature by using our water more sustainably.
- Increasing resource efficiency and reducing pollution and waste:
 - Reduce pollution by tackling air pollution in our Clean Air Strategy and reduce the impact of chemicals.

Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

- 3.63 The **NPPF** contains as part of its environmental objective a requirement to mitigate and adapt to climate change, *"including moving to a low carbon economy"*. The document also states that the *"planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change."* To achieve these aims new development should be planned to ensure appropriate adaptation measures are included (including green infrastructure) and should be designed, located and orientated as to help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- 3.64 The revised framework also requires that development is directed away from areas which are at highest existing or future risk of flooding. Where development is required in such areas, the *"development should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere."*
- 3.65 In relation to coastal change in England planning policies and decisions should take account of the UK Marine Policy Statement and marine plans. Furthermore plans should *"reduce risk from coastal change by avoiding inappropriate development in vulnerable areas and not exacerbating the impacts of physical changes to the coast"*.
- 3.66 **A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment**¹⁷: The key areas in the document of relevance in terms of responding to climate change are using and managing land sustainably; and protecting and improving our global environment. Actions that will be taken as part of these two key areas are as follows:
- Using and managing land sustainably:
 - Take action to reduce the risk of harm from flooding and coastal erosion including greater use of natural flood management solutions.
 - Protecting and improving our global environment:
 - Provide international leadership and lead by example in tackling climate change and protecting and improving international biodiversity.

Biodiversity

- 3.67 A further requirement of the **NPPF's** environmental objective is that the planning system should contribute to protecting and enhancing the natural environment including helping to improve biodiversity, and using natural resources prudently. In support of this aim the framework states that Local Plans should *"identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks"* and should also *"promote the conservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity."*
- 3.68 The framework requires that plans should take a strategic approach in terms of *"maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries"*.
- 3.69 **A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment**¹⁸: The key areas in the document of relevance in terms of the protection and promotion of biodiversity are recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes; securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans; and protecting and improving our global environment. Actions that will be taken as part of these three key areas are as follows:
- Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes:

¹⁷ HM Government (2018) A Green Future: Our 23 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/673203/25-year-environment-plan.pdf

¹⁸ HM Government (2018) A Green Future: Our 23 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/673203/25-year-environment-plan.pdf

- Develop a Nature Recovery Network to protect and restore wildlife, and provide opportunities to re-introduce species that have been lost from the countryside.
- Securing clean, healthy, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans:
 - Achieve a good environmental status of the UK's seas while allowing marine industries to thrive, and complete our economically coherent network of well-managed marine protected areas.
- Protecting and improving our global environment:
 - Provide international leadership and lead by example in tackling climate change and protecting and improving international biodiversity.
 - Support and protect international forests and sustainable agriculture.

Historic Environment

- 3.70 Of relevance to the approach of the planning system to the historic environment the **NPPF** contains an environmental objective to contribute to the protection and enhancement of the built and historic environment. The document also sets out a strategy to seek *"the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay and other threats."* Such a strategy is required to take into consideration the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and bringing them into viable use.
- 3.71 It should also be considerate of the wider benefits of conserving the historic environment, the contribution new development can make in terms of character and distinctiveness and the opportunity for the historic environment to contribute to this character and distinctiveness. Local authorities should also maintain or have access to a historic environment record which is to be supported by up to date evidence.

Landscape

- 3.72 The Stroud Local Plan Review will be required to have consideration for the conservation and enhancement of landscape character in the District. The **NPPF** includes as part of its approach to protecting the natural environment, recognition for the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits to be secured from natural capital. Importantly, great weight is to be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- 3.73 As part of the approach to achieving well-designed places the NPPF states that planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments *"are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting."*
- 3.74 **A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment**¹⁹: The key area in the document of relevance in terms of the conservation and enhancement of landscape character is recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes. Actions that will be taken as part of this key area are as follows:
 - Working with AONB authorities to deliver environmental enhancements.
 - Identifying opportunities for environmental enhancement of all England's Natural Character Areas, and monitoring indicators of landscape character and quality.

Sub National

- 3.75 **Gloucestershire's Local Transport Plan 2015-2031**²⁰: The primary purpose of the document is to set out the transport issues, pressures and priorities for the County particularly in relation to increased transport demands which will result due to projected housing development and future accelerated economic growth. Transport improvement should be balanced given the need to take responsibility for reducing transport derived carbon emissions. The main transport priorities for the County to support economic growth have been set out as follows:

¹⁹ HM Government (2018) A Green Future: Our 23 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/673203/25-year-environment-plan.pdf

²⁰ Gloucestershire County Council (November 2017) *Gloucestershire's Local Transport Plan 2015-2031*

- A417 Missing Link.
 - A46 M5 Junction 9 corridor improvements.
 - M5 Junction 10 all ways improvement.
 - Gloucestershire rail strategy, including Gloucester and Cheltenham stations regeneration.
- 3.76 **Strategic Economic Plan for Gloucestershire**²¹: Produced by GFirst LEP, the Local Enterprise Partnership for Gloucestershire, the SEP has set out strategic priorities to achieve economic growth of £493 million in the County from 2015-2021. These priorities include improving employability and economic productivity of the work force through upskilling; attracting new employers and talented employees to the area through promotion of and exploiting the current opportunities provided by the motorway corridor, as well as improving wider connections through future transport infrastructure and broadband improvements. Building on existing connections to the rest of the UK which Gloucestershire has at the M5 corridor, the availability of employment land at this location has been identified as a key area to attract businesses.
- 3.77 **Gloucestershire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy**²²: Gloucestershire County Council is the Lead Local Flood Authority for administrative area of the County. The County Council has responsibility to lead and coordinate on management of surface water runoff, ordinary watercourses and groundwater and also has increased responsibilities in relation to management of flood risk from the highway network and planning for emergencies.
- 3.78 The Gloucestershire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy sets out how the County Council aims to manage flood risk in partnership across Gloucestershire up to 2023. The strategy has mapped those areas which are most at risk of flooding, identifying areas which have less than 25%, between 25% and 50%, between 50% and 75% and over 75% susceptibility to groundwater flooding.
- 3.79 The Annual Progress and Implementation Plans to be produced annually as follow up to the strategy are to detail progress in relation to flood risk against the strategy objectives and agreed actions.
- 3.80 There are three adopted Local Plans in place to guide planning decisions on minerals and waste developments throughout Gloucestershire. These are the **Gloucestershire Minerals Local Plan 1997-2006**²³, the **Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan 2002-2012**²⁴ and the **Waste Core Strategy for Gloucestershire**²⁵. The Gloucestershire MLP 1997-2006 was adopted in February 2003. A number of the policies in this document have since been deleted meaning they no longer form part of the development plan and work is currently being undertaken on the **Emerging Minerals Local Plan for Gloucestershire 2018 - 2032**²⁶ to replace those policies which have been saved. Consultation on the draft replacement plan occurred between September 2016 and November 2016. The Waste Core Strategy was adopted in November 2012 and replaced many of the policies in the Waste Local Plan.
- 3.81 The Gloucestershire MLP 1997-2006 through Saved Policy A1 sets out that the County Council should "*endeavour to maintain a landbank that reflects the local apportionment of the Regional Guidelines*". Saved Policy A2 sets out that the authority should "*maintain a landbank of reserves for the winning and working of aggregate minerals throughout and at the end of the Plan period*". The MLP also sets out preferred areas for aggregate mineral working beyond which proposed aggregate minerals working will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that the mineral is of a specification, or will meet a forecast shortfall, which is required to maintain the County's appropriate contribution to local, regional and national need.
- 3.82 The Draft Minerals Local Plan for Gloucestershire 2018-2032 was published for public consultation in September 2016 with the aim of providing a clear policy framework for how mineral developments should take place across Gloucestershire. This includes the vision of the County in

²¹ Gloucestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (March 2014) *Strategic Economic Plan for Gloucestershire*

²² Gloucestershire County Council (July 2014) *Local Flood Risk Management Strategy*

²³ Gloucestershire County Council (February 2003) *Gloucestershire Minerals Local Plan 1997-2006*

²⁴ Gloucestershire County Council (October 2004) *Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan 2002-2012*

²⁵ Gloucestershire County Council (November 2012) *Gloucestershire Waste Core Strategy*

²⁶ Gloucestershire County Council (September 2016) *Draft Minerals Local Plan for Gloucestershire*

2033 at the end of the plan period where it is a leading county in managing its mineral resources and mineral resources will have played a key part in delivering renewal, regeneration and economic growth. The working of minerals will also have been undertaken to limit adverse impacts including those in terms of health and well-being, economic vitality of local businesses, the natural and built environment and flood risk.

- 3.83 The plan sets out seven objectives to achieve this vision. It also sets out the type of development which is to be permitted within Mineral Safeguarded Areas and Mineral Consultation Areas as well as safeguarded mineral infrastructure sites. A total of 10 allocations have been made through the plan which includes five sites for the future working of sand & gravel and five sites for crushed rock limestone. Once adopted the plan will replace and update all aspects of the current MLP.
- 3.84 Gloucestershire Waste Core Strategy through Policy WCS2 seeks to "*raise awareness and positively influence attitudes and behaviour so as to reduce the amount of waste produced and ensure a greater proportion of waste is re-used.*" New development in the County is expected to incorporate the principles of waste minimisation and re-use. Policy WCS6 sets out that up to 2027 development will be delivered to provide residual waste recovery capacity for up to 145,000 tonnes per year of municipal solid waste; up to 73,000 tonnes per year of commercial & industrial; and strategic residual recovery facilities to allow for up to 50,000 tonnes per year.
- 3.85 Outline boundaries for site allocations to meet the need for strategic residual recovery have been set out for:
- Wingmoor Farm East, to the south west of Bishop's Cleeve in Tewkesbury
 - The Park, to the west of Bishop's Cleeve in Tewkesbury
 - Wingmoor Farm West, to the west of Bishop's Cleeve in Tewkesbury
 - Javelin Park, to the south of Quedgeley and Hardwicke by Junction 12 of the M5 Motorway in Stroud
 - Land at Moreton Valence, to the south west of Hardwicke and to the north of Whitminster in Stroud.
- 3.86 **A Strategic Framework for Green Infrastructure in Gloucestershire 2015**²⁷: The framework sets out a vision of green infrastructure in Gloucestershire as being enhanced, extended, promoted and managed to maximise its contribution to the natural and historic environment as well as health and well-being, the economy and quality of life including response to climate change. The contribution that green infrastructure can make to sustainable economic growth is to be achieved by giving its provision the same consideration as the delivery of other key infrastructure across the County.
- 3.87 The strategic green infrastructure principles for the County are:
- The successful connecting of functional strategic green infrastructure across the county.
 - Maximising opportunities to improve both strategic green infrastructure and more local green infrastructure whenever change is being considered.
 - Partnership working focussing co-ordination through the Local Nature Partnership and GFirst LEP to promote and enhance green infrastructure.
 - Ensuring the functional benefits of green infrastructure are understood.
 - Embedding the principles of green infrastructure in policies guiding change in the County.
 - Securing funding (for example through S106 agreements and CIL) to deliver improvements to strategic green infrastructure and individual green infrastructure projects.
 - Ensuring that the evidence to support the evaluation of different green infrastructure initiatives is robust and up to date.

²⁷ Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership (2015) *A Strategic Framework for Green Infrastructure in Gloucestershire 2015*

- 3.88 **Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2012 - 2032**²⁸: The Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Strategy sets out to strengthen health and wellbeing and prevent ill health in the County. The following principles have been identified to achieve this overarching aim:
- Supporting communities to take an active role in improving health
 - Encouraging people to adopt healthy lifestyles to stop problems from developing
 - Taking early action to tackle symptoms or risks
 - Helping people to take more responsibility for their health
 - Helping people to recover quickly from illness and return home to their normal lives
 - Supporting individuals or communities where life expectancy is lower than the County average or where quality of life is poor.
- 3.89 **Gloucestershire Nature Map**²⁹: The Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership has set out the Nature Map to identify the presence of characteristic habitats which most typify the County. At such locations habitats of these types are to be supported, expanded and appropriately linked to help promote wildlife. The Nature Map identifies landscape-scale areas as the County's wildlife Strategic Nature Areas (SNAs) in respect of Priority Habitats, which provide the best opportunity for creating and linking these key wildlife habitats. This approach is to achieve large-scale habitat restoration and creation and is expected to help deliver wide-ranging benefits for people as well as wildlife as a result of support for a range of ecosystem services.
- 3.90 **Cotswolds AONB Management Plan 2013-2018**³⁰: The management plan sets out the special qualities (the statement of significance) of the AONB and a vision of how the landscape is to evolve over the twenty year period. The benefits of the AONB are set in terms of its scenic beauty, cultural heritage, green infrastructure provision, sustainable economic growth (including rural tourism and business) and ecosystem services. Key issues have been identified for each of the themes relating to the AONB, from which objectives and policies have been drawn to protect the AONB and its special qualities.
- 3.91 The Cotswolds Conservation Board is currently undertaking work to prepare the **Cotswolds AONB Management Plan 2018-2023**³¹. Currently in draft form, once adopted the new plan will supersede the adopted management plan to provide updated policies and guidance for developers and partner organisations and monitoring indicators against which the success of the plan will be measured.
- 3.92 The draft plan sets a vision for the AONB in 2043 as a "*Distinctive, unique, accessible living landscape treasured for its diversity which is recognised by all for its wide open views, dry stone walls, intimate valleys, flower rich grasslands, ancient woodlands and distinctive Cotswold stone architecture.*"
- 3.93 **2017-2027 Severn Estuary Strategy**³²: The Strategy was developed by the Severn Estuary Partnership to "champion an integrated approach to the sustainable use and enjoyment of the Severn Estuary". The aims of this Strategy are to:
- Update and streamline the 2001 Severn Estuary Strategy.
 - Provide a strategic policy framework for the Severn Estuary.
 - Provide context to inform and support decision-making.
 - Facilitate the Marine & Coastal Act (2009) obligations related to cross-border integration, land-sea integration and taking an ecosystem-based approach to management.
- 3.94 The Strategy also sets out five principles for its enactment which are in keeping with the UK High-Level Marine Objectives. These are:

²⁸ Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Board (2014) Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2012 - 2032

²⁹ Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership (Accessed: April 2018) *Gloucestershire's Natural Environment: Gloucestershire Nature Map* Online at: <http://gloucestershirenature.org.uk/actionplan>

³⁰ Cotswolds Conservation Board (March 2013) *Cotswolds AONB Management Plan 2013-2018*

³¹ Cotswolds Conservation Board (February 2018) *Cotswolds AONB Management Plan 2018-2023*

³² Severn Estuary Partnership (May 2017) *Severn Estuary Strategy 2017-2027*

- Achieving a sustainable marine economy.
 - Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society.
 - Living within environmental limits.
 - Promoting good governance.
 - Using sound science responsibly.
- 3.95 **The Severn Estuary Shoreline Management Plan Review (SMP2)**³³: The SMP2 sets out draft policies for how the shoreline at the Severn Estuary should be managed for the next 100 years. The plan divides the area with the estuary into 16 Theme Areas each of which is in turn divided into a number of Policy Units of more manageable sizes. Within each Policy Unit the SMP2 gives recommendations for epoch (0-20 years; 20-50 years; and 50-100 years) in terms of one of four policy options: no active intervention; hold the line; managed realignment; or advance the line.
- 3.96 **Severn River Basin District River Basin Management Plan**³⁴: The management plan provides a framework for protecting and enhancing the benefits provided by the water environment. To achieve this it is to inform decisions on land-use planning. The plan highlights the areas of land and bodies of water that have specific uses that need special protection. These include waters used for drinking water, bathing, commercial shellfish harvesting and those that sustain the most precious wildlife species and habitats. The plan also sets out legally binding objectives for each quality element in every water body, including an objective for the water body as a whole with the default objective being set as achievement of a good status.
- 3.97 **Flood Risk Management Strategy**³⁵: The Strategy is a long term plan to manage tidal flood risks in the Severn Estuary. It covers the coast from Gloucester to Lavernock Point near Cardiff and from Gloucester to Hinkley Point in Somerset. The three main objectives of the Strategy are to:
- Define a 100 year plan of investment for flood defences by the Environment Agency, National Resources Wales and local authorities.
 - Prioritise other flood risk management measures such as providing advice to utility companies to protect critical infrastructure, development control advice and flood warning investment.
 - Decide where new inter-tidal wildlife habitats should be created to compensate for losses of habitat caused by rising sea levels.
- 3.98 **Stroud District Environment Strategy 2007-2027**³⁶: The strategy sets out the priorities for the District to 'live within environmental limits'. The priorities for Stroud have been identified as:
- Sustainable consumption and production.
 - Climate change and energy.
 - Protecting natural resources and enhancing the environment.
 - Creating sustainable communities.
 - Keeping the Council and local community focused on environmental limits.
- 3.99 **A Heritage Strategy for Stroud District**³⁷: The strategy was adopted as supplementary planning advice for the Council in February 2018. The document seeks to achieve the positive management and conservation of the District's heritage. Concurrently, the strategy will be expected to maximise the contribution that the historic environment makes to the character of the District, its economic well-being, and the quality of life of its communities.

³³ Atkins on behalf of Severn Estuary Coastal Group (October 2010) *The Severn Estuary Shoreline Management Plan Review (SMP2)*

³⁴ Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and Environment Agency (December 2015) *Part 1: Severn river basin district River basin management plan*

³⁵ Environment Agency and National Resources Wales (Accessed April 2018) *Severn Estuary Flood Risk Management Strategy* Online at: <http://www.severnestuarypartnership.org.uk/sep/projects/severn-estuary-flood-risk-management-strategy/>

³⁶ Stroud District Council (February 2007) *Stroud District Environment Strategy 2007-2027*

³⁷ Stroud District Council (February 2018) *A Heritage Strategy for Stroud District*

- 3.100 The strategy has three main objectives to ensure that the local historic environment is properly valued:
- Maximising the contribution that the historic environment makes to the character of the District, its economic well-being, and the quality of life of its communities;
 - Identifying ways to positively address the issues and pressures that are facing heritage assets; and
 - Maximising opportunities for the historic environment to help deliver the District Council's wider corporate objectives, including those of the Local Plan.
- 3.101 The Localism Act³⁸ introduced new permissive rights which included the preparation of Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs), Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders. NDPs must be compliance with higher level planning policy and legislation but provide local communities with tools to guide the long term growth of their area. A number of NDPs have been adopted within the District including: Eastington NDP (October 2016); Stroud NDP (October 2016); Whiteshill & Ruscombe NDP (October 2016); Hardwicke NDP (January 2017); Kingswood NDP (May 2017); Stonehouse NDP (February 2018), Dursley (February 2019) and Minchinhampton (July 2019)

Baseline Information

- 3.102 Baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring the likely sustainability effects of a plan and helps to identify key sustainability issues and means of dealing with them.
- 3.103 Annex 1 of the SEA Directive requires information to be provided on:
- (a) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan;*
- (b) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;*
- (c) any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC [the 'Birds Directive'] and 92/43/EEC [the 'Habitats Directive'].*
- 3.104 Baseline information was previously collated for the June 2009 Local Development Framework SA Scoping Report and this has been used as the starting point to collate baseline data. This information has been revised and updated to make use of the most recent available information sources, and these sources have been referred to in footnotes. The revised and updated baseline data set out in this report reflects the scope of the Local Plan Review.
- 3.105 Data referred to have been chosen primarily for regularity and consistency of collection, in order to enable trends in the baseline situation to be established, and also subsequent monitoring of potential sustainability effects.
- 3.106 A number of changes to the baseline information presented in **Appendix 2** have been made since it was originally presented in the Scoping Report (April 2018), as a result of comments received from consultees (see **Appendix 1** for detail).

Key Sustainability Issues

- 3.107 Analysis of the baseline information has enabled a number of key sustainability issues facing Stroud District to be identified. Identification of the key sustainability issues and consideration of how these issues might develop over time if the Local Plan Review is not implemented help to meet the requirements of Annex 1 of the SEA Directive to provide information on:

³⁸ Localism Act Care Act 2011 Chapter 3 Accessed August 2018 Online at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/contents/enacted>

"the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan; and any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan."

- 3.108 Key sustainability issues identified in the 2013 Interim SA Report for the Stroud Local Plan (April 2013) have been reviewed and revised in light of the updated policy review and baseline information. The updated set of key sustainability issues for Stroud District is presented in **Table 3.1** overleaf.
- 3.109 A number of changes to the key sustainability issues presented in **Table 3.1** have been made since it was originally presented in the Scoping Report (April 2018), as a result of comments received from consultees (as summarised in **Appendix 1**).
- 3.110 It is also a requirement of the SEA Directive that consideration is given to the likely evolution of the environment in the plan area (in this case Stroud District) if the Local Plan Review was not to be implemented. This analysis is also presented in **Table 3.1** in relation to each of the key sustainability issues.
- 3.111 The information in **Table 3.1** shows that, in general, the current trends in relation to the various social, economic and environmental issues affecting Stroud would be more likely to continue without the implementation of the Local Plan Review, although the policies in the adopted Stroud District Local Plan (2015) would still go some way towards addressing many of the issues. In most cases, the Local Plan Review offers opportunities to directly and strongly affect existing trends in a positive way, through an up-to-date plan which reflects the requirements of the NPPF.

Table 3.1: Key Sustainability Issues for Stroud District and Likely Evolution without the Local Plan Review

Key Sustainability Issues for Stroud	Likely Evolution without the Local Plan Review
<p>Climate change is likely to affect biodiversity, increase hazards from fluvial flooding and also affect the social and economic aspects of life. The rural character and dispersed nature of development in Stroud means that there are likely to be difficulties with regards the delivery of reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.</p>	<p>Climate change is likely to have on-going effects regardless of the Local Plan Review. The adopted Stroud District Local Plan already includes policies seeking to address this issue, and these would continue to apply in the absence of the Local Plan Review. These policies include Core Policy CP2: Strategic growth and development locations, which seeks to provide most of the District’s development at the most sustainable locations; ES1: Sustainable Construction and Design, which supports increased energy efficiency and integrating the use of renewable and low carbon energy sources; and ES2: Renewable or low carbon energy generation which seeks to maximise the generation of energy from renewable or low carbon sources.</p> <p>The Local Plan Review offers the opportunity to update these policies to meet the current circumstances of the District in light of new development and updated growth requirements and provide further policy to address climate change if required.</p>
<p>New development in the District will mean there will be increasing demands for energy provision in the future. A significant proportion (30%) of existing homes in the District require energy efficiency improvements and the District is located within the region which has the highest regional percentage of fuel poverty in England. It is noted that the percentage of homes suffering from fuel poverty in the District is slightly less than the regional percentage, however.</p>	<p>The delivery of new homes and other development over the plan period could increase demand for and energy consumption in Stroud. At present the adopted Stroud District Local Plan includes policies seeking to address this issue, and these could continue to apply in the absence of the Local Plan Review. The policies include ES1: Sustainable Construction and Design, which supports increased energy efficiency and integrating the use of renewable and low carbon energy sources; and ES2: Renewable or low carbon energy generation which seeks to maximise the generation of energy from renewable or low carbon sources.</p> <p>The Local Plan Review offers the opportunity to update these policies to meet the current circumstances of the District and provide further policy to encourage improved energy efficiency and increase the proportion of energy which is supplied by renewable sources if required.</p>
<p>Stroud District contains many areas of high ecological value including sites of international, national and local importance. These are under threat from urbanising pressures, including disturbance and damage from recreational use. As well as the need to avoid damage at these sites, it will be necessary to restore and enhance them where possible.</p>	<p>Pressures on the natural environment in Stroud District are likely to continue regardless of the Local Plan Review particularly given the requirement for more housing and employment development to meet growth projections and due to the effects of climate change. The adopted Stroud Local Plan (2015) already includes policies seeking to address these pressures, including ES6: Providing for biodiversity and geodiversity which safeguards internationally, nationally and locally designated biodiversity and geodiversity sites as well as protecting undesignated sites and protected sites.</p> <p>However, without the site allocations to be made through the Local Plan Review, further development may not come forward in the most appropriate locations and impacts on biodiversity could be amplified. The Local Plan review also offers the opportunity to update planning policy in relation to the protection of areas which are of importance in</p>

Key Sustainability Issues for Stroud	Likely Evolution without the Local Plan Review
	<p>terms of their biodiversity and geodiversity with consideration for the future evolution of development in the District. The SA for the Local Plan Review will incorporate the findings of HRA which will provide further insight into biodiversity impacts specifically at European sites presenting the opportunities to limit adverse impacts at such locations.</p>
<p>The countryside is under pressure from urbanising influences which are driven by a need for new housing provision and economic growth and infrastructure improvements to support new growth in Stroud.</p>	<p>Pressures on the countryside are likely to continue regardless of the implementation of the Local Plan Review. The adopted Stroud District Local Plan (2015) has already set out strategic growth areas, within or adjacent to larger settlements which will focus much of the new development in the District in those areas which have been subject to SA and selected by the Councils as the most sustainable and appropriate locations for development.</p> <p>However, without the new allocations to be made through the Local Plan Review, further development may not come forward in the most sustainable and appropriate locations and impacts on the countryside could be more significantly adverse.</p>
<p>The District has significant areas of landscape importance, most notably to the east within the boundaries of the Cotswolds AONB.</p>	<p>The adopted Stroud District Local Plan (2015) already includes policies to protect and enhance the landscape, including ES7: Landscape Character, which seeks to conserve and enhance the natural and scenic beauty of landscape character in the District including that of the Cotswolds AONB and its setting.</p> <p>The Local Plan Review offers the opportunity to update the current policy position in responses to the evolution of the District and development pressures it currently faces through more specific development management policies and site allocations that are selected following consideration of their impacts on landscape character through the SA. The emerging Cotswolds AONB Management Plan will provide further context to the development set out through the Local Plan Review and allow the updated pressures which the AONB is now facing to be appropriately considered.</p>
<p>The large area of Grade 3 Agricultural Land is a significant asset to the District; however pressures from development and climate change threatened the viability and productivity of such soils.</p>	<p>The pressures for new development in the District are likely to result in some development occurring in areas where high quality agricultural soils are present. The adopted Stroud District Local Plan (2015) contains policy to promote development at locations which would result in the re-use of previously developed land most notably through Core Policy CP14: High Quality Sustainable Development.</p> <p>The Local Plan Review presents the opportunity to update planning policy in the District to specifically protect higher value agricultural soils in the District in addition to promoting the re-use of previously developed land. The Local Plan Review might also be used to allocate sites for development which do not make use of higher quality agricultural soils (with consideration for the other principles of sustainable development).</p>
<p>The River Severn and its tributaries pass through the District and these</p>	<p>The adopted Stroud Local Plan (2015) already includes policies to reduce flood risk in</p>

Key Sustainability Issues for Stroud	Likely Evolution without the Local Plan Review
<p>have the potential to cause serious flooding.</p>	<p>the District including ES4: Water resources, quality and flood risk, which seeks to reduce flood risk in the District through appropriate siting of development, support for the provision of SuDS and other proposals which would reduce vulnerability to flood risk in Stroud.</p> <p>New development supported through the Local Plan Review can increase the risk of flooding; however the Local Plan Review offers the opportunity to provide development at locations which present the lowest flood risk and drafting new planning policy which will address the evolving flood risk situation in Stroud.</p>
<p>Much of the western portion of the District falls within Surface Water NVZs and/or Ground Water NVZs which indicates that different water bodies which pass through Stroud are exposed to significant levels of nitrates with a potential adverse impact on local water quality. Areas of the District also fall within SPZs.</p>	<p>The adopted Stroud Local Plan (2015) already includes policies seeking to protect and enhance water quality including Core Policy CP14: High Quality Sustainable Development which seeks to protect, conserve and enhance the built and natural environment including exposure to water pollution and ES4: Water resources, quality and flood risk, which seeks to maintain water quality encouraging the use of SuDS and appropriate recycling of water.</p> <p>The Local Plan Review presents the opportunity to allocate new development at sites which are less likely to have adverse impacts in terms of local water quality following their consideration through the SA process. There is also the opportunity through the Local Plan Review to include new development management policies thereby updating the planning policy position to directly address the updated water quality situation in Stroud.</p>
<p>The age structure of the population shows that currently there is a higher proportion of older people in the South West than nationally. There is expected to be an increasingly disproportionate number of older people in the area. This will have implications for the economy, service provision, accommodation and health.</p>	<p>The Stroud Local Plan (2015) through Core Policies CP7: Lifetime communities and CP8: New housing development expects new development to contribute to the provision of sustainable and inclusive communities meeting needs of residents including older people and also provide range of different types, tenures and sizes of housing, to create mixed communities.</p> <p>The Local Plan Review offers the opportunity to build on this policy approach through development management and site allocation policies which will help to meet the requirements of the future age structure of the District. In addition to development management policies which promote the provision of homes suitable for all sections of the community this will include the consideration of sites in terms of access to existing services centres and services and facilities through the SA process.</p>
<p>Stroud generally displays higher levels of public health than the national average however there is a requirement to address health inequalities as well as specific health problems such as obesity in the District.</p>	<p>Although not explicit in the adopted Stroud District Local Plan (2015), opportunities to consider access to healthcare, open spaces and other recreational facilities would have been taken into account during identification and allocation of the strategic development locations in Core Policy CP2: Strategic growth and development locations. The Local Plan Review presents further opportunities to allocate new housing development sites at locations which are in close proximity to existing healthcare</p>

Key Sustainability Issues for Stroud	Likely Evolution without the Local Plan Review
	facilities, open spaces and other facilities which might encourage healthier lifestyle choices including increased levels of physical activity. The Local Plan Review might also be used to allocate open spaces and local green spaces to protect them from development and ensure that appropriate levels of access to open space are achieved.
<p>House prices have increased by the highest percentage within the South West when compared to the other regions of England.</p>	<p>The adopted Stroud District Local Plan (2015) seeks to increase house building to address historic undersupply and the needs of concealed households by exceeding the minimum housing requirement (11,400) set out in Core Policy CP2: Strategic Growth and Development Locations. The proportion of new development at larger sites which is to be delivered as affordable housing where viability is demonstrated is set out in the adopted Stroud District Local Plan (2015) through Core Policy CP9: Affordable housing, which requires a minimum of 30% of housing to be affordable.</p> <p>Meeting the future housing requirements identified in the new national methodology to 2036 through the Local Plan Review is intended to address national historic undersupply and resultant house price increases. Without the implementation of the site allocations to be included as part of the Local Plan Review there may be less certainty about the delivery of affordable housing at site allocations.</p>
<p>Much of the housing stock in the District is quite old and the worst housing conditions are most evident in the private rented sector.</p>	<p>The adopted Stroud District Local Plan (2015) through Core Policy CP2: Strategic Growth and Development Locations sets out the level of housing (11,400) and that which should be provided at the strategic sites in the District. As such the assessed need for housing is to be met up to 2031. Core Policy CP8: New housing development sets out that new housing development should be well designed to address local housing needs, incorporating a range of different types, tenures and sizes of housing. As such the current Local Plan would help to provide high quality housing to meet local need up to 2031.</p> <p>The Local Plan Review presents the opportunity to allocate housing up to 2036 to meet future requirements and to update the planning policy position to ensure that future housing provision is of the highest quality.</p>
<p>Stroud on average is one of the least deprived districts/unitary authorities in the country. However, there are pockets of deprivation particularly in relation to housing and service provision.</p>	<p>Without the implementation of new site allocations to be included in the Local Plan Review there may be less certainty about the delivery of housing and employment land and therefore deprivation in Stroud would be less likely to be addressed.</p>
<p>Economic productivity in the District in terms of the GVA per hour worked indices is slightly lower than the national figure. There is a requirement to make appropriate use of the District's strong strategic transport links along the M5 corridor to facilitate future economic growth. Furthermore there is a net flow of commuters out of the District.</p>	<p>Without the implementation of new site allocations to be included in the Local Plan review there may be less certainty about the delivery of employment land and necessary transport infrastructure and therefore any potential for economic stagnation would be less likely to be addressed.</p>
<p>The town centres of the District face evolving pressures in terms of</p>	<p>The adopted Stroud District Local Plan (2015) through Policy CP12 Town centres and</p>

Key Sustainability Issues for Stroud	Likely Evolution without the Local Plan Review
<p>outside retail offers of the surrounding areas and the continued importance of e-retailing and provision of services online. Service uses and to a lesser extent comparison and convenience uses have seen a decline at many of the town centres while there has been a growth in leisure uses in recent years up to the end of 2016. There is a requirement to protect and enhance the role of town centres as economic drivers and employment supporters in a sustainable manner which is responsive to the evolving situation in Stroud.</p>	<p>retailing seeks to protect and bolster the role that the District's town centres play in providing jobs and contributing to a strong local economy. This includes supporting Stroud town centre as the principal town centre with priority to be given to improving retail facilities in Dursley, Stonehouse, Nailsworth and Wotton-under-Edge after this. Retail and other uses (including leisure, entertainment, cultural and tourist uses as well as other mixed-uses) that would support the vitality and viability of the centres in the hierarchy below Stroud town centre are to be directed in a sequential manner.</p> <p>The Local Plan Review presents the opportunity to incorporate updated policy to protect the evolving role of the town centres in the District. The Local Plan policy position may be updated to reflect the current strengths and opportunities at these town centres with consideration for existing weaknesses and emerging pressures to protect these centres in terms of their importance for economic growth and job provision.</p>
<p>While a high proportion of residents in the District make use of alternative modes of transport such as cycling to commute, car ownership in the area is high, and there are serious congestion problems in key locations. The re-establishment of the Cotswold Canals presents opportunities for the promotion of alternative modes of transport however there is a need to handle this sensitively.</p>	<p>The adopted Stroud District Local Plan (2015) through Core Policy CP2: Strategic Growth and Development Locations sets out development to be provided at the strategic sites in the District with development to take place in accordance with the settlement hierarchy beyond these locations. As such the adopted Local Plan seeks to guide development to locations which have been appraised as part of the SA process and are the more sustainable locations in the District. Core Policy CP13: Demand management and sustainable travel measures furthermore requires that all development is located where there are choices in modes of transport available and where the distance people need to travel is minimised. Policies EI12: Promoting transport choice and accessibility; EI13: Protecting and extending our cycle routes and EI14: Provision and protection of rail stations and halts, further help to promote sustainable transport options in the District. Policy ES11: Maintaining, restoring and regenerating the District's canals protects the future improvement, reconstruction, restoration or continued use of the canals or towpaths in Stroud.</p> <p>The Local Plan Review presents the opportunity to incorporate support for the establishment of stronger sustainable transport links and the provision of new development at allocated sites where these links will be accessible. Furthermore the policy position of Local Plan can be updated to reflect the evolved situation of the restoration of the canals in Stroud and progress with cycling and walking capital projects.</p>
<p>The Industrial Heritage Conservation Area (IHCA) which covers 23km of the Cotswold Canals is currently one of several heritage assets which are included on Historic England's Heritage at Risk list. Within the District areas of significant built historic importance and aesthetic quality are under pressure due to new development in the District and there is a</p>	<p>The adopted Stroud District Local Plan (2015) already includes policies seeking to protect and enhance the historic environment, including ES10: Valuing our historic environment and assets, which requires development to enhance the heritage significance and setting of the Districts heritage assets.</p> <p>The Local Plan Review presents the opportunity to guide new development to locations</p>

Key Sustainability Issues for Stroud	Likely Evolution without the Local Plan Review
<p>requirement for them to be preserved and enhanced.</p>	<p>which are less sensitive in terms of their impact on heritage assets (with consideration for other sustainability issues) through the SA process applied to potential site allocations. The Local Plan Review provides a way of delivering elements of the new Heritage Strategy and will also allow for any update required to be made to the policy position the Council has taken with regards the protection of heritage assets and their setting through appropriate development policies.</p>
<p>The District needs to capitalise further on the tourism industry so that this sector continues to contribute fully to economic growth. There is also a need to consider how links to the wider Cotswolds area can be made most use of profitably and how these links can be promoted. There may be opportunities to grow the tourism market at the District's town centres particularly where there are existing links to the Cotswolds AONB and Cotswolds Way. Recent years have seen a rise in the number of leisure uses at town centre locations and identified strengths at the various centres include independent cafes and shops, traditional markets and the attractive landscape setting.</p>	<p>The adopted Stroud District Local Plan (2015) through Policy EI10 Provision of new tourism opportunities sets out the approach to tourism development in Stroud. This is to protect and enhance landscapes and environmentally sensitive sites, whilst aiming to provide adequate facilities and enhancing enjoyment and profitability. The policy position of the current Local Plan thereby seeks to protect and enhance the functioning of the tourism sector in the District. Policy CP12 Town centres and retailing seeks to protect and bolster the role that the District's town centres play in providing jobs and contributing to a strong local economy. This includes supporting Stroud town centre as the principal town centre with priority to be given to improving retail facilities in Dursley, Stonehouse, Nailsworth and Wotton-under-Edge after this. Retail and other uses (including leisure, entertainment, cultural and tourist uses as well as other mixed-uses) that would support the vitality and viability of the centres in the hierarchy below Stroud town centre are to be directed in a sequential manner.</p> <p>The Local Plan Review presents the opportunity to provide updated development policy to guide future tourism development in light of the evolving situation in the District and the evolution of its town centres. This may include the potential to support the role of market town centres, build on current links to the Cotswolds AONB or to support development which would help to reposition the appeal of the District to attract new tourists.</p>
<p>The transport infrastructure is strong in the west along the M5 and A38 from north to south, although there are signs of peak congestion. The existing transport network is weaker to the east with areas of congestion prevalent. Access from to east to west in the District is also limited relative to the connectivity provided from north to south.</p>	<p>The adopted Stroud District Local Plan (2015) through Core Policy CP2: Strategic Growth and Development Locations sets out development to be provided at the strategic sites in the District with development to take place in accordance with the settlement hierarchy beyond these locations. As such the adopted Local Plan seeks to guide development to locations which have been appraised as part of the SA process which is considerate of these locations accessibility and therefore to the more sustainable locations in the District.</p> <p>The Local Plan Review presents the opportunity to guide future development through new site allocations and development management policies to the more sustainable and accessible locations of the District. In this manner it will be possible for the future development in Stroud to make use of existing transport links and infrastructure which is supported through future investment plans. This approach will also help to promote</p>

Key Sustainability Issues for Stroud	Likely Evolution without the Local Plan Review
	<p>the development of locations which are more accessible by the rail network, public transport and other modes of alternative transport to the benefit of location congestion issues given that these factors will be considered through the site assessment process and SA Report. The Local Plan Review will also present the opportunity to provide support for increased north-south and east-west connectivity where this is required.</p>

4 Sustainability Appraisal findings for the Draft Local Plan Policies

- 4.1 This chapter presents the SA findings for the Draft Local Plan. **Chapter 3** of this report has provided an overview of what the Draft Local Plan contains and the order in which it is presented. This chapter presents the SA findings, mainly following the same order as the Draft Local Plan.
- 4.2 Changes to the order of presentation have been made to group the appraisal of the vision for the District and strategic objectives followed by the mini-visions to reflect the high level and aspirational nature of these elements of the Draft Local Plan. Further changes to the order have also been made in relation to the presentation of the core and delivery policies in the Draft Local Plan to better reflect their numerical ordering.
- 4.3 The summary SA findings for the draft site allocations are presented in **Chapter 5** of this report to allow for consideration of the combined effects of allocating each site in relation to both the individual parish clusters and settlements at which they lie, as well as the District as a whole.

Priority Issues

- 4.4 The Draft Local Plan sets out six priority issues, identified from 40 key issues facing Stroud District, and states how the Local Plan can tackle them. The issues identified relate to the 2030 carbon neutral District target, the delivery of new housing development, the protection and enhancement of the countryside and biodiversity, the use of brownfield land to contribute to housing delivery, the protection of the natural environment and the provision of affordable housing.
- 4.5 As shown in **Table 4.1** below, it is expected that the Council's approach to addressing the identified priority issues for the District is likely to have mostly positive (and in many cases significant positive) effects in relation to the SA objectives.

Table 4.1 Summary of SA findings for the Council's approach to addressing the priority issues identified in the Stroud Local Plan Review (Draft Local Plan)

SA Objective	Approach to addressing the priority issues identified for the District
SA 1: Housing	++/-?
SA 2: Health	+
SA 3: Social inclusion	+
SA 4: Crime	0
SA 5: Vibrant communities	+
SA 6: Services and facilities	++
SA 7: Biodiversity/geodiversity	++
SA 8: Landscapes/townscapes	+?
SA 9: Historic environment	+?
SA 10: Air quality	++
SA 11: Water quality	0
SA 12: Flooding	+

SA Objective	Approach to addressing the priority issues identified for the District
SA 13: Efficient land use	++
SA 14: Climate change	++
SA 15: Waste	+?
SA 16: Employment	++/-?
SA 17: Economic growth	++/-?

- 4.6 Potential minor negative effects have been identified in relation to SA objectives 1: **housing**, 16: **employment** and 17: **economic growth** because the use of defined settlement boundaries within the District may limit the potential for development beyond those boundaries, although this is uncertain dependent upon how stringently these are applied. However, the overall support in this section of the Draft Local Plan for the provision of new homes (including affordable homes) and employment growth means that a significant positive effect is likely in combination with the potential minor negative effect for these three SA objectives. Employment opportunities should be more accessible in the District due to being provided specifically within the A38/M5 corridor and in tandem with housing growth. Development is also to be provided to help transform existing access to services and infrastructure which should further benefit economic growth through improved access to important transport infrastructure in the District.
- 4.7 The Council is seeking to deliver new housing development at locations which currently provide best access to services, facilities, jobs and infrastructure and would help to transform existing access to services and infrastructure. As such, a significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 6: **services and facilities** with associated minor positive effects in relation to SA objectives 2: **health**, 3: **social inclusion** and 5: **vibrant communities** considering that the services and facilities supported are likely to include health care, community and other provisions.
- 4.8 Providing development at locations which would improve accessibility to employment opportunities as well as services and facilities should help to reduce the need to travel in the District, particularly by private car. A significant positive effect is therefore expected in relation to SA objective 10: **air quality**. A significant positive effect is also expected in relation to SA objective 14: **climate change**. In addition to reducing the need to travel in the District, the Council's approach also includes the priority of moving towards carbon neutrality by 2030. The approach to this issue also acknowledges the need to adapt and improve resilience to climate change.
- 4.9 The Council's approach also supports the achievement of net gains to the natural environment as well as protecting and conserving the green infrastructure network. As such, a significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity**. Uncertain minor positive effects are also expected in relation to SA objectives 8: **landscape/townscapes** and 9: **historic environment** given that this approach may help to protect the setting of such assets in the District, depending on the location of existing green infrastructure.
- 4.10 A significant positive effect is also expected in relation to SA objective 13: **efficient land use** given that the Council's approach is to seek to maximise the potential of brownfield and underused sites for various types of development including housing, employment and canal related tourism. This approach, combined with protection of green links in the District, is likely to help retain permeable surfaces, which would be beneficial to local flood risk management. A minor positive effect is therefore expected in relation to SA objective 12: **flood risk**. Prioritising development at brownfield sites may also maximise opportunities to re-use materials and buildings already on-site, dependent upon the design of new development. A potential but uncertain minor positive effect is therefore also identified in relation to SA objective 15: **waste**.

Vision and Strategic Objectives

- 4.11 The Draft Local Plan presents an overall Vision for the District for the plan period as well as six Strategic Objectives for the area. The Strategic Objectives are set out to provide a more tangible way of taking forward the overall Vision for the District. The SA findings for the Vision and Strategic Objectives presented in the Draft Local Plan are summarised in **Table 4.2** and described below the table.

Table 4.2 Summary of sustainability effects for the Vision and Strategic Objectives for Stroud Local Plan Review (Draft Local Plan)

SA Objective	Vision	Strategic Objectives						
		SO1	SO1a	SO2	SO3	SO4	SO5	SO6
SA 1: Housing	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA 2: Health	+	++	++	0	0	+	0	0
SA 3: Social inclusion	+	++	++	0	0	0	0	0
SA 4: Crime	+	0	++	0	+	0	0	0
SA 5: Vibrant communities	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA 6: Services and facilities	+	++	0	0	++	+	0	0
SA 7: Biodiversity/geodiversity	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	++
SA 8: Landscapes/townscapes	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	++
SA 9: Historic environment	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	++
SA 10: Air quality	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0
SA 11: Water quality	+	0	0	0	0	0	++	0
SA 12: Flooding	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0
SA 13: Efficient land use	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0
SA 14: Climate change	+	0	0	0	0	++	++	0
SA 15: Waste	+	0	0	0	0	0	++	0
SA 16: Employment	+	0	0	++	+	0	0	0
SA 17: Economic growth	+	+	0	++	+	0	0	0

Vision

- 4.12 As shown in **Table 4.2** above, minor positive effects are expected for most of the SA objectives in relation to the Vision. This reflects the Vision's broad content and aspirational approach to achieving sustainable development in Stroud, seeking to ensure that it draws on the area's special environmental, social and economic qualities.
- 4.13 The Vision sets out that over the plan period, development in Stroud will respond to climate change by reducing the District's carbon footprint to become carbon neutral by 2030 with residents' lifestyles adapting to live within environmental limits. Minor positive effects are therefore likely in relation to SA objectives 10: **air quality**, 11: **water quality**, 14: **climate change** and 15: **waste**.

- 4.14 The Vision also states that over the plan period the plan area will be one in which a high quality of life is enjoyed within safe, healthy, vibrant and diverse communities, which have a strong sense of their own identity and local distinctiveness and provide support for vulnerable people. As such minor positive effects are also expected in relation to SA objectives 2: **health**, 3: **social inclusion**, 4: **crime**, 5: **vibrant communities** and 6: **services and facilities**.
- 4.15 In relation to the natural and built environment, the Vision sets an aspiration for Stroud to be a District in which its high-quality landscapes, flourishing wildlife and historic and cultural heritage are nurtured. A minor positive effect is therefore expected in relation to SA objectives 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity**, 8: **landscapes/townscapes** and 9: **historic environment**.
- 4.16 Additional minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 16: **employment** and 17 **economic growth**. It is envisaged that within the District, the complementary role of the market towns, wider regional centres and rural hinterlands will contribute to the sustainable and thriving local economy. The Vision text also makes specific reference to exploiting Stroud's position within the high tech, green technology, creative industries and tourism.
- 4.17 Due to the Vision's high level and general aspirations, it is not anticipated that any significant positive effects are likely in relation to the SA objectives. The Local Plan's more detailed policies will support the outcome of this Vision. These policies have been appraised separately in this chapter.

Strategic Objectives

- 4.18 A large number of negligible effects have been identified in relation to the Local Plan Strategic Objectives as they are quite specific in terms of the subject matter covered by each. However, a number of positive effects from the strategic objectives have been identified where they relate to specific SA objectives.
- 4.19 Significant positive effects are identified when the aim of the Strategic Objective directly aligns with that of the SA objective, as outlined below:
- Strategic Objective SO1 addresses the maintenance and improvement of access to services and amenities in Stroud particularly in relation to healthcare provision, affordable and decent housing, recreation opportunities and learning opportunities. Therefore, this strategic objective is likely to have significant positive effects in relation to SA objectives 1: **housing**, 2: **health**, 3: **social inclusion** and 6: **services and facilities**. A minor positive effect is also expected in relation to SA objective 17: **economic growth** given that the support for education facilities within the District is likely to help promote its attractiveness to potential investors by contributing positively to educational attainment.
 - Strategic Objective SO1a addresses the promotion of healthy, inclusive and safe communities in the District. This includes support for healthy lifestyles, the promotion of social interaction, ensuring public safety and reducing the fear of crime in the District. Therefore, this strategic objective is likely to have significant positive effects in relation to SA objectives 2: **health**, 3: **social inclusion** and 4: **crime**.
 - Strategic Objective SO2 addresses the local economy and provision of jobs in Stroud, including the enhancement of skills for residents. Therefore, this strategic objective is likely to have significant positive effects in relation to SA objectives 16: **employment** and 17: **economic growth**.
 - Strategic Objective SO3 addresses the need to improve town centres in Stroud as well as linking them to their rural hinterlands, including improving their safety, vitality and viability. Therefore, this strategic objective is likely to have a significant positive effect in relation to SA objective 6: **services and facilities** given that it should help to improve access to these types of provisions, and a minor positive effect on SA objective 4: **crime**. Furthermore, this strategic objective is expected to have minor positive effects in relation to SA objectives 16: **employment** and 17: **economic growth** given that it is likely to address the sub-objectives of supporting the prosperity of the District's rural economy and maintaining the economic vitality and vibrancy of the District's town centres.

- Strategic Objective SO4 addresses the need to promote alternative modes of transport, thereby reducing reliance on travel by private car while also seeking to reduce carbon emissions by using new technologies. The move towards a more integrated transport system is also to help improve access to local goods and services. Therefore, this strategic objective is likely to have a significant positive effect in relation to SA objective 14: **climate change** and minor positive effects in relation to SA objectives 2: **health**, 6: **services and facilities** and 10: **air quality**. It is likely that the move towards alternative and healthier modes of transport as part of a more integrated transport system would help to improve health and well-being in the District and should also help to reduce adverse impacts relating to air quality while improving access to services and facilities as part of an overall trend towards increased connectivity in Stroud.
- Strategic Objective SO5 addresses the need to adapt to climate change and respect environmental limits within the District. This is to include securing zero carbon development through more efficient building design in Stroud, encouraging patterns of development which support the use of sustainable transport, promoting the re-use of buildings and brownfield land and minimising waste production as well as encouraging energy recovery from these sources. This strategic objective also addressed flood risk and the protection of water resources in Stroud. Therefore, this strategic objective is likely to have significant positive effects in relation to SA objectives 11: **water quality**, 12: **flooding**, 13: **efficient land use**, 14: **climate change**, and 15: **waste**. It is likely that encouraging the use of sustainable modes of transport in the District will help to mitigate adverse impacts that development over the plan period could have in terms of air quality and as such a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 10: **air quality**.
- Strategic Objective SO6 addresses the need to protect and enhance the distinctive qualities of the District, including those relating to landscape, heritage, townscape and biodiversity. Therefore, this strategic objective is likely to have significant positive effects in relation to SA objectives 7: **services and facilities**, 8: **landscapes/townscapes** and 9: **historic environment**.

'Mini-visions' for the parish clusters

- 4.20 The Draft Local Plan contains eight 'mini-visions' relating to distinct parts of the District. Their aspirational and high-level nature means that the mini-visions for each parish cluster area are expected to have mostly minor positive or negligible effects in relation to the SA objectives as shown in **Table 4.3** below. No significant effects (either positive or negative) are expected.

Table 4.3 Summary of SA effects for 'mini visions' in the Stroud Local Plan (Draft Local Plan)

SA Objective	'Mini vision' for each parish cluster							
	Stroud Valleys	Stonehouse cluster	Cam and Dursley	Gloucester's rural fringe	Berkeley cluster	Severn Vale	Wotton cluster	Cotswold cluster
SA 1: Housing	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+
SA 2: Health	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0
SA 3: Social inclusion	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	+
SA 4: Crime	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA 5: Vibrant communities	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+
SA 6: Services and facilities	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
SA 7: Biodiversity/geodiversity	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0
SA 8: Landscapes/townscapes	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
SA 9: Historic environment	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+
SA 10: Air quality	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0
SA 11: Water quality	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA 12: Flooding	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0
SA 13: Efficient land use	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
SA 14: Climate change	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0
SA 15: Waste	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA 16: Employment	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+
SA 17: Economic growth	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

The Stroud Valleys

- 4.21 The mini-vision for the Stroud Valleys states that access to public modes of transport will be improved, which may be of benefit in terms of reducing CO₂ emission and improving air quality. As such, minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 10: **air quality** and 14: **climate change**.
- 4.22 The vision also states that Stroud Town will act as a focal point for communities and visitors, and that the Stroud Valleys will cater for growth in residential capacity in the region. Walking and cycling links are to be improved as part of the vision up to 2040 which is likely to help encourage more active lifestyles among residents. Minor positive effects are therefore expected in relation to SA objectives 1: **housing**, 2: **health**, 3: **social inclusion** and 5: **vibrant communities**.
- 4.23 Reference is made in the vision to creating a thriving environment for businesses and industry as well as for leisure and retail facilities. Future development of this type is likely to be supported by improved transport links in the area, which is also part of the vision. Minor positive effects are therefore expected in relation to SA objectives 6: **services and facilities**, 16: **employment** and 17: **economic growth**.
- 4.24 Minor positive effects are also expected in relation to SA objectives 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity**, 8: **landscapes/townscapes** and 9: **historic environment**. The vision states that Minchinhampton and the smaller villages within the Cotswolds AONB will continue to flourish set within a valued and protected landscape. Furthermore, it is highlighted that regeneration of the industrial valley bottoms and the restoration of the Cotswold Canals will enhance the valleys' rich architectural heritage, while habitats along river corridors will be enhanced and better connected. The vision also states that the special qualities of the wildlife-rich grasslands, ancient woodlands and commons will be protected.
- 4.25 The Stroud Valleys include the draft site allocations PS01, PS02 (at Brimscombe and Thrupp), PS05 (at Minchinhampton), PS07, PS06 (at Nailsworth), PS10, PS11, PS12 and PS13 (at Stroud). The likely sustainability effects of allocating these sites for development are described in **Chapter 5**.

The Stonehouse cluster

- 4.26 The mini-vision for the Stonehouse cluster states that development to the west of Stonehouse at Great Oldbury will expand the existing Oldends/Stroudwater employment area. It is envisaged that improvement to transport infrastructure in the area will also contribute to the sustainability of this employment area, and is also likely to help improve access to services and facilities in the area. The growth of a new employment area close to the M5 Junction 13 will also reinforce the town's role as one of the District's most important employment hubs. Therefore, minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 6: **services and facilities**, 16: **employment** and 17: **economic growth**.
- 4.27 Minor positive effects are also expected in relation to SA objectives 1: **housing**, and 5: **vibrant communities**. This is because the vision states that communities are to have the chance to help shape their neighbourhoods to ensure that valued characteristics of the area are protected and enhanced, maintaining their distinct identities. It is also stated that residential areas will continue to be well balanced, with access to services for young and old at settlements such as Eastington and The Stanleys.
- 4.28 The vision also aims that enhancement of the river corridor and canal will boost the tourist economy in the region, whilst also providing valuable amenities to residents. The vision suggests this will be supported by an increased presence of transport links between the town centre and more rural areas, including to the Cotswold Way. As such minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity**, 8: **landscapes/townscapes** and 17: **economic growth**.
- 4.29 It is envisaged that there will be greater opportunities for all residents to access 'green links' for walking or cycling between the town centre and the surrounding area. This approach may help to promote healthier lifestyle choices among residents and encourage travel by more sustainable modes. Minor positive effects are therefore expected in relation to SA objectives 2: **health**, 10: **air quality** and 14: **climate change**.

- 4.30 The Stonehouse cluster includes the draft site allocations PS16, PS42 (at Leonard Stanley), PS17, PS19 and PS20 (at Stonehouse). The likely sustainability effects of allocating these sites for development are described in **Chapter 5**.

Cam and Dursley

- 4.31 The mini-vision for Cam and Dursley explains that the role of these settlements in the southern part of Stroud District will be enhanced by developing improved infrastructure and increasing the offer of employment opportunities, as well as facilities and services. It is also set out in the vision that there will be greater access to the countryside for the leisure, recreation and amenities it provides local residents. The close links of the area to the Cotswold Way National Trail and to other visitor attractions will help to increase levels of tourism. As such, minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 2: **health**, 3: **social inclusion**, 5: **vibrant communities**, 6: **services and facilities**, 16: **employment** and 17: **economic growth**.
- 4.32 Minor positive effects are also expected in relation to SA objectives 10: **air quality** and 14: **climate change**. The vision states that Cam will benefit from an improved centre with good pedestrian and cycle connectivity. There will also be a strengthening of walking and cycling routes between Cam, Dursley and Uley. This may be of benefit in terms of reducing carbon emissions and air quality and encourage more active lifestyle choices among residents, reinforcing the minor positive effect already identified for SA objective 2: **health**.
- 4.33 Minor positive effects are also expected in relation to SA objectives 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity**, 8: **landscapes/townscapes** and 9: **historic environment**. The vision sets out that within Cam and Dursley, the valued landscape setting and attractive, wildlife-rich local environment will be conserved and the heritage assets of the local area are to be protected and promoted.
- 4.34 Cam and Dursley include the draft site allocations PS21, PS24, PS25 (at Cam), PS27 and PS28 (at Dursley). The likely sustainability effects of allocating these sites for development are described in **Chapter 5**.

Gloucester's rural fringe

- 4.35 The mini-vision for Gloucester's rural fringe sets out that to the east of Hardwicke village there will be continued housing and employment development alongside improvements to transport and infrastructure to enhance the quality of life for local residents and those working in the area. It is envisaged that Hunts Grove village will grow to allow easy and convenient access to nearby jobs in the area. The vision also states that there will be employment development at Junction 12 of the motorway. Javelin Park is expected to stimulate the development of business opportunities on surrounding employment sites. Minor positive effects are therefore expected in relation to SA objectives 1: **housing**, 5: **vibrant communities**, 6: **services and facilities**, 16: **employment** and 17: **economic growth**.
- 4.36 The vision states that Javelin Park will also offer combined heat and power opportunities to nearby housing. Furthermore, the provision of a new village centre at Hunts Grove is expected to encourage the growth of a sustainable new community which is likely to help reduce the need to travel in the District. Therefore, minor positive effects are also expected in relation to SA objectives 10: **air quality** and 14: **climate change**. It is also stated in the vision that the distinctive characteristics of rural parishes in the area will be maintained to reflect the Cotswold's AONB status and protect its setting. It is suggested this will mean minimal development will occur beyond the motorway which is to represent a distinct and defensible limit to southerly expansion, with the exception of employment development at Junction 12. As such, minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 8: **landscapes/townscapes** and 13: **efficient use of land**. The preservation of local and more rural parishes in their current state may result in a minor positive effect in relation to 9: **historic environment**.
- 4.37 Gloucester's rural fringe includes the draft site allocations PS30, PS32 and PS43 (at Hardwicke and Hunts Grove). Site G1 South of Hardwicke may have potential to contribute towards future housing needs and so is included within the Draft Local Plan at this stage for the purposes of public consultation. Site G2 (at Whaddon) does not currently form part of the Draft Local Plan's development strategy for meeting Stroud District's needs, but is safeguarded to meet the future housing needs of Gloucester City should it be required and provided it is consistent with the

approved strategy of the Joint Core Strategy Review. The likely sustainability effects of allocating these sites for development are described in **Chapter 5**.

The Berkeley cluster

- 4.38 The mini-vision for the Berkeley cluster sets out that development of new communities at Sharpness and Wisloe Green will help to meet the housing and employment needs of the District. It is also stated in the vision that transport links at these settlements and Berkeley town will be improved to support the growth of new communities. Development at Sharpness and Wisloe is also to be supported by the provision of new services and facilities. Established communities will also have the chance to shape their neighbourhoods, maintaining their distinct identities and enhancing aspects of the area that make it a pleasant place to live. As such, minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 1: **housing**, 3: **social inclusion**, 5: **vibrant communities** and 6: **services and facilities**.
- 4.39 Minor positive effects are also expected in relation to SA objectives 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity**, 8: **landscapes/townscapes** 9: **historic environment** and 12: **flooding**. It is envisaged that the new communities at Sharpness and at Wisloe Green are to be delivered in line with Garden City principles for high quality design within a green setting. It is also stated in the vision that the protection of the area's distinct built heritage, estuarine landscape and habitats will remain a priority. Specific reference is included relating to a variety of attractions which may help to raise the profile of this part of the District. While the vision identifies that the conservation of these features will be a priority, resilience to climate change and associated flood risk will also form part of the approach to the management of the area.
- 4.40 The vision states that there will be enhancement of walking and cycling routes in the region to link settlements together which is expected to benefit not only air quality and greenhouse gas emissions but also health and wellbeing. Public transport is expected to be boosted by the new settlement at Wisloe, providing sustainable transport links along the A38 corridor connecting Stone, Newport, Slimbridge and Cambridge to Bristol and Gloucester. Small-scale local businesses will also be encouraged across the area and this type of growth will be supported by farm diversification and low-impact tourism related activities. As such, minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 10: **air quality**, 14: **climate change**, 16: **employment** and 17: **economic growth**.
- 4.41 The Berkeley cluster includes the draft site allocations PS33 (at Berkeley), PS34, PS35 (at Newtown and Sharpness), P36 (Sharpness Garden Village) and PS37 (Wisloe Garden Village). The likely sustainability effects of allocating these sites for development are described in **Chapter 5**.

The Severn Vale

- 4.42 It is stated in the mini-vision for Severn Vale that the relationship with the River Severn is to remain a key aspect of land use decisions. The important contribution this feature makes to the region's special character is also recognised. In light of this, it is set out that growth within this area will not be 'strategic', with development of a smaller scale to be supported. Public transport, accessibility and services will remain key aims for these communities while the conservation of heritage assets will also be a high priority. Minor positive effects are therefore expected in relation to SA objectives 6: **services and facilities**, 8: **landscapes/townscapes**, 9: **historic environment**, 10: **air quality**, 12: **flooding** and 14: **climate change**.
- 4.43 The vision also sets out that the network of walking and cycling routes around the Saul Junction will be enhanced which will be instrumental in supporting access to a restored Stroudwater canal. The vision text suggests that the restoration of the canal will be of environmental and economic benefit to local residents. Protection of estuarine habitats, resilience to climate change and the associated flood risk in these areas are also included as priorities in the vision. As such, it is expected that there will be minor positive effects in relation to SA objectives 2: **health**, 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity**, 12: **flooding**, 14: **climate change** and 17: **economic growth**.
- 4.44 The Severn Vale includes the draft site allocations PS44 (at Frampton on Severn), PS45 and PS46 (at Whitminster). The likely sustainability effects of allocating these sites for development are described in **Chapter 5**.

The Wotton Cluster

- 4.45 The mini-vision for the Wotton cluster includes a key objective for the area to improve access to services and facilities and jobs for residents in parishes in the Wotton-under-Edge area, which will be supported by improving public transport links and the revitalisation of Dursley and its town centre. The vision also states that the area will benefit from pleasant and safe green walking and cycling links that connect Kingswood, Wotton-under-Edge, Charfield and other key local destinations. The vision is therefore expected to have minor positive effects in relation to SA objectives 5: **vibrant communities**, 6: **services and facilities**, 10: **air quality**, 14: **climate change**, 16: **employment** and 17: **economic growth**.
- 4.46 Due to restrictions on further outward growth, the vision explains that development of Wotton-under-Edge will be limited mainly to meeting the needs of the surrounding rural communities. Furthermore, development within the smaller settlements is to be limited to being of a small scale and will be in response to local needs. The vision also states that meeting local needs will also involve strong community engagement in the planning of events, festivals and leisure amenities. The settlements of Wotton-under-Edge and Kingswood will continue to be set within attractive landscapes with the former maintained as a noted historic town. It is therefore expected that there will be minor positive effects in relation to SA objectives 3: **social inclusion**, 8: **landscapes/townscapes** and 9: **historic environment**.
- 4.47 The Wotton cluster includes the draft site allocations PS38 and PS47 (at Kingswood). The likely sustainability effects of allocating these sites for development are described in **Chapter 5**.

The Cotswold Cluster

- 4.48 The mini-vision for the Cotswold Cluster states that development will be limited mainly to Painswick to meet the housing needs of the area as well as improve the vitality of the town centre and local services. Smaller scale development is also to be supported at the smaller villages in this part of the District to respond to locally-identified needs. It is also set out in the vision that the Cotswold 'brand' is of key importance economically to the region, making it important to cater to high quality tourism needs that are in line with the relative affluence of the region. However, the vision also explains that inclusiveness in this area is important so that all residents feel the benefits of increased tourism. Furthermore, the vision sets out that rural businesses have a valued role in providing local employment opportunities for the area. As such, minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 1: **housing**, 3: **social inclusion**, 5: **vibrant communities**, 6: **services and facilities**, 16: **employment** and 17: **economic growth**.
- 4.49 The vision states that preservation of the area's landscape and heritage assets will be of great importance and that it will be necessary to find a balance in the region between the needs of residents, tourists and the area's role as a 'protected landscape'. As part of this balance, the preservation and enhancement of the area's landscape, character and built heritage is considered to be of great importance. As such, minor positive effects are expected in relation SA objectives 8: **landscapes/townscapes** and 9: **historic environment**.
- 4.50 The Cotswold cluster includes the draft site allocations PS41 (at Painswick). The likely sustainability effects of allocating these sites for development are described in **Chapter 5**.

Settlement boundaries

- 4.51 The Draft Local Plan continues the current approach of defining settlement development limits at Tier 1 to Tier 4 settlements within each of the parish clusters of the District. These have been reviewed and changes have been made to some boundaries to reflect physical changes and to better reflect their intended function. Minor changes to settlement boundaries have been presented by individual settlement, within the parish cluster section of the Draft Local Plan, for Horsley, Stroud, Eastington, Kings Stanley, Leonard Stanley, Stonehouse, Middleyard, Cam, Dursley, Uley, Hardwicke, Berkeley, Newtown and Sharpness, Whitminster, Hillesley and Miserden.
- 4.52 The Draft Local Plan allows for a degree of flexibility, with a limited amount of development to be supported beyond the defined settlement boundaries to meet identified local needs provided that detailed environmental and design criteria are satisfied and development is supported by the relevant Parish Council. The development strategy set out for each individual settlement

(including the approach to development within and adjacent to the settlement development limits) aligns with the tier each settlement has been assigned as set out in Core Policy CP3 of the Draft Local Plan. The policy approach which addresses the settlement development limits and settlement hierarchy in Stroud is set out in Policy CP3. The appraisal of this policy is presented later in this chapter.

SA Findings for the Draft Local Plan Policies: proposed development strategy

- 4.53 The Draft Local Plan contains six Core Policies which are the principal means of defining and delivering the Plan's proposed development strategy.
- 4.54 The likely sustainability effects of these policies (Core Policy DCP1 and Core Policies CP2 to CP6) are set out below.

Table 4.4 SA findings for the policies relating to the proposed development strategy

SA Objective	DCP1 – Delivering Carbon Neutral by 2030	CP2 – Strategic growth and development locations	CP3 – Settlement Hierarchy	CP4 – Place making	CP5 – Environmental development principles for strategic sites	CP6 – Infrastructure and developer contributions
SA 1: Housing	+	++	++	+	0	++/-?
SA 2: Health	+	++/-	++	+	+	+
SA 3: Social inclusion	0	+/-	+	0	0	0
SA 4: Crime	0	0	0	+	0	0
SA 5: Vibrant communities	+	+/-	+	++	+	++
SA 6: Services and facilities	+	++/-	++	0	+	+
SA 7: Biodiversity/geodiversity	+	--?	--?	+	0	0
SA 8: Landscapes/townscapes	+	--?	+/-?	+	+	0
SA 9: Historic environment	0	+?/--?	+/-?	+	+	0
SA 10: Air quality.	++	+/-	+	+	+	+/-
SA 11: Water quality	+	-	-	0	+	0
SA 12: Flooding	+	-	-	0	+	0
SA 13: Efficient land use	0	--	+	0	+	0
SA 14: Climate change	++	+/-	+	+	++	+/-
SA 15: Waste	0	+	+	+	+	0
SA 16: Employment	0	++/-	++/-	+	0	0
SA 17: Economic growth	0	++/-	++/-	0	0	++/-?

Policy DCP1: Delivering Carbon Neutral by 2030

- 4.55 Policy DCP1 sets out criteria for new development that will contribute to achieving carbon neutrality within the District by 2030, which is ahead of the Government target of net zero carbon by 2050. Due to the ambition of the target and its comprehensive approach to emission reduction, a significant positive effect is expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 14: **climate change**.

- 4.56 The strategy for reducing carbon emissions aligns with the steps that are necessary in order to achieve improved air quality in the District. As such, a significant positive effect is also expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 10: **air quality**. Among the most significant of the policy's criteria is a requirement that development must be located where it will minimise the need to travel, either through close proximity to essential services and facilities or through the actual layout of the development itself. Aside from the benefits in terms of mitigating climate change and reducing air pollution, there is potential for this requirement to ensure that residents within new developments can satisfy everyday needs within close proximity. As such, a minor positive effect is also expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 6: **services and facilities**.
- 4.57 When travel is necessary, the policy requires that walking, cycling and public transport use must be prioritised in order to reduce private car use (irrespective of fuel source). This could increase the uptake of active travel amongst residents as a means of accessing services and facilities or commuting to work. As such, a minor positive effect is expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 2: **health**. A community in which there is less private car travel may result in positive effects relating to reduced noise pollution, air pollution and light pollution. This could improve the overall satisfaction of resident with the area in which they live in and therefor a minor positive effect is expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 5: **vibrant communities**.
- 4.58 The policy also promotes the enhancement of green infrastructure in the District due to its potential to sequester carbon and support local food production. This support for green infrastructure is likely to benefit wildlife and may provide opportunities for landscape enhancement. As such, minor positive effects are also expected for the policy in relation to SA objectives 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity** and 8: **landscapes/townscapes**. Green infrastructure can also have benefits in terms the water environment by limiting run off into water courses and helping to increase the absorption of rainwater into soils. As such, minor positive effects are also expected in relation to SA objectives 11: **water quality** and 12: **flooding**.
- 4.59 The policy also seeks to reduce carbon emissions through the incorporation of energy efficiency measures and low carbon/renewable energy in new developments, to the highest achievable standards. This will contribute positively to the District's carbon neutrality targets and also offers residents the opportunity to live in sustainable homes. As such, a minor positive effect is expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 1: **housing**.

Policy CP2: Strategic growth and development locations

- 4.60 Policy CP2 seeks to deliver at least 12,800 new dwellings (in addition to existing firm commitments) at a number of locations in the District, with a large proportion of growth being directed to Tier 1 settlements and the new settlements at Sharpness (2,400 dwellings) and Wisloe (1,500 dwellings). This will meet the housing needs of the District over the period 2020-2040, as identified through the Gloucestershire Local Housing Needs Assessment. As such, a significant positive effect is expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 1: **housing**. The policy will also help to address the unmet housing need of Gloucester City by providing 2,500 dwellings at Whaddon, so long as the need and location is consistent with the approved strategy for the Joint Core Strategy Review.
- 4.61 Directing much of the strategic growth to Tier 1 settlements (Cam, Stonehouse and Stroud) is likely to ensure that most new residents will have a good level of access to existing healthcare facilities and areas of open space, as well as education facilities and cultural facilities. Opportunities to walk or cycle to access services and facilities and employment opportunities are also likely to be greater in those areas. In contrast, strategic growth at new settlements (Sharpness and Wisloe) could leave new residents without immediate access to a wide range of existing services and facilities during the early stages of development. The critical mass provided is likely to support the delivery of new services and facilities as well as the delivery of supporting infrastructure through S016/CIL contributions, which will satisfy the needs of residents once the sites are built out. The smaller settlements provide access to a more limited range of services and facilities; however these locations are only to accommodate a smaller amount of growth over the plan period. Where this development is delivered there is potential for new residents to support and protect the viability of existing services. As such, mixed effects (significant positive and minor negative) are expected for the policy in relation to SA objectives 2: **health** and 6: **services and facilities**.

- 4.62 Similar mixed effects are expected for the policy in relation to SA objectives 3: **social inclusion** and 5: **vibrant communities**. By providing high amounts of growth at Tier 1 settlements and in large new settlements, issues of access are less likely to emerge for much of the local population including for older people and those with disabilities. At rural locations, access to service provision is likely to be lower, although the smaller amount of development to be provided at these locations could help support longer term rural service provision. As such, mixed (minor positive and minor negative) effects are expected for the policy in relation to SA objectives 3 and 5.
- 4.63 The policy is expected to have a negligible effect in relation to SA objective 4: **crime**. The effects of new development in relation to the incidences and fear of crime are likely to depend on detailed development design rather than the overall quantum and spatial distribution of growth.
- 4.64 The policy supports the delivery of a large amount of housing and employment development across the District, which will result in the loss of large areas of greenfield land which could be of value in terms of habitat provision and connectivity. In particular, the delivery of 2,400 dwellings at Sharpness is in close proximity to the Severn Estuary SSSI/SPA/SAC/Ramsar site and therefore there is potential for adverse impacts on these internationally designated sites. Development within the Stroud Valleys (including at Stroud and Brimscombe and Thrupp) has the potential to place additional recreational pressures on Rodborough Common SAC. As such, a significant negative effect is expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity**. The effect is uncertain as it will depend in part on the detailed development design and layout. Directing much strategic growth in and around Tier 1 settlements may encourage the use of brownfield land and the large scale of some developments may allow for the incorporation of more significant elements of green infrastructure. However, it is noted that the scale of growth required will mean that the use of brownfield land will make up a small proportion overall. A significant negative effect is therefore expected in relation to SA objective 13: **efficient land use**. Many of the locations proposed for development contain large areas of Grade 3 agricultural land. Furthermore, portions of Grade 2 agricultural land may be adversely affected by new development at Javelin Park as well as at Whaddon where development may come forward to help contribute to meeting the unmet housing needs of Gloucester City for the Plan period.
- 4.65 The policy directs much of the growth over the plan period away from the Cotswolds AONB in the east of the District. Large proportions of growth are allocated to the settlements of Stonehouse and Cam, which the landscape sensitivity assessment undertaken to support the Council's SALA³⁹ concluded is less sensitive to development. Although this may limit potential adverse impacts on the AONB, there is still potential for the large amount of growth to affect the existing townscapes of settlements where they would accommodate large amounts of development. As such, a significant negative effect is expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 8: **landscapes/townscapes**. The effect is uncertain as it will largely depend upon the design and layout of development.
- 4.66 In terms of the historic environment, there is potential for the large amount of development allocated over the plan period to adversely impact upon the setting of heritage assets, although high quality design of new development may also provide opportunities to enhance the setting of heritage features. Development at Cam and Stonehouse has the potential to adversely impact upon the high concentration of designated heritage assets in that area including the Industrial Heritage Conservation Area which is currently on the Heritage at Risk Register. A mixed effect (significant negative and minor positive) is therefore expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 9: **historic environment**. The overall effect is uncertain considering that the design of new development is unknown at this stage.
- 4.67 Directing large amounts of strategic growth to Tier 1 settlements (Stonehouse and Cam) has the potential for residents to have improved access to existing sustainable transport links, services and facilities and employment opportunities, which may reduce the need for regular travel by private car. However, the new settlements at Sharpness and Wisloe that are promoted through the strategy may have poor access to a full range of services during the earlier stages of development, resulting in a need for residents to travel further afield. It is likely that these settlements would support new provisions of these types in the longer term. Large scale sites may also prove more viable when delivering renewable energy infrastructure. As such, mixed effects

³⁹ White Consultants on behalf of Stroud District Council (December 2016) *Stroud District Landscape Sensitivity Assessment*

(minor positive and minor negative) are expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 10: **air quality** and SA objective 14: **climate change**.

- 4.68 Drinking Water Safeguarding Zones are present in the District around Cam where a high level of strategic growth is to be accommodated. A high level of growth in this area could adversely impact water quality in the area. As such, a minor negative effect is expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 11: **water quality**. Although some development within the District may occur on brownfield land in Tier 1 settlements, the majority would require a significant level of greenfield land take. This has the potential to result in increased flood risk due to an increase in the amount of impermeable surfaces in the area. Strategic scale development would be directed towards Stonehouse and Cam where there is land within Flood Zones 2 and 3. Furthermore, some of the land by Sharpness falls within the flood plain of the River Severn. As such, the policy is expected to result in a minor negative effect in relation to SA objective 12: **flooding**.
- 4.69 As the growth strategy allocates large proportions of growth in and around Tier 1 settlements and at large new sites, there is potential for the incorporation of new sustainable waste disposal and recycling solutions which may not be viable at smaller sites. As such, a minor positive effect is expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 15: **waste**.
- 4.70 A significant positive effect is expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 16: **employment** as it will deliver at least 50ha of new employment space within the District in locations adjacent to key settlements (Stonehouse and Hardwicke and Hunts Grove) and at new settlement locations (Sharpness and Wisloe). This is likely to provide accessible employment opportunities and may indirectly support the vitality of existing town centres due to increased spending. Whilst increased transport pressure may arise in the area from the delivery of these sites, their size may attract Government funding and S106/CIL, which will ensure that there is sufficient transport infrastructure for residents to access employment opportunities and also support future economic growth. The delivery of these sites is less likely to support access to employment opportunities in more rural areas of the District. As such, a minor negative effect is expected in combination for the policy in relation to SA objective 16. Much of the new employment land makes use of the strategic road network in Stroud (the M5 and A-roads) which is likely to prove attractive in terms of securing inward investment. The provision of large-scale growth is also likely to help secure contributions to fund future infrastructure improvements. The policy is considered less likely to support the wider rural economy including its diversification. Overall a mixed (significant positive and minor negative) effect is therefore expected in relation to SA objective 17: **economic growth**.
- 4.71 The policy explains that strategic and local development sites are allocated through the plan to meet the needs of the District. The summary of the appraisal of these sites is presented in **Chapter 5** of this report.

Policy CP3: Settlement Hierarchy

- 4.72 Policy CP3 provides a hierarchy for growth and development across the District that will ensure that development proposals are appropriately located to ensure there is a reduction in the need to travel while promoting sustainable communities. The policy states that new development should be located in accordance with the District's settlement hierarchy, with Tier 1 settlements to provide significant levels of jobs and homes. Tier 2 settlements are identified as having potential for development to support modest levels of jobs and homes. The policy also sets out that Tier 3 settlements that lie outside of the AONB have scope to help meet the housing needs of the more constrained Tier 1 or Tier 2 settlements or for development to meet specific local needs. Very limited development at Tier 4 settlements should take place only where there is a specific identified local need. At least 30% affordable housing is to be provided at larger sites at the majority of settlements within the hierarchy, with the larger settlements also contributing to self-build and custom-build delivery. A significant positive effect is therefore expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 1: **housing**.
- 4.73 A significant positive effect is also expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 2: **health** given that, while some development is directed to smaller settlements, most growth is directed to the larger settlements where existing healthcare provision is strongest and where opportunities to walk and cycle day-to-day are likely to be greatest.

- 4.74 A significant positive effect is also expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 6: **services and facilities** considering that similar levels of access are likely to result in terms of educational, cultural and other types of facilities. Minor positive effects are expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 3: **social inclusion** and SA objective 5: **vibrant communities**. Allowing for much of the new growth over the plan period within the settlement development limits is likely to have benefits in relation to inclusivity and resident satisfaction due to the high level of access to services and facilities, particularly at larger settlements. Allowing for a limited amount of new development at the smaller settlements has the potential to support service provision and vitality at these locations.
- 4.75 The policy states that substantial weight should be given to the use of previously developed land and buildings within settlements, and directs most development to larger settlements where opportunities to reuse existing sites and buildings are likely to be greatest. As such, a minor positive effect is expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 13: **efficient land use**. However, the policy is also supportive of some development adjacent to the settlement development limits in exceptional circumstances. Due to the large amount of growth to be delivered, a large proportion of development will occur on greenfield land which is likely to result in the loss of high-quality soils considering that much of land in and surrounding the settlements is Grade 3 agricultural land. Therefore, a minor negative effect is also expected in relation to SA objective 13.
- 4.76 By limiting growth outside of the settlements the potential for adverse impacts on the designated landscape of the Cotswolds AONB is likely to be limited. It is noted, however, that some of the larger settlements (most notably Tier 2 settlements Minchinhampton, Painswick and Wotton-under-Edge) lie within the AONB boundary meaning that there is potential for impacts on its wider setting. Directing the highest level of growth to areas within the settlement development limits of the larger settlements may result in adverse impacts in terms of the existing townscape. It may also provide opportunities to improve this existing character, through the delivery of high-quality development or the redevelopment of brownfield land. As such an overall mixed minor positive and minor negative effect is expected in relation to SA objective 8: **landscape/townscape**.
- 4.77 The larger Tier 1 settlements contain the highest concentrations of heritage assets. As such, directing most development to those areas could adversely affect a high number of heritage assets. However, there is potential for development to improve the setting of heritage assets through high quality and sympathetic design and therefore a mixed (minor positive and minor negative) effect is expected in relation to SA objective 9: **historic environment**.
- 4.78 While focussing most development towards the larger settlements of the District may avoid adverse impacts on biodiversity impacts in more rural areas, the policy would support some development at settlements (including Tier 3a Sharpness and Frampton on Severn) in close proximity to the internationally designated Severn Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar. Development within the Stroud Valleys would also be in close proximity to the Rodborough Common SAC. As such, a significant negative effect is expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity**. The effects relating to SA objectives 7, 8 and 9 are uncertain as the design of new development will be the key factor influencing impacts on character and setting and may also allow for biodiversity mitigation.
- 4.79 Minor negative effects are expected for the policy in relation to SA objectives 11: **water quality** and 12: **flooding**. Land at Cam and Dursley (Tier 1 settlements which are highlighted by the policy to continue to provide significant levels of jobs and homes) falls within a Source Protection Zone where new development could impact on water quality. In addition, some of the land at settlements by the River Severn (Sharpness and Frampton on Severn) and the Stroud Valleys falls within flood zone 2 and 3. While most development would be directed away from these Tier 3 settlements (which include Sharpness and Frampton on Severn), they are still expected to see some growth.
- 4.80 By requiring that new development should be located in accordance with the settlement hierarchy and providing support for development within the settlement development limits, a high number of residents are likely to have good access to services and facilities and sustainable transport links. As such, there is potential for negative impacts on air quality and carbon emissions to be limited considering that modal shift may result. Furthermore, supporting a more limited amount of development at the smaller settlements is likely to support the viability of these settlements in

the long term, which may reduce the need for residents to travel in some situations. As such minor positive effects are expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 10: **air quality** and SA objective 14: **climate change**.

- 4.81 The policy is likely to support the creation of accessible employment opportunities by directing most growth to larger settlements. It is also likely to support the vitality of existing town centres by directing higher levels of growth to areas within the settlement development limits. Limiting development at the more rural areas of the District may mean that employment opportunities are likely to be less accessible to residents at these locations. This approach is also less likely to help diversify the rural economy in the District. As such mixed (significant positive and minor negative) effects are expected in relation to SA objective 16: **employment** and SA objective 17: **economic growth**.

Policy CP4: Place making

- 4.82 The overall purpose of Core Policy CP4 is to ensure that all development proposals integrate into the neighbourhood, place-shape and protect or enhance a sense of place, and create safe streets, homes and workplaces. Therefore, a significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 5: **vibrant communities** and a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 4: **crime**.
- 4.83 The policy requires that developments should take account of connectivity and be located close to appropriate levels of services and facilities. This element of the policy should help to reduce dependency on travel by private vehicle, particularly as the policy requires developments to improve transport choices and promotes the use of more sustainable modes of transport including through the provision of storage for bicycles. Minor positive effects are therefore likely in relation to SA objectives 6: **services and facilities**, 10: **air quality** and SA objective 14: **climate change**. Encouraging walking and cycling will also facilitate an increase in physical activity amongst the local population; therefore a minor positive effect is also expected in relation to SA objective 2: **health**, particularly because the policy also supports development which would provide public and private amenity spaces.
- 4.84 Policy CP4 also requires that development proposals contribute towards the District's employment and housing needs. Therefore, minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 1: **housing** and 16: **employment**. The criteria set out in the policy should help to ensure that new housing and employment development is of a high quality.
- 4.85 The policy seeks to protect and enhance the District's character and special landscapes by supporting development which incorporates locally-distinctive architectural styles and materials and works with the site's topography and landscape features. The policy is likely to prevent development that will have an adverse effect on the character of the District's settlements and landscapes. A minor positive effect is therefore likely in relation to SA objective 8: **landscapes/townscapes**.
- 4.86 Policy CP4 also requires new development to consider the protection and enhancement of local biodiversity, as well as the historic environment and any heritage assets. Therefore, minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity** and 9: **historic environment**.
- 4.87 As the policy requires developments to provide adequate external storage space for waste bins and recycling materials, it should encourage and facilitate higher levels of recycling and a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 15: **waste**.

Policy CP5: Environmental development principles for strategic sites

- 4.88 Core Policy CP5 sets out principles for the siting, design and construction of strategic development sites. It seeks to ensure that new development is located and designed to provide a sustainable form of development with low environmental impacts, and accessible via various modes of transport. It is likely that promoting modal shift should help to limit any increase in air pollution and carbon emissions resulting from new development and therefore positive effects are expected in relation to SA objective 10: **air quality** and SA objective 14: **climate change**. As the policy also requires that strategic development should contribute to the achievement of minimising net greenhouse gas emissions, the positive effect expected in relation to SA objective 14 is likely to

be significant. Encouraging modal shift in the plan area is also likely to have benefits relating to public health and therefore a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 2: **health**.

- 4.89 Development is required to be provided at an appropriate density that is acceptable in terms of townscape, character, and amenity. Therefore, minor positive effects are expected in relation SA objective 8: **landscapes/townscapes** and SA objective 9: **historic environment**. Strategic development sites should also provide access to key services and community facilities. By promoting development at sustainable locations that will not have adverse effects on the District's character, the policy is also likely to help protect the sense of satisfaction that residents have with their surroundings. As such minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objective 5: **vibrant communities** and SA objective 6: **services and facilities**.
- 4.90 The policy also requires that development applications for strategic sites incorporate sustainable construction principles. These include the minimisation of waste and maximisation of recycling. A minor positive effect is therefore expected in relation to SA objective 15: **waste**, Strategic development should also help to achieve efficient use of water and should also incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems. Minor positive effects are therefore expected in relation to SA objectives 11: **water quality**, and 12: **flooding**.

Policy CP6: Infrastructure and developer contributions

- 4.91 Core Policy CP6 aims to ensure that the District's infrastructure needs are met, with developers to be expected to make required infrastructure provision for communities affected by the delivery of new development. Meeting infrastructure needs in the District is to be secured through the review of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP), implementation of a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and negotiation of planning obligations.
- 4.92 Developer contributions secured in this manner are likely to help to maintain a high standard of living conditions in the plan area. It is likely that infrastructure improvements associated with the transport network would support economic activity would therefore encourage inward investment in the District. Therefore, minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objective SA objective 5: **vibrant communities**, and SA objective 17: **economic growth**. While the policy states that the scale and nature of provision will have regard to viability considerations, requirements of this nature may result in some areas becoming less attractive to potential investors, dependent upon their specific decision making. It is likely, however, that similar contributions would be required in other local authority areas and therefore the potential for economic investment in Stroud is not likely to be unduly affected by the policy requirements.
- 4.93 The provision and funding of new infrastructure over the plan period is expected to include new services and facilities for local communities affected by new development. This may include new facilities which support public health (such as GP surgeries) and therefore minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objective 2: **health** and SA objective 6: **services and facilities**. New infrastructure is also likely to include road improvements as well as new sustainable transport links and therefore mixed minor positive and minor negative effect are expected in relation to SA objective 10: **air quality** and SA objective 14: **climate change**.

SA Findings for Draft Plan Policies: homes and communities

- 4.94 The Draft Plan contains five Core Policies and 15 Delivery Policies which set out the approach to delivering accessible, healthy and inclusive communities across the District, as well as meeting the District's housing needs in the most sustainable way. This section presents the SA findings for the policies included in this chapter of the Draft Plan, with the effects of the Core Policies described first, followed by those relating to the Delivery Policies.
- 4.95 The potential sustainability effects of Core Policies DCP2 and CP7 to CP10 are described below.

Table 4.5 SA findings for the Core Policies relating to homes and communities

SA Objective	DCP2 – Supporting Older People	CP7 – Lifetime Communities	CP8 – New Housing Development	CP9 – Affordable Housing	CP10 – Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Sites
SA 1: Housing	+	++	++	++	++
SA 2: Health	++	+	+	0	0
SA 3: Social inclusion	++	++	+	+	+
SA 4: Crime	0	0	0	0	0
SA 5: Vibrant communities	+	+	+	+	+
SA 6: Services and facilities	+	+	+	+	+
SA 7: Biodiversity/geodiversity	0	0	+	+	0
SA 8: Landscapes/townscapes	0	0	+	+	0
SA 9: Historic environment	0	0	+	+	0
SA 10: Air quality	0	+	+	0	0
SA 11: Water quality	0	0	0	0	0
SA 12: Flooding	0	0	0	0	+
SA 13: Efficient land use	0	0	0	0	0
SA 14: Climate change	0	+	+	0	0
SA 15: Waste	0	0	0	0	+
SA 16: Employment	0	0	0	0	0
SA 17: Economic growth	0	0	+	0	0

Policy DCP2: Supporting Older People

- 4.96 Policy DCP2 seeks to support older people in the District by encouraging development that provides a range of housing options and that will allow elderly people to live independently in their own home, with good access to care and support services. As such, a minor positive effect is expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 1: **housing**. For SA objective 3: **social inclusion** a significant positive effect is expected for this policy as it contributes to meeting the

needs of an ageing population and also seeks to increase the engagement of older people in community life. This is likely to increase the satisfaction of elderly people with the neighbourhood they live in and could present opportunities for them to engage in cultural activities. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 5: **vibrant communities**.

- 4.97 The policy also seeks to promote more active lifestyles among older residents in the District, which combined with good access to care and support services, is likely to bring about positive effects in terms of their health and well-being. A significant positive effect is therefore expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 2: **health** and a minor positive effect is likely for SA objective 6: **services and facilities**.

Policy CP7: Lifetime Communities

- 4.98 Policy CP7 requires that new housing development should contribute to the provision of sustainable and inclusive communities by ensuring that housing meets the needs of a range of people in the District, including an ageing population, children/young people and families, people with special needs and minority groups. As such, a significant positive effect is expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 1: **housing** due to the contribution that the policy is likely to make towards meeting a variety of housing needs. A significant positive effect is also expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 3: **social inclusion** as the policy is strongly focussed on promoting inclusive communities. This includes ensuring that community services that cater for health and wellbeing are easily accessible for elderly people and people with special needs. As such, a minor positive effect is also expected in relation to SA objective 2: **health**. More generally, the aforementioned provisions may also result in greater satisfaction of people with the neighbourhoods they live in. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 5: **vibrant communities**.
- 4.99 The policy promotes housing development that will provide well-coordinated service provision that will meet the needs of residents in the long-term. As such, a minor positive effect is expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 6: **services and facilities**. The requirement for developers to demonstrate that they will satisfy community needs is likely to result help promote good levels of access to day-to-day provisions, which may reduce the need for residents to travel further afield. As such, minor positive effects are expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 10: **air quality** and SA objective 14: **climate change**. As well as access to services, the policy also requires that development proposals should contribute to meeting the needs of those with a long-standing family, educational or employment connection to the area.

Policy CP8: New Housing Development

- 4.100 Policy CP8 sets out that a range of different types, tenures and sizes of housing should be delivered to reflect the requirements of the Parish Cluster areas in Stroud. It does not set the overall level of growth to be delivered at different locations in the District, which is instead addressed through Policy CP2. The policy is likely to have a significant positive effect in relation to SA objective 1: **housing** as it states that new development should be considerate of housing needs in the District in line with the Local Housing Needs Assessment. The criteria of the policy will combine to ensure that the new housing provided in the District is of high quality.
- 4.101 The policy furthermore requires that new housing should be of a density that is acceptable in amenity terms. As the policy is likely to help meet the needs of local people in terms of housing and will also help support residential satisfaction with their neighbourhoods a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 5: **vibrant communities**.
- 4.102 The policy also requires that the layout of new residential developments should facilitate access to key services and community facilities. As such, a minor positive effect is expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 6: **services and facilities**. Access to services should be secured by bus, bicycle and foot. As well as having beneficial impacts in terms of encouraging increasing levels of physical activity, this approach also should help to reduce reliance on travel by private vehicle. The policy also seeks to encourage the use of sustainable construction techniques as well as the promotion of development which would incorporate renewable or low carbon energy sources and infrastructure to limit greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. Therefore, minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 2: **health**, 10: **air quality** and 14:

climate change. In addition, a minor positive effect is expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 3: **social inclusion** as it is likely that providing good access to services and community facilities may help to decrease the potential for social isolation at new housing developments.

- 4.103 The policy requires housing developments to enhance biodiversity onsite, including through the provision of multifunctional green spaces. In light of this requirement, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity**. The policy also requires that new development is provided at a density that is acceptable in terms of the existing townscape and local environment character. As such minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objective 8: **landscapes/townscapes** and SA objective 9: **historic environment**.
- 4.104 A minor positive effect is also expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 16: **employment** as the policy includes provisions to ensure that new housing developments support accessibility to employment opportunities.

Policy CP9: Affordable Housing

- 4.105 Policy CP9 sets out the requirement for affordable housing provision in the Cotswolds AONB, selected rural parishes and other areas of Stroud. A mixed significant positive and uncertain minor negative effect is identified for the policy in relation to SA objective 1: **housing** as the policy includes a requirement that there is provision of at least 30% affordable housing at sites capable of delivering 10 dwellings or more across the District. In addition, the policy also includes a more stringent requirement for sites in the AONB or the designated rural parishes. This approach is likely to help meet the need for 425 affordable dwellings per annum over the plan period.
- 4.106 The policy also states that the density of new affordable housing provision should be acceptable in townscape, local environment, character and amenity terms. These requirements should help to ensure new developments are of a quality as to be highly liveable, would not have adverse ecological impacts and are respectful of existing landscape character and the setting of heritage assets. As such minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 5: **vibrant communities**, 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity**, 8: **landscapes/townscapes** and 9: **historic environment**. It is expected that the delivery of affordable housing in Stroud will help to ensure that the needs of groups which otherwise might be unable to access affordable housing in the area are provided for. A minor positive effect is therefore also expected in relation to SA objective 3: **social inclusion**.

Policy CP10: Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Sites

- 4.107 Policy CP10 seeks to address the requirement for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople uses in line with the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment for the District. A significant positive effect is expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 1: **housing** as the delivery of seven additional pitches and eight to twelve additional plots for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople respectively is expected to contribute to meeting the accommodation needs of these groups in the District. This should also help promote social inclusion in the plan area. As such a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 3: **social inclusion**.
- 4.108 In addition, the policy also includes a requirement for any new sites to be located in locations where there is good access to local amenities and services, which includes health centres. As such, a minor positive effect is identified for the policy in relation to SA objectives 6: **services and facilities** and 2: **health**. The policy also states that new sites should not have adverse impacts in terms of neighbouring residential amenity. This will help contribute to the creation of high-quality places in Stroud and therefore a minor positive effect is recorded in relation to SA objective 5: **vibrant communities**.
- 4.109 The policy requires that any new sites are sited at locations which would allow for surface water drainage and that sites should not be within unacceptable flood risk areas. As such a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 12: **flooding**. Sites for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople should also allow for on-site waste disposal and therefore a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 15: **waste**.

4.110 The likely sustainability effects of Delivery Policies DHC1 to DHC7 are described below.

Table 4.6 SA findings for the first group of Delivery Policies relating to homes and communities

SA Objective	DHC1 – Meeting housing need within defined settlements	DHC2 – Sustainable rural communities	DHC3 – Live-work development	DHC4 – Community-led housing	DHC5 – Wellbeing and healthy communities	DHC6 – Protection of existing open spaces and built and indoor sports facilities	DHC7 – Provision of new open space and built and indoor sports facilities
SA 1: Housing	++	++	+	++	0	0	0
SA 2: Health	+/-	-	+	+	++	++	++
SA 3: Social inclusion	0	+	0	+	+	0	0
SA 4: Crime	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA 5: Vibrant communities	+	+	0	+	+	+	+
SA 6: Services and facilities	+/-	+/-	+	+	+	+	+
SA 7: Biodiversity/geodiversity	0	0	0	+	0	+	+
SA 8: Landscapes/townscapes	0	+/-?	0	0	0	+	+
SA 9: Historic environment	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
SA 10: Air quality.	+/-	-	+	0	+	0	+
SA 11: Water quality	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA 12: Flooding	0	0	0	0	0	+	+
SA 13: Efficient land use	0	-	0	0	0	+	0
SA 14: Climate change	+/-	-	+	+	+	0	+
SA 15: Waste	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA 16: Employment	+/-	0	+	0	0	0	0
SA 17: Economic growth	0	0	+	0	0	0	0

Policy DHC1: Meeting housing need within defined settlements

- 4.111 Policy DHC1 sets out that at the defined settlements permission will be granted for residential development or redevelopment subject to meeting criteria for local housing need at the relevant settlement. A significant positive effect is therefore identified for the policy in relation to SA objective 1: **housing** as it is likely to help ensure that the housing need for individual settlements in Stroud are met over the plan period.
- 4.112 This approach is likely to help safeguard and enhance the identity of the District’s existing communities and settlements, by focussing much of the new development over the plan period at existing settlements. As such a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 5: **vibrant communities**.

4.113 The settlements of the District generally provide the highest level of access to services and facilities, particularly in comparison to rural locations. It is noted, however, that the lower order settlements (Tier 3b and lower) provide poorer access to key services and facilities, as well as employment opportunities. Considering that the policy addresses all the settlements with defined settlement development limits (i.e. all those settlements in the settlement hierarchy but not the very small settlements which are to be treated as open countryside) it is likely that the policy would facilitate development at both larger and smaller settlements. Mixed minor positive and minor negative effects are therefore expected in relation to SA objective 6: **services and facilities** and SA objective 16: **employment**. The accessibility of services and facilities and employment opportunities from residential development will have a bearing on the potential to encourage modal shift in the District, including the uptake of active modes of transport. As such the policy is expected to have mixed minor positive and minor negative effects in relation to SA objective 2: **health** as well as SA objective 10: **air quality** and SA objective 14: **climate change**.

Policy DHC2: Sustainable rural communities

4.114 Policy DHC2 addresses the delivery of small housing schemes outside settlement development limits at designated Tier 4 settlements. The policy is likely to help support the delivery of new housing which is of the type, tenure and size to address housing needs at the smaller settlements of Stroud. Where affordable housing is required, in line with the relevant policy, this provision should be made available to those in need with a strong local connection. As such the policy should respond directly to the specific housing needs in the District as well as helping to address the social requirements of the local community. A significant positive effect is therefore expected in relation to SA objective 1: **housing** and a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 3: **social inclusion**.

4.115 The provision of development outside of the settlement development limits is to be limited to ensure cumulative increases are no more than 10% of settlement housing stock at 2020. This requirement should help to limit the potential for the existing identity of settlements to be disrupted. Furthermore, as the policy is supportive of the delivery of affordable housing for local need it is expected that benefits may result in terms of meeting the needs of people who might otherwise be priced out of living at certain settlements in Stroud. . As such a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 5: **vibrant communities**.

4.116 Impacts in terms of local character, landscape setting and loss of open countryside could result where development is located beyond the current settlement development limits, particularly considering the smaller sizes of these settlements. The policy requirement for development to be in accordance with the existing settlement pattern, the local environment, character and landscape setting of the settlement should, however, help to limit these effects. As such a mixed minor positive and minor negative effect is expected in relation to SA objective 8: **landscapes/townscapes**. The overall effect is uncertain given that the design of new development may provide opportunities to mitigate adverse impacts relating to landscape setting. Considering that development beyond settlement boundaries at smaller settlements would likely occur on greenfield land, a minor negative effect is also expected in relation to SA objective 13: **efficient land use**.

4.117 The more limited service offer at the smaller settlements will mean that new residents have reduced access to these types of provisions. However, providing new residential properties adjacent to the existing smaller settlements may have some positive effects in terms of helping provide critical mass to support new service provision, particularly in the long term. Therefore, a mixed minor positive and minor negative effect is expected in relation to SA objective 6: **services and facilities**. The requirement for new residents to travel longer distances to essential provisions is likely to reduce the potential for sustainable and active modes of transport to be used as development is provided. As such minor negative effects are also expected in relation to SA objectives 10: **air quality** and SA objective 14: **climate change**.

Policy DHC3: Live-work development

4.118 Policy DHC3 sets out criteria relating to the provision of live-work units in the District. Live-work units can make an important and flexible contribution to the rural economy. They can help to reduce commuting times to employment opportunities and may encourage diversified economic

investment in more rural area. As such, minor positive effects are expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 16: **employment** and SA objective 17: **economic growth**, recognising that the scale of live-work developments is very small. The policy includes criteria that the work element should be not ancillary to the dwelling and that residential use of such a building should not precede the business use. In addition, the policy includes a requirement that such proposals should not result in the loss of existing employment sites, which is likely protect exiting employment opportunities. A minor positive effect is also expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 1: **housing** due to the potential for live-work developments to contribute to an overall housing mix that will meet a range of needs.

- 4.119 Supporting development which could result in shorter commuting times in the District is likely to help the limit the release of air pollutants and carbon dioxide from transport related sources. Furthermore, the policy requires that this type of development is located within or adjoining settlement development limits which is likely to limit the need to travel to access day to day requirements, including services and facilities. Providing residents with a good level of access to day to day provisions may also help to promote the uptake of active modes of transport in Stroud. Minor positive effects are therefore expected in relation to SA objectives 2: **health**, 6: **services and facilities**, 10: **air quality** and 14: **climate change**.

Policy DHC4: Community-led housing

- 4.120 Policy DHC4 supports the development of new community-led housing in the District. The provision of new homes in line with this policy may include affordable housing, co-housing, community self-build and housing for elderly/disabled people. As such the policy is likely to help support the delivery of range of housing types to help meet local needs. A significant positive effect is therefore identified for the policy in relation to SA objective 1: **housing**. A minor positive effect is also expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 3: **social inclusion** due to the potential for the housing needs of more vulnerable groups of people to be met through these types of schemes. By supporting the successful functioning of legitimate local community groups in Stroud, the policy is also likely to help promote a sense of ownership among residents and therefore a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 5: **vibrant communities**.
- 4.121 Opportunities for improvements to resident's health and wellbeing are promoted through Policy DHC4, given its support for the inclusion of space for food growing and recreation within community-led housing developments. Therefore, a minor positive effect is identified in relation to SA objective 2: **health**. The policy is also supportive of proposals which would include community buildings and space for wildlife and therefore minor positive effects are also expected in relation to SA objectives 6: **services and facilities** and 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity**.
- 4.122 As well as delivering benefits to the communities of Stroud in terms of supporting housing delivery for particular groups, the policy may contribute to limiting carbon missions as the policy is particularly supportive of new proposals which contribute to meeting the Council's carbon neutral developments targets. Therefore, a minor positive effect is identified for the policy in relation to SA objective 14: **climate change**.

Policy DHC5: Wellbeing and healthy communities

- 4.123 Policy DHC5 seeks to improve the health and wellbeing of local communities by supporting proposals that encourage healthier lifestyles and more sustainable neighbourhoods. Developments on strategic allocation sites should include a robust Health Impact Assessment (HIA) to help mitigate any potentially adverse effects on the health and wellbeing of new or existing communities, and major developments are required to meet various criteria to ensure the health and wellbeing of residents. Therefore, a significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 2: **health**.
- 4.124 The policy aims to ensure that developments support the mental and physical wellbeing of all residents, including people with disabilities, by encouraging safe and active lifestyles. As well as helping to meet the needs of most sections of the local community the policy is therefore also expected to improve the satisfaction of people within their neighbourhoods as places to live. Therefore, minor positive effects are likely in relation to SA objectives 3: **social inclusion** and 5: **vibrant communities**.

- 4.125 Policy DHC5 also seeks to ensure that proposals provide convenient and sustainable access to local health care facilities. The policy supports the co-location of health facilities with other services and facilities, which could further reduce the need to travel. Therefore, minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 6: **services and facilities**, 10: **air quality** and SA objective 14: **climate change**.
- 4.126 The policy aims to improve access to fresh and locally sourced food. This approach is not only likely to benefit local health and well-being but could also further limit detrimental impacts relating to air quality and carbon emissions by reducing food miles.

Policy DHC6: Protection of existing open spaces and built and indoor sports facilities

- 4.127 Policy DHC6 seeks to protect against the loss of existing open space within settlements, as well as outdoor and indoor recreation and sports facilities, unless there is a surplus in the catchment area, or replacement of the facility is provided to benefit the community. The policy should therefore help to ensure that there is sufficient open space and sport facilities for people living in the local community, which is likely to help secure benefits relating to mental and physical health. Significant positive effects are therefore expected in relation to SA objective 2: **health**. The policy should also help to protect local community facilities and provide residents with high quality living conditions; therefore minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objective 5: **vibrant communities**, and SA objective 6: **services and facilities**.
- 4.128 The policy also aims to ensure that no harm is caused by new development to spaces or facilities that form part of an area of wildlife value or green corridor. A minor positive effect is therefore expected in relation to SA objective 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity**.
- 4.129 The policy approach seeks to ensure that new development does not cause any harm to spaces or facilities that contribute to the identity of the settlement. This approach is considerate of open spaces which contribute to the setting of important buildings or scheduled ancient monuments, or spaces that are of historic or cultural value. As such, minor positive effects are recorded in relation to SA objectives 8: **landscape/townscape** and 9: **historic environments**.
- 4.130 Maintaining areas of open space in Stroud will protect areas which have an important function in terms of allowing the infiltration of surface water. A minor positive effect is therefore expected in relation to SA objective 12: **flooding**. Limiting development on greenfield land, as a result of protecting open spaces, may also direct more new development to brownfield land and therefore a minor positive effect is also expected in relation to SA objective 13: **efficient land use**.
- 4.131 Protecting existing open spaces in Stroud may result in certain areas being deemed unsuitable for new development which developers might otherwise consider viable. However, it is expected that a suitable number of sites will be identified in the other locations in the District to provide for the required housing need over the plan period. It is also likely that sites can be identified to provide economic growth aligned to the identified level of residential development. Therefore, the policy is not expected to an adverse impact in terms of housing or employment land delivery.

Policy DHC7: Provision of new open spaces and built and indoor sports facilities

- 4.132 Policy DHC7 sets out quantity and access standards for open space and indoor sports facilities in relation to new residential development in Stroud. Ensuring that people have appropriate access to these types of facilities is likely to help enhance the mental and physical wellbeing and the overall health of local people. A significant positive effect is therefore expected in relation to SA objective 2: **health**. A minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 6: **services and facilities**.
- 4.133 Requiring residential developments to provide new open space and sports facilities as well as linking to any existing provisions is likely to help ensure that residents experience a high-quality environment. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 5: **vibrant communities**. It is likely that where new natural green space is provided at residential developments, this could allow for ecological improvements, including improved habitat provision and connectivity. As such a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity**. The incorporation of areas of open space may also improve the setting of built development; therefore a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 8: **landscape/townscape**. Areas of open space within new developments will also

prevent the proliferation of impermeable surfaces in Stroud, to the benefit of local flood risk management. A minor positive effect is therefore expected in relation to SA objective 12: **flooding**.

- 4.134 Requiring residential development to have a good level of access to nearby open spaces and sports facilities is also likely to reduce the need to travel, including by private vehicle, in the plan area. Minor positive effects are therefore expected in relation to SA objectives 10: **air quality** and 14: **climate change**.
- 4.135 The likely sustainability effects of Delivery Policies HC1 to HC8 are described below.

Table 4.7 SA findings for the second group of Delivery Policies relating to homes and communities

SA Objective	HC1 – Detailed criteria for new housing developments	HC2 – Providing new homes above shops in our own centres	HC3 – Self-build and custom build housing provision	HC4 – Local housing need (exception sites)	HC5 – Replacement dwellings	HC6 – Residential sub-division of dwellings	HC7 – Annexes for dependents or carers	HC8 – Extensions to dwellings
SA 1: Housing	++	+	++	++	+	+	+	+
SA 2: Health	+	+	0	+/-	0	+/-	+	0
SA 3: Social inclusion	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0
SA 4: Crime	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA 5: Vibrant communities	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+
SA 6: Services and facilities	0	+	+	+/-	0	+	0	0
SA 7: Biodiversity/geodiversity	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA 8: Landscapes/townscapes	+	0	0	-?	+	+	0	+
SA 9: Historic environment	+	0	0	-?	+	+	0	+
SA 10: Air quality.	-?	+	0	+/-	0	+/-	0	0
SA 11: Water quality	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA 12: Flooding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA 13: Efficient land use	0	+	0	-	0	+	+	0
SA 14: Climate change	-?	+	0	+/-	+	+/-	0	+
SA 15: Waste	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
SA 16: Employment	0	+	0	+/-	0	+	0	0
SA 17: Economic growth	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0

Policy HC1: Detailed criteria for new housing developments

- 4.136 Policy HC1 sets out detailed criteria which new housing developments within Stroud District should meet. An appropriate variety of dwelling types and sizes to meet local needs is included in the requirements of the policy, and the other criteria will combine to ensure that new housing is of high quality. As such, a significant positive effect is expected for the policy in relation to SA

objective 1: **housing**. Policy HC1 requires that housing should be compatible with the character and uses of the part of the settlement in which it would be located. The policy also requires that development on settlement edges should be sympathetic and in keeping with the existing settlement and should avoid coalescence with other settlements in the area. As such, a minor positive effect is expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 8: **landscapes/townscapes**. These measures are also likely to help protect the setting of nearby heritage assets, which could otherwise be negatively impacted by development in inappropriate locations. Therefore, a minor positive effect is also expected in relation to SA objective 9: **historic environment**.

- 4.137 The policy also requires that development should provide a suitable level of amenity, ensuring that safe access and parking that is appropriate to the site is provided. As this approach should help to contribute to residential satisfaction in the District, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 5: **vibrant communities**. However, by including parking requirements for new residential developments, the potential for achieving modal shift may be limited. As such minor negative effects are expected in relation to SA objective 10: **air quality** and SA objective 14: **climate change**. As the policy states that parking provided should be appropriate to the site and its surroundings, the effect is uncertain. Interpretation of the policy may allow for a limited amount of parking in certain circumstances.
- 4.138 Whilst the main focus of the policy relates to the layout and design of new residential development, it also includes preventative measures to ensure that key areas of open space and locally valued habitats are preserved. As such, a minor positive effect is expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity**. The protection of open spaces within housing developments is likely to preserve opportunities for recreation and sporting activities. Therefore, a minor positive effect is also expected in relation to SA objective 2: **health**.

Policy HC2: Providing new homes above shops in our town centres

- 4.139 Policy HC2 relates to residential use of upper levels of shops and offices in the town and local centres of the District. A minor positive effect is identified for the policy in relation to SA objective 1: **housing** due to the potential contribution of such homes to meeting the District's housing need. Considering that the policy requires that new development of this type should not threaten the vitality of town centres, a minor positive effect is also expected in relation to SA objective 5: **vibrant communities**. It is also likely that this approach would also help to promote higher levels of footfall within the town centres of the District. In addition, a minor positive effect is also expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 6: **services and facilities** as residential units in town and local centres would have good access to services. A minor positive effect is also expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 13: **efficient land use** as the policy promotes the provision of residential development on previously used land opposed to greenfield sites.
- 4.140 The delivery of residential development within existing town centres may contribute to their viability due to additional expenditure in the area by residents. In addition, residential development within existing town centres is likely to be in close proximity to employment opportunities that can be accessed by residents using sustainable modes of transport. As such, minor positive effects are expected for the policy in relation to SA objectives 16: **employment** and 17: **economic growth**. The potential for residents of such properties to travel more by sustainable modes of transport is also likely to help reduce car use and minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 10: **air quality** and 14: **climate change**. Higher levels of walking and cycling could also result in a minor positive effect in relation to SA objective 2: **health**.

Policy HC3: Self-build and custom build housing provision

- 4.141 Policy HC3 provides support for self-build and custom build dwellings. A significant positive effect is expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 1: **housing** considering that it is supportive of meeting the Government's aspirations to increase self-build developments, subject to identified local demand. Supporting such developments should also help to ensure that housing is able to be provided to meet specific needs, and the policy requires that homes are built to cater for changing lifetime needs.
- 4.142 It is possible that the delivery of new self-build and custom build housing adjacent to (rather than within) settlement development limits would result in impacts relating to landscape setting as well

as settlement form. However, these effects are likely to be negligible considering that such developments would be single plot.

- 4.143 The policy includes a requirement for self-build and custom build housing to be provided with appropriate linkages to infrastructure and amenities. As such a minor positive effect is expected for in relation to SA objective 6: **services and facilities**.

Policy HC4: Local housing need (exception sites)

- 4.144 Policy HC4 addresses the provision of affordable homes on sites that are not within but are well related to existing settlements. A significant positive effect is expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 1: **housing** due to the potential for local housing needs to be met on rural exception sites, with a particular focus on delivering affordable housing, including self-build or custom build. Housing development on exception sites could potentially have adverse impacts in terms of access to services and employment opportunities and requirements to travel longer distances on a regular basis, as well as additional environmental impacts. It is also likely that residents at more rural locations will be less likely to travel by active modes of transport considering the reduced level of access to essential day to day provisions from these locations. However, the policy suggests that, in the first instance, sites should be considered at locations adjacent to Tier 3 settlements. Development sites are required to be accessible to a range of local services, such as shops, primary schools, healthcare and public transport. As such, mixed (minor positive and minor) negative effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 2: **health**, 6: **services and facilities**, 10: **air quality**, 14: **climate change** and 16: **employment**.
- 4.145 The policy suggests that local need should be met at Tier 4 settlements in cases where specific local need and environmental considerations limit potential at a Tier 3 settlement. This considered, it is likely that allowing new residential development close to, or adjoining smaller settlements has the potential to disturb the existing character. This may include impacts on the setting of heritage assets at these locations. As such, minor negative effects are expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 8: **landscapes/townscapes** SA objective 9: **historic environment**. These effects are uncertain given that the specific siting and design of new development may provide opportunities to mitigate adverse impacts.
- 4.146 A minor negative effect is also expected for Policy HC4 in relation to SA objective 13: **efficient land use**. Delivering housing outside of settlement boundaries would result in some development occurring on greenfield land, although this would be small-scale.

Policy HC5: Replacement dwellings

- 4.147 Delivery Policy HC5 sets out criteria for the replacement of dwelling houses outside defined settlement development limits. The policy permits the provision of a replacement dwelling which is slightly larger than the original where this would allow for basic living standards to be achieved. The policy is therefore expected to make a minor contribution to achieving decent housing stock at rural locations of the District. As a result, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 1: **housing**.
- 4.148 The policy requires that replacement dwellings should not detract from the character and appearance of their surroundings. The building which is to be replaced should also not be a designated or non-designated heritage asset. As such the policy is expected to help conserve the existing character and elements which contribute to the historic environment in the District. Therefore, minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 8: **landscapes/townscapes** and 9: **historic environment**.
- 4.149 The policy also requires that the replacement dwelling should be a similar size to the existing dwelling with only some minor enlargements allowed for in certain circumstances. This includes when exceptional sustainable construction standards would be incorporated at the replacement dwelling. As such a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 14: **climate change**. The policy is only supportive of homes which would be replacements and therefore is unlikely to support a net change in the number of people living rurally. Therefore no change is likely in terms of the number of residents required to travel longer distances on a regular basis and the policy is unlikely to have a direct effect relating to air quality...

Policy HC6: Residential sub-division of dwellings

- 4.150 Policy HC6 sets out criteria relating to the sub-division of existing dwellings into two or more self-contained residential units.
- 4.151 A minor positive effect is expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 1: **housing** as it sets out requirements which would minimise the potential for unfit accommodation to result from inappropriate sub-division of properties. The protection that the policy includes for residential amenity (including issues of privacy and loss of daylight) is also likely to help ensure residential satisfaction with local living conditions and therefore a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 5: **vibrant communities**.
- 4.152 Proposals for sub-division of properties are required to have regard to the relationship of the development site to the Plan's settlement hierarchy, including accessibility to shops, services and facilities. As such, the policy is likely to help provide new residents with a good level of access to employment opportunities and services and facilities at existing settlements. This approach is likely to help limit the need to travel by car and may encourage travel by active modes which could benefit public health. As such, minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 2: **health**, 6: **services and facilities**, 10: **air quality**, 14: **climate change** and 16: **employment**. However, as the policy also requires that adequate vehicular access and car parking are provided at new developments of this type, the potential impact on modal shift may be limited. Therefore, the minor positive effects expected in relation to SA objectives 2: **health**, 10: **air quality** and 14: **climate** are likely to be combined with minor negative effects.
- 4.153 Minor positive effects are expected for the policy in relation to SA objectives 8: **landscapes/townscapes** and 9: **historic environment**. The policy requires that sub-divisions should be considerate of the potential impact on the character and appearance of the immediate neighbourhood in terms of design, scale, form and footprint, and prevents any significant increase in size. These requirements should help to protect landscape character, as well as the setting of heritage assets. The policy also requires the provision of refuse storage, which may help to facilitate higher levels of recycling and a minor positive effect is also expected in relation to SA objective 15: **waste**.
- 4.154 Allowing for the sub-division of existing dwellings, where living conditions are to be maintained to a high standard, is seen as an efficient use of land in the District. A minor positive effect is therefore also expected for this policy in relation to SA objective 13: **efficient land use**.

Policy HC7: Annexes for dependents or carers

- 4.155 Policy HC7 addresses the development of annexes to accommodate dependants or full-time carers. Minor positive effects are expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 1: **housing** as the policy would help to make existing properties suitable for those who would need a full-time carer. This type of provision is likely to help address the needs of specific groups in Stroud District including older people and people with disabilities. Therefore, a minor positive effect is also expected in relation to SA objective 3: **social inclusion**. As the policy is likely to provide housing which is suitable for people with health problems a minor positive effect is also expected in relation to SA objective 2: **health**.
- 4.156 By requiring new annexes to be closely related to the main dwelling and have shared access arrangements, it is likely that the amenity of surrounding properties would be maintained. As such a minor positive effect is also expected in relation to SA objective 5: **vibrant communities**. Allowing for annexes for dependents is likely to make best use of the existing housing stock in Stroud District, limiting the need for the delivery of new specialist housing. A minor positive effect is therefore also expected in relation to SA objective 13: **efficient land use**.

Policy HC8: Extensions to dwellings

- 4.157 Policy HC8 sets out criteria relating to the extension of or alterations to residential properties.
- 4.158 A minor positive effect is expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 1: **housing** considering that it should help to ensure the quality of the housing stock and allows for appropriate extensions to meet the needs of residents. The policy would prevent development which would result in sites becoming overdeveloped or cramped. This is likely to help ensure residential amenity as well as a higher standard of living conditions are maintained for

surrounding buildings as well as for future occupiers of the site. As such a minor positive effect is also expected in relation to SA objective 5: **vibrant communities**.

- 4.159 Minor positive effects are also expected for the policy in relation to SA objectives 8: **landscapes/townscapes** and 9: **historic environment**. The policy is expected to help ensure that any potential extensions to existing residential development are in keeping with the scale and character of the existing setting of the property.
- 4.160 As the policy requires proposals for extensions to take opportunities for enhancing energy efficiency, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 14: **climate change**.

SA Findings for Draft Plan Policies: economy and infrastructure

- 4.161 The Draft Plan contains three Core Policies and 16 Delivery Policies which set out the approach to achieving sustainable economic growth, and the delivery of jobs and infrastructure throughout the District. Due to the relatively large number of policies included in this chapter of the Draft Plan, the presentation of effects is divided between those relating to the Core Policies and those relating to the Delivery Policies.
- 4.162 The potential sustainability effects of Core Policies CP11 to CP13 are set out below.

Table 4.8 SA findings for the Core Policies relating to economy and infrastructure

SA Objective	CP11 – New employment development	CP12 – Town centres and retailing	CP13 – Demand management and sustainable travel measures
SA 1: Housing	+?	+	0
SA 2: Health	0	+	+
SA 3: Social inclusion	0	+	+
SA 4: Crime	0	0	0
SA 5: Vibrant communities	0	+	+
SA 6: Services and facilities	0	++	+
SA 7: Biodiversity/geodiversity	+	0	0
SA 8: Landscapes/townscapes	+	0	0
SA 9: Historic environment	+	0	0
SA 10: Air quality.	+/-	+	++/-
SA 11: Water quality	0	0	0
SA 12: Flooding	+	0	0
SA 13: Efficient land use	+/-	0	0
SA 14: Climate change	+/-	+	++/-
SA 15: Waste	0	0	0
SA 16: Employment	++	+	+
SA 17: Economic growth	++	+	+

Policy CP11: New employment development

- 4.163 Policy CP11 seeks to ensure that a range and choice of employment sites are available to allow for a degree of self-containment at the District's settlements. Mixed use at existing employment sites is to be permitted where the employment use of part of the site would be intensified. This could allow for sites of this nature to contribute to housing requirements in Stroud District, dependent

upon the types of proposals which come forward. As such an uncertain minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 1: **housing**.

- 4.164 This policy is supportive of new or intensification of existing industrial or business uses where green infrastructure delivery is incorporated. This is likely to have ecological benefits, in terms of providing new habitat or allowing for habitat connectivity and therefore a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity**. Employment development is also required by Policy CP11 to be of a scale or type that would not harm the character or appearance of the site. It is likely that this element of the policy would help to ensure that new employment development is provided in a manner which protects landscape setting and the setting of heritage assets in the plan area. Minor positive effects are therefore expected in relation to SA objective 8: **landscape/townscape** and SA objective 9: **historic environment**.
- 4.165 The policy supports diversification of the rural economy, which could result in less sustainable locations coming forward for employment development and potentially longer distances travelled to work. However, the policy supports live-work units and requires new and intensified employment uses to be accessible by public transport which could limit the need to travel by private vehicle. Furthermore, the policy also promotes employment development which makes use of renewable energy sources and adapts to climate change. A mixed minor positive and minor negative effect is therefore expected in relation to SA objective 10: **air quality** and SA objective 14: **climate change**. As new employment development should include adaptations to climate change, including SuDS, a minor positive effect is also expected in relation to SA objective 12: **flooding**. As the policy provides for a mix of new strategic site allocations as well as intensification of existing employment sites, there is likely to be some use of greenfield sites and previously developed land. As such a mixed minor positive and minor negative effect is also expected in relation to SA objective 13: **land use**.
- 4.166 The overall aim of the policy is to support sustainable employment growth in Stroud District. This includes the allocation of strategic employment sites which will provide an increased level of certainty for local employers who may be considering investment. The achievement of more self-contained settlements in terms of access to jobs will help to ensure a higher proportion of residents have a good level of access to employment opportunities. Access to employment opportunities for people at more rural locations is also supported through diversification of the rural economy. As such significant positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 16: **employment** and SA objectives 17: **economic growth**.

Policy CP12: Town centres and retailing

- 4.167 Policy CP12 sets out a retail hierarchy which will determine the location of town centre uses. The policy seeks to widen the range of uses within the District's centres, which will include housing where appropriate. This policy could therefore help contribute to meeting the housing needs of Stroud District and a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 1: **housing**.
- 4.168 The retail hierarchy set out for the District seeks to guide the delivery of town centre uses to the most appropriate location. Those town centres at the top of the hierarchy are those which accommodate the largest proportion of residents and at which the service offer is strongest, including healthcare and other community facilities. It is expected that continuing to focus the majority of town centre uses in these areas would provide the highest number of residents with easy access to a wide range of services and facilities and may enable people to take a smaller number of trips and make more use of active modes of travel. Providing good access to services and facilities may also promote sense of community ownership and cohesion among residents. Minor positive effects are therefore expected for SA objectives 2: **health**, and 3: **social inclusion**. The positive effects expected in relation to SA objectives 5: **vibrant communities** and 6: **service and facilities** are likely to be significant considering that the policy directly addresses town centre vitality and uses at these locations which is likely to include shopping and new services to meet the day-to-day needs of residents.
- 4.169 Focussing most town centre uses at the settlements which have the strongest sustainable transport links is likely to reduce the need to travel by car. Considering the contribution that private vehicle travel makes towards air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, minor positive effects are therefore expected in relation to SA objectives 10: **air quality** and 14: **climate change**. The policy allows for retail and other uses at locations which are not in line with the

retail hierarchy where unsustainable trip generation would not result, which should help to ensure that adverse impacts relating to these SA objectives should be limited. In addition, new local centres will be established within large new settlements and urban extensions, where they are not within easy walking distance of existing shops and services.

- 4.170 Focussing most town centre uses at the District's larger centres will also direct the associated employment opportunities to those areas. Considering that these are the areas which are considered to be most accessible to the highest number of residents in the District a minor positive effect is therefore expected in relation to SA objectives 16: **employment**. It is expected that the policy would also help to encourage footfall to the town centre locations and thereby support the contribution of these locations to the economy of Stroud District. Considering that the overarching purpose of the policy is to ensure the vitality of town centres which contribute substantially to success of the local economy, a significant positive effect is also expected in relation to SA objectives 17: **economic growth**.

Policy CP13: Demand management and sustainable travel measures

- 4.171 Policy CP13 requires major schemes to provide for a variety of forms of transport as alternatives to the car, and to improve the infrastructure network including facilities for pedestrians and cyclists. It is expected that increased uptake of these more active modes of transport could help improve public health in the District and therefore a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 2: **health**.
- 4.172 While this policy would not directly strengthen the provision of services and facilities in Stroud District, improving the transport network should indirectly help to improve access to these provisions. It is also expected that the policy would have associated benefits in terms of improved integrations, social cohesion and sense of ownership by improving access to services and facilities. Minor positive effects are therefore expected for Policy CP13 in relation to SA objectives 3: **social inclusion**, 5: **vibrant communities** and 6: **services and facilities**.
- 4.173 By requiring development proposals to consider opportunities for sustainable transport improvements before incorporating increases in road network capacity, it is likely this policy would have positive effects in terms of reducing congestion, air pollution and the release of greenhouse gases. The policy seeks to minimise the distance people need to travel and encourage modal shift. While it also requires development to make provisions which could facilitate ongoing car use, such as appropriate vehicular parking provision, the overall approach of the policy is to reduce car use and increase the use of sustainable transport. In addition, measures to avoid traffic related environmental problems should benefit air quality and help to avoid pockets of pollution. As such, significant positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 10: **air quality** and 14: **climate change**.
- 4.174 The measures in the policy seek to ensure that employment development is accessible for all residents, including those without access to a car. Improving infrastructure will also help to ensure the continued viability of the local economy. Minor positive effects are therefore expected for Policy CP13 in relation to SA objective 16: **employment** and SA objective 17: **economic growth**.

4.175 The potential sustainability effects of Delivery Policies EI1 to EI8 are described below.

Table 4.9 SA findings for the first group of Delivery Policies relating to economy and infrastructure

SA Objective	EI1 – Key employment sites	EI2 – Regenerating existing employment sites	EI2a – Former Berkeley Power Station	EI4 – Development at existing employment sites in the countryside	EI5 – Farm and forestry enterprise diversification	EI6 – Protecting individual and village shops, public houses and other community uses	EI7 – Non-retail uses in primary frontages	EI8 – Non-retail uses in secondary frontages
SA 1: Housing	0	+	0	+?	0	0	0	0
SA 2: Health	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+
SA 3: Social inclusion	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	+
SA 4: Crime	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA 5: Vibrant communities	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+/-?
SA 6: Services and facilities	+	+	0	0	0	++	0	+?
SA 7: Biodiversity/geodiversity	0	+/-?	--?	+?	+?	0	0	0
SA 8: Landscapes/townscapes	0	+/-?	?	+?	+?	0	0	+
SA 9: Historic environment	0	+/-?	--?	+?	+?	0	0	+
SA 10: Air quality.	+/-	+/-	-	+/-?	+/-?	+	0	+
SA 11: Water quality	-	+	0	0	+?	0	0	0
SA 12: Flooding	-	+/-?	-	+?	0	0	0	0
SA 13: Efficient land use	0	+	+	+/-	+	+	0	+
SA 14: Climate change	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-?	+/-?	+	0	+
SA 15: Waste	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA 16: Employment	++	++	++	++	+	+	0	+?
SA 17: Economic growth	++	++	++	++	++	0	+	+?

Policy EI1: Key employment sites

4.176 The policy sets out the key employment sites to be retained for B Class Uses in the District. These sites are located mostly at the M5 corridor (Junction 12) by (Quedgeley), Junction 13 by

Stonehouse and within the Stroud Valleys. Additional sites are located towards the southern part of the District by Cam and Dursley, by Berkeley and Sharpness and by Wotton-under-Edge. Many of the key employment sites are well-related to the larger settlements in the District including Tier 3a and higher order settlements which provide access to a good range of local services and facilities⁴⁰ which can be made use of by employees. Furthermore, it is stated in the policy that ancillary uses specifically designed to support the primary use of each site will be supported at these sites. This could include some new service provision. As such minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objective 5: **vibrant communities** and SA objective 6: **services and facilities**.

- 4.177 In addition to protecting existing employment uses, the policy would allow only for some ancillary uses specifically designed to support the primary use at the sites identified. It is not expected that this level of growth would have substantial additional effects in terms of the natural and built environmental over and above those which have already occurred.
- 4.178 Considering that many of the sites identified in this policy are well-related to the higher order settlements in District, it is likely that the employment opportunities provided at the sites will be accessible for a high number of residents and safeguarding employment uses in these locations may reduce the need for out commuting. These locations are likely to be those at which the potential for car-sharing or strengthening of sustainable transport provision is also likely to be strongest. Because the focus of the policy is on safeguarding existing employment sites, rather than new employment development, increases in air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions are not expected. Overall, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objectives 10: **air quality** and 14: **climate change**.
- 4.179 The policy focuses on safeguarding the existing key employment sites in the District but there could also be some additional employment development and the development of ancillary supporting uses at these locations. Some of the sites to the west by the River Severn (EK16) and within the Stroud Valleys along the River Frome contain portions of land which fall within flood zones 2 and 3. Furthermore some of the sites within the Stroud Valleys and the site by Minchinhampton also fall within a Source Protection Zone, meaning that construction works or any intensified employment use at the site could result in detrimental impacts in terms of a water quality. However, it is recognised that the sites are already in employment use and that the focus of the policy is on safeguarding rather than additional development. As such minor negative effects are expected in relation to SA objective 11: **water quality** and SA objective 12: **flooding**.
- 4.180 The policy approach would safeguard key employment sites which support economic growth in Stroud District. Land is to be protected for employment use at locations which allow for access to the motorway or A-roads and this is likely to prove attractive to future investors. Employment development at many of these locations is also easily accessible to the larger settlements and residents at these locations. As such significant positive effects are expected in relation to SA objective 16: **employment** and SA objective 17: **economic growth**.

Policy EI2: Regenerating existing employment sites

- 4.181 Policy EI2 would allow for regeneration of existing employment sites in the District for mixed-use development. This could include new housing provision and therefore a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 1: **housing**. As the policy could also support the provision of some new services and facilities as part of mixed use redevelopments, minor positive effects are also expected in relation to SA objectives 5: **vibrant communities** and 6: **services and facilities**.
- 4.182 The sites identified at which change of use would be allowed are mostly focussed within the Stroud Valleys by Stroud and Minchinhampton. These areas are in close proximity of Selsley Common SSSI, Minchinhampton Common SSSI and Rodborough Common SSSI and SAC. Redevelopment of these sites may therefore result in the potential for increased recreational pressures where new residential uses are proposed. The majority of sites are also located within the Industrial Heritage Conservation Area as well as within close proximity of the Cotswolds AONB, the extent of which encircles much of the Stroud Valleys. The policy states that redevelopment proposals at these sites should be able to demonstrate environmental and/or

⁴⁰ Stroud District Council (May 2019) Settlement Role and Function Study Update 2018

conservation benefits, which could have positive impacts in terms of habitat provision or landscape setting or the setting of heritage assets. As such mixed minor positive and minor negative effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity**, 8: **landscape/townscape** and 9: **historic environment**.

- 4.183 The redevelopment of the sites in question to provide mixed-use development is likely to result in the new residents at these locations having a reduced need to travel on a regular basis, as there would be services and facilities and potential employment opportunities within the site. As such, minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 10: **air quality** and 14: **climate change**. Allowing for the redevelopment of sites to support mixed use development is also likely to facilitate a more efficient pattern of development in Stroud District, particularly where some of the employment uses at these sites have ceased to be viable. As such a minor positive effect is also expected in relation to SA objective 13: **efficient land use**.
- 4.184 The requirement for redevelopment of the identified sites to demonstrate environmental and/or conservation benefits could include remediation relating to water courses in Stroud District. This may help to reduce local flood risk and the potential for water pollution as development proceeds. Many of the sites at which redevelopment would be supported are located within flood zone 2 and 3. The delivery of new housing development at these locations could increase the number of residents at risk of flooding in the District, depending on the incorporating of mitigation measures. As such a minor positive is expected in relation to SA objective 11: **water quality** and a mixed (minor positive and minor) negative effect is expected in relation to SA objective 12: **flooding** although this is uncertain.
- 4.185 The policy requires that redevelopment of the identified sites should provide the same employment opportunities for the local community as existed when the employment space was previously used. There should therefore be no net loss of employment space and the redevelopment of the sites could increase the quality of the employment space now provided which could help attract economic investment to the area. The policy is also likely to provide good access for residents at the housing at each site to new and existing employment opportunities. As such significant positive effects are expected in relation to SA objective 16: **employment** and SA objective 17: **economic growth**.

Policy EI2a: Former Berkeley Power Station

- 4.186 The policy retains the Former Berkeley Power Station for employment uses and for employment related training and education purposes. The site is being promoted by the GFirst LEP to create the Gloucestershire Science and Technology Park. It is adjacent to the Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar site, as well Summer House Grade II Listed Building. There is therefore the potential for refurbishment of the decommissioned nuclear site to result in adverse impacts in relation to the national and international biodiversity designations as well the setting of the nearby listed building. A potential significant negative effect is therefore identified in relation to SA objectives 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity** and 9: **historic environment**. These effects are uncertain dependent upon the detailed design of the proposals that come forward for the site. The site is not located within an area which has been assessed as part of the landscape sensitivity work⁴¹ for the District; however any redevelopment at the site could have either positive or negative landscape impacts, depending on the nature and design of the proposal. As such, an uncertain effect is recorded in relation to SA objective 8: **landscape/townscape**.
- 4.187 The Former Berkeley Power Station site is not located in close proximity to any of the larger settlements in Stroud District and as such a limited number of future employees at the site are likely to make use of sustainable modes of transport to access employment opportunities. A minor negative effect is therefore expected in relation to SA objectives 10: **air quality** and 14: **climate change**. As the uses promoted at the site may include renewable and low carbon energy generation, the minor negative effect expected in relation to SA objective 14 is likely to be combined with a minor positive effect.
- 4.188 The site sits in close proximity to the River Severn. Portions of the site fall within Flood Zone 2 and Flood Zone 3. The new development at this site would therefore be at risk of flooding events

⁴¹ White Consultants on behalf of Stroud District Council (December 2016) *Stroud District Landscape Sensitivity Assessment*

and therefore a minor negative effect is expected in relation to SA objective 12: **flooding** although it may be possible to incorporate mitigation into development proposals for the site.

- 4.189 Policy EI3 prevents the redevelopment of the site for alternative uses unrelated to employment and training. The land is being promoted for the Gloucestershire Science and Technology Park and employment uses have been demonstrated in the recent past to be viable at this location. As such the policy supports the re-use of the site for uses which have precedent at this location. A minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 13: **efficient land use**.
- 4.190 As the policy would redevelop an existing site for employment use, a significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA objectives 16: **employment** and 17: **economic growth**. The site would also support the provision of educational, training and research facilities which is likely to help strengthen educational attainment and skill levels in Stroud District.

Policy EI4: Development at existing employment sites in the countryside

- 4.191 Policy EI4 supports the continuation of sustainable economic development in rural areas. The policy requires that proposals for further development at rural employment sites must protect the amenity of adjoining land uses, with particular regard for residential uses. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 1: **housing**. The policy also requires that consideration is given to the visual impact of such proposals on local character. Proposals should also secure environmental improvements such as landscaping, enhancing biodiversity and the delivery of SuDS. Minor positive effects are therefore also expected in relation to SA objectives 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity**, 8: **landscapes/townscapes**, 9: **historic environment** and 12: **flooding**. In all cases the potential positive effects on these SA objectives are recorded as uncertain as, while the policy relates to proposals for new development in rural locations which could have particular sensitivities in relation to these objectives, the policy also includes requirements which would limit the potential for these adverse impacts to result.
- 4.192 The policy requires that proposals for new development at rural employment sites should not generate significant traffic movement and volume. This approach is likely to limit the potential for adverse impacts relating to air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions associated with private vehicle travel. It is, however, recognised that travel to rural locations, in general is likely less likely to be via sustainable modes of transport. As such an overall mixed (minor positive and minor negative) effect is expected in relation to SA objectives 10: **air quality** and 14: **climate change**.
- 4.193 As the policy is supportive of the re-use of employment sites which includes infilling of sites and extension of existing buildings it could promote the more efficient use of land in Stroud District. However, the policy could also permit the extension of existing rural employment site boundaries which could result in the areas of greenfield land being lost to development. An overall mixed (minor positive and minor negative) effect is therefore expected in relation to SA objective 13: **efficient land use**.
- 4.194 The policy supports the maintenance of suitable employment land in the District and also the diversification of rural economy as new premises are needed to meet updated requirements. It also responds to Government changes to permitted development rules which allow for conversion of offices to residential under permitted development rights. Significant positive effects are therefore expected for the policy in relation to SA objectives 16: **employment** and 17: **economic growth**.

Policy EI5: Farm and forestry enterprise diversification

- 4.195 Policy EI5 supports proposals for the diversification of farms or forestry development in Stroud District where the existing uses continue to be supported. Diversification activities are to remain subsidiary to these uses with appropriate consideration for the rural setting. Proposals are required by the policy to be reflective of the existing development scale and form. They should also avoid adverse environmental impact in terms of biodiversity, landscape character qualities, air, soil and water qualities, as well as level of activity. Minor positive effects are therefore expected in relation to SA objectives 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity**, 8: **landscapes/townscapes**, 9: **historic environment** and 13: **water quality**. Proposed development should also not generate traffic of a type or amount inappropriate for the rural roads, which is expected to limit any increase in the number of private vehicles travelling to these

locations. However, considering that rural locations are generally less accessible by sustainable modes of transport, a mixed (minor positive and minor negative) effect is expected overall in relation to SA objective 10: **air quality** and SA objective 14: **climate change**. There is uncertainty attached to the positive effects for these SA objectives, however. It is recognised that rural locations could have particular sensitivities in relation to these objectives; however the policy includes requirements which would limit the potential for these adverse impacts to result and uncertainty remains until detailed proposals for particular sites come forward.

- 4.196 Policy EI5 supports development which results in the re-use or replacement of existing buildings, which is likely to promote more efficient land use in Stroud District. A minor positive effect is therefore expected in relation to SA objective 13: **efficient land use**.
- 4.197 Considering that the policy's main focus is to support the health of the rural economy, a significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 17: **economy**. It is likely that the policy will support employment creation in rural locations in sectors including tourism, sport and recreation. However, such opportunities would be in rural areas which are less accessible for people without a car and the number of jobs created is likely to be fairly small. Overall, a minor positive effect is therefore expected in relation to SA objective 16: **employment**.

Policy EI6: Protecting individual and village shops, public houses and other community uses

- 4.198 Policy EI6 seeks to prevent the loss of community facilities and services, thereby helping to ensure that the day-to-day needs of residents can continue to be met locally. It is expected that this policy would directly help retain service provision beyond defined retail and town centre boundaries of the District. It is also likely to protect the distribution of local community services to the benefit of social inclusion in Stroud District. There may also be some limited benefit relating to community ownership. Services protected could include healthcare and recreational provisions. Significant positive effects are therefore expected in relation to SA objectives 3: **social inclusion** and 6: **services and facilities**. Minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 2: **health** and 5: **vibrant communities**.
- 4.199 While the policy seeks to protect services and facilities at more rural locations, it does not relate to new development of this nature. Therefore, it is not expected to result in an increase in the number of journeys which are made to more rural locations on a regular basis. Furthermore, the policy requires proposals that would result in the loss of facilities to demonstrate that there are similar facilities that are accessible by walking or cycling. The policy should therefore avoid the loss of facilities resulting in additional vehicle use and a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objectives 10: **air quality** and 14: **climate change**.
- 4.200 The policy would allow for the redevelopment of sites which are no longer viable for use as community uses. As such where these criteria are met redevelopment of brownfield sites would be supported. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 13: **efficient land use**.
- 4.201 The policy seeks to protect facilities such as village shops and community facilities which may have some small employment offer in the more rural areas of Stroud District. A minor positive effect is therefore expected in relation to SA objective 16: **employment**.

Policy EI7: Non-retail uses in primary frontages

- 4.202 Policy EI7 seeks to ensure that the Primary Shopping Frontages of the District remain in predominantly retail use. Some limited non-retail uses will be permitted; however the thresholds specified in the policy must not be exceeded. This approach should have a positive effect on maintaining the health of the District's centres and increasing footfall. Minor positive effects are therefore likely in relation to SA objectives 5: **vibrant communities** and 17: **economic growth**.

Policy EI8: Non-retail uses in secondary frontages

- 4.203 Policy EI8 sets out a similar approach to Policy EI7 but addresses the change of use of retail uses within the secondary frontages to other acceptable uses. Unlike Policy EI7 there is no percentage requirement of retail provision to be retained, although it is noted that an overall shopping character should be maintained within the frontages. The policy allows for change of use from

retail to healthcare provision provided that the policy criteria are met, which could help to improve access to these types of facilities considering the accessible nature of the secondary frontages. A minor positive effect is therefore expected in relation to SA objective 2: **health**.

- 4.204 Policy EI8 is likely to improve access to services for residents by permitting change of use where the policy criteria are met. Improved service provision is likely to benefit social inclusion in Stroud District. Minor positive effects are therefore expected in relation to SA objectives 3: **social inclusion** and 6: **services and facilities**. It is also likely that this approach is likely to improve the accessibility of services and facilities by sustainable modes of transport, considering the generally accessible nature of secondary shopping frontages. Minor positive effects are therefore expected in relation to SA objective 10: **air quality** and SA objective 14: **climate change**.
- 4.205 The secondary frontage locations are of lesser importance in terms of retail provision than the primary frontages in the District. It is expected that Policy EI8 could help to encourage footfall to these areas by allowing for change of use to complementary uses and therefore increasing the range of services available. The policy also requires that new uses contribute positively to the town centre in terms of community life. However, as the policy does not set out to protect a specific level of retail uses at these locations, there is potential that changes of use may result in the area becoming less attractive to shoppers. An uncertain mixed minor positive and minor negative effect is therefore expected in relation to SA objective 5: **vibrant communities**.
- 4.206 The policy requires that overall shopping character is maintained and no detrimental effect on the visual or other special character result as changes of use occur. Minor positive effects are therefore expected in relation to SA objective 8: **landscapes/townscapes** and SA objective 9: **historic environment**.
- 4.207 The policy's support for changes of use would include new service provision which is likely to contribute positively to the town centre in terms of increased levels of expenditure. It is also possible that new service provision would allow for the creation of some new employment opportunities, although these could be greater or less than the retail uses. Uncertain minor positive effects are therefore expected in relation to SA objective 16: **employment** and SA objective 17: **economic growth**.

4.208 The potential sustainability effects of Delivery Policies EI9 to EI12, Delivery Policy DEI1 and Delivery Policies EI14 to EI16 are described below.

Table 4.10 SA findings for the second group of Delivery Policies relating to economy and infrastructure

SA Objective	EI9 – Floorspace thresholds for Retail Impact Assessment	EI10 – Provision of new tourism opportunities	EI11 – Providing sport, leisure, recreation and cultural facilities	EI12 – Promoting transport choice and accessibility	DEI1 – District-wide mode-specific strategies	EI14 – Provision and protection of rail stations and halts	EI15 – Protection of freight facilities at Sharpness Docks	EI16 – Provision of public transport facilities
SA 1: Housing	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0
SA 2: Health	+	0	++	+	+	0	0	0
SA 3: Social inclusion	+	0	+	+	+	+	0	+
SA 4: Crime	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA 5: Vibrant communities	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
SA 6: Services and facilities	+	0	++	+	+	+	0	+
SA 7: Biodiversity/geodiversity	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0
SA 8: Landscapes/townscapes	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0
SA 9: Historic environment	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0
SA 10: Air quality.	+	+/-	+/-	+	++	++	+	++
SA 11: Water quality	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA 12: Flooding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA 13: Efficient land use	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA 14: Climate change	+	+/-	+/-	+	++	++	+	++
SA 15: Waste	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA 16: Employment	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+
SA 17: Economic growth	++	++	0	+	0	+	++	0

Policy EI9: Floorspace thresholds for Retail Impact Assessment

- 4.209 Policy EI9 requires that certain larger proposals involving retail floorspace are supported by a Retail Impact Assessment. Studies of this type will need to demonstrate that there would be no significant adverse impact in relation to town centre viability and investment in Stroud District as a result of the development. The protection of the District' town centres, including by limiting development that could adversely impact existing, committed or planned investment, is likely to have long-term beneficial impacts in terms of support the local economy. As such a significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 17: **economic growth**.
- 4.210 Considering the strong sustainable transport links at the town centres, as well as the shorter journey times for a high number of residents to reach these locations, protecting town centres is likely to help promote travel by more sustainable modes. This is likely to include active travel. As such, minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objective 2: **health**, SA objective 10: **air quality** and SA objective 14: **climate change**.
- 4.211 While the policy does not directly address new service provision in Stroud District, the protection the policy affords to town centre viability is also likely to help protect existing service provision considering that the highest concentration of provision is at these locations. Ensuring the accessibility of these provisions for a wide range of local people is likely to have associated benefits in terms of promoting social equality in the area. Minor positive effects are therefore expected in relation to SA objectives 3: **social inclusion** and 6: **services and facilities**. Positive effects are also likely in terms of helping to preserve the identity of the District's settlements. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 5: **vibrant communities**.

Policy EI10: Provision of new tourism opportunities

- 4.212 Policy EI10 addresses the provision of new tourism development in Stroud District, with particular support for developments within the larger settlements. Some tourism-related development is also to be permitted at lower tier settlements or countryside locations, provided that certain criteria are met. It is likely that allowing for some tourism development at the smaller settlements and rural locations of Stroud District would support economic growth and regeneration at these locations. The tourism sector is considered to be of particular importance to the District given its natural and heritage assets which help to attract visitors to the area. As a such minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 5: **vibrant communities** and a significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 17: **economic growth**. The policy is likely to support some new employment opportunities in the tourism sector. As such, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 16: **employment**.
- 4.213 The District contains numerous important biodiversity designations (such as the Severn Estuary SAC and SPA, the Rodborough Common SAC and Cotswold Commons and Beechwoods NNR), heritage assets (such as the Stroud Industrial Heritage Conservation Area) and potentially sensitive and designated landscape areas (including the Cotswolds AONB). New tourism-related development within rural locations in particular has the potential to result in adverse impacts in terms of habitats or the landscape setting. The policy, however, requires that biodiversity interest, character or appearance of the landscape and residential amenity should be protected when new tourism development is proposed. As such, a minor positive effect is identified in relation to SA objectives 1: **housing**, 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity**, 8: **landscapes/townscapes** and 9: **historic environment**. The policy also favours development proposals in rural locations which would re-use brownfield land and therefore a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 13: **efficient land use**.
- 4.214 Considering the generally less good sustainable transport links in the rural areas, it is likely that some tourism development in those areas would result in an increase in private vehicle use. However, the policy states that new development of this type should take opportunities to make a location more sustainable in terms of supporting access by foot, by cycling or by public transport. As such mixed (minor positive and minor negative) effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 10: **air quality** and 14: **climate change**.

Policy EI11: Providing sport, leisure, recreation and cultural facilities

- 4.215 Policy EI11 sets out criteria applying to proposals for the provision of new or improvements to existing sports, cultural, leisure and recreational facilities. It is expected that this type of provision would help to address issues of public health through the increased uptake of physical activity and would also widen the range of services and facilities available locally. As such, significant positive effects are expected for this policy in relation to SA objectives 2: **health** and 6: **services and facilities**. Improved access to these types of provisions is likely to provide space for cultural activities and therefore a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 5: **vibrant communities**. The policy requires that development of this type is to be delivered in a manner which accommodates people with disabilities, and therefore a minor positive effect is also expected in relation to SA objective 3: **social inclusion**.
- 4.216 It is recognised that the development of sport, leisure, recreation and cultural facilities has the potential to have impacts in terms of residential amenity, biodiversity interest, and the character and appearance of the surrounding area. The policy addresses these potential impacts through the criteria, requiring proposals to not harm the character and appearance of the area or local amenity, and to enhance any biodiversity interest. Minor positive effects are therefore expected in relation to SA objectives 1: **housing**, 7: **biodiverse/geodiversity**, 8: **landscape/townscape** and 9: **historic environment**.
- 4.217 The policy also requires that development proposals for sport, leisure, recreation and cultural facilities should be accessible to the sustainable transport links. This type of development is only to be permitted at more rural locations where it would serve a specific need, thereby reducing the potential for increased travel as a result of development in less accessible areas. However, the policy also sets out requirements for on-site vehicle parking at new facilities which could encourage some trips to be made by private vehicles, leading to increases in the release of air pollution and greenhouse gases from these sources. As such mixed (minor positive and minor negative) effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 10: **air quality** and 14: **climate change**.
- 4.218 It is expected that new and improved sports, cultural, leisure and recreational facilities could offer some limited employment opportunities in Stroud. As such a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 16: **employment**.

Policy EI12: Promoting transport choice and accessibility

- 4.219 Policy EI12 requires that development is planned in line with the Sustainable Transport Hierarchy for the District. The promotion of modal shift through Policy EI12 is likely to benefit air quality and the District's contribution to climate change, by reducing car use and increasing walking, cycling and public transport use. While the policy includes a requirement reference to car parking provision, the emphasis is on keeping the level provided as low as possible and developers must justify the parking provided and demonstrate that it will not have a detrimental impact on the road network. As such, an overall minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objectives 10: **air quality** and 14: **climate change**.
- 4.220 The policy places an emphasis on encouraging active travel within new developments and ensuring that a range of local facilities are accessible when new development is delivered. Minor positive effects are therefore expected in relation to SA objectives 2: **health**, 3: **social inclusion** and 6: **services and facilities**. Public health will also be benefitted by any improvements in air quality that result from modal shift.
- 4.221 The policy refers to proposals being required to contribute to schemes in the Stroud Infrastructure Delivery Plan, the Stroud Sustainability Transport Strategy and the Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan where appropriate. Contributions towards strategic transport infrastructure schemes should be reasonable and viable; therefore such a requirement should not result in schemes not coming forward. The provision of new transport infrastructure in the District is seen as essential to supporting local economic growth; therefore a minor positive effect is likely in relation to SA objective 17: **economic growth**. The delivery of high-speed broadband and other measures to support home working should further support economic growth and will support more flexible working patterns in Stroud; therefore a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 16: **employment**.

Policy DEI1: District-wide mode-specific strategies

- 4.222 Policy DEI1 seeks to enhance sustainable travel opportunities for all in Stroud District. This includes prioritising investment in improvement schemes to create a connected network for walking and cycling. Bus improvements such as express bus corridors are also to be supported and improved interchange hubs should be incorporated to allow for seamless multi-modal connectivity. The policy is likely to make service provision and employment opportunities more accessible in the District. This is particularly likely to be the case for people who do not own a private vehicle. As such, minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 3: **social inclusion**, 6: **services and facilities** and 16: **employment**. Increased uptake of walking and cycling is likely to benefit public health in the plan area and therefore a minor positive effect is also expected in relation to SA objective 2: **health**.
- 4.223 The policy is expected to reduce the need to travel by private vehicle in Stroud District, thereby limiting the emission of air pollutants and greenhouse gases as new development is provided and occupied. The policy states that parking provision should be used as a policy lever to discourage car trips where viable sustainable alternatives exist, which is likely to further encourage modal shift. As such, significant positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 10: **air quality** and 14: **climate change**.

Policy EI14: Provision and protection of rail stations and halts

- 4.224 Policy EI14 supports proposals for the opening or re-opening of passenger railway stations and halts, and the provision of rail freight facilities. It would also prevent development which would affect the provision of new facilities of this type at Stonehouse (Bristol line) and Hunts Grove. Providing new infrastructure to support travel by rail is likely to help encourage modal shift in the District. Benefits are likely to result in terms of limiting air pollutants and greenhouse gases which might otherwise occur as residents travel by private vehicle. Significant positive effects are therefore expected in relation to SA objective 10: **air quality** and SA objective 14: **climate change**.
- 4.225 The provision of new rail facilities in Stroud District is likely to provide a wider range of residents with access to existing services and facilities as well as employment opportunities. As such, minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 3: **social inclusion**, 6: **services and facilities** and 16: **employment**. The provision of rail freight facilities is also likely to help make the area more attractive in terms of securing economic investment. A minor positive effect is therefore also recorded in relation to SA objective 17: **economic growth**.
- 4.226 Of the two areas identified for rail facilities, development of the land at Stonehouse has the potential to adversely impact on the setting of the Listed Buildings on the other side of the A419. Neither of these areas have been assessed as part of the landscape sensitivity work undertaken for the District. However, it is assumed that any proposals that may come forward for rail developments in these locations would be subject to detailed assessment as part of the planning application and the current policy approach relates only to safeguarding the land. Negligible effects are therefore identified in relation to SA objectives 8: **landscapes/townscapes** and 9: **historic environment**.

Policy EI15: Protection of freight facilities at Sharpness Docks

- 4.227 Policy EI15 is supportive of development within Sharpness Docks which would benefit the viability of the docks for handling freight and shipping repairs. It is envisaged that the existing freight-only railway line at Sharpness Docks could potentially take freight off the roads in the future. This land is in close proximity to the Severn Estuary SPA, SAC and Ramsar site and Sharpness Docks Key Wildlife Site, as well as well as a number of Grade II Listed Buildings. Most of the land by the railway line has not been assessed as part of the landscape capacity work for the District. The policy requires that new development would not have a demonstrable detrimental impact on the environment. As such it is likely that new proposals would be prevented from having negative impacts in terms of the nearby biodiversity designations and heritage assets as well as the existing character of the area. Negligible effects are therefore expected in relation to SA objective 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity**, SA objective 8: **landscapes/townscapes** and SA objective 9: **historic environment**.

4.228 The development supported through this policy could limit the proportion of freight which is transported by HGVs in the plan area. As such, minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 10: **air quality** and 14: **climate change**. Considering the recent commercial interest in the Docks, it is likely that improvements to the freight facilities at this location would further increase the potential for economic investment in this area. A minor positive effect is therefore also expected in relation to SA objective 17: **economy**.

Policy EI16: Provision of public transport facilities

4.229 This policy seeks to support the incorporation of public transport facilities at new developments. It is likely that this requirement would help to improve the accessibility of services and facilities and employment opportunities for a wider range of residents. The policy is likely to be of particular benefit to residents who do not own a private vehicle. Minor positive effects are therefore expected in relation to SA objectives 3: **social inclusion**, 6: **services and facilities** and 16: **employment**.

4.230 The policy is also likely to help promote modal shift in Stroud District. This is likely to reduce the emission of air pollutants and greenhouse gases and therefore significant positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 10: **air quality** and 14: **climate change**.

SA Findings for Draft Plan: environment and surroundings

- 4.231 The Draft Plan contains two Core Policies and 15 Delivery Policies which set out the approach to the environment and surroundings in the District. Due to the relatively large number of policies included in this chapter of the Draft Plan, the likely effects of the policies are summarised in groups across a number of tables.
- 4.232 The potential sustainability effects of Core Policies CP14 to CP15 and Delivery Policies ES1 to ES5 and Deliveries Policy DES1 and DES3 are described below.

Table 4.11 SA findings for the Core Policies and first group of Delivery Policies relating to environment and surroundings

SA Objective	CP14 – High quality sustainable development	CP15 – A quality living and working countryside	ES1 – Sustainable construction and design	ES2 – Renewable or low carbon energy generation	DES3 – Heat supply	ES3 – Maintaining quality of life within our environmental limits	ES4 – Water resources, quality and flood risk	ES5 – Air quality	DES1 – Conversion of redundant agricultural or forestry buildings
SA 1: Housing	+	++	-?	0	0	+	0	0	+
SA 2: Health	+	+/-	+	+	0	+	0	+	0
SA 3: Social inclusion	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
SA 4: Crime	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
SA 5: Vibrant communities	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	0	0
SA 6: Services and facilities	+	+/-	0	0	0	0	0	+	+?
SA 7: Biodiversity/geodiversity	++	+?	0	+/-?	0	0	+?	+?	0
SA 8: Landscapes/townscapes	++	+?	0	+?	0	0	+?	+?	+?
SA 9: Historic environment	++	+?	0	+	0	0	0	0	+?
SA 10: Air quality	+	-	+	0	0	++	0	++	+?
SA 11: Water quality	+	0	0	+	0	++	++	0	0
SA 12: Flooding	+	0	+	+	0	+	++	0	0
SA 13: Efficient land use	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	0	+
SA 14: Climate change	++	-	++	++	++	0	+	+	+?
SA 15: Waste	+	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0
SA 16: Employment	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	+	+
SA 17: Economic growth	+	++	-?	+	0	0	0	0	+

Policy CP14: High quality sustainable development

- 4.233 Policy CP14 supports high quality development, which protects, conserves and enhances the built and natural environment. The policy requires that the amenity of neighbouring properties should not be adversely affected by new development. This is expected to help to ensure the protection

of a high standard of living conditions as well as the satisfaction of residents with their communities. As such, minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 1: **housing** and 5: **vibrant communities**. In addition, the policy criteria will combine to ensure that new housing is built to a high standard.

- 4.234 The policy is supportive of development which integrates areas of open space and sports provision and this is likely to help encourage physical activity among residents. The policy also supports the provision of allotments. A minor positive effect is therefore also expected in relation to SA objective 2: **health**. The design and layout of new development is required by the policy to assist crime prevention in the District and therefore a minor positive effect is recorded in relation to SA objective 4: **crime**. The support that the policy provides in relation to delivery of new community infrastructure at development sites is likely to result in some new service provision. Therefore, a minor positive effect is also expected in relation to SA objective 6: **services and facilities**.
- 4.235 The policy requires the protection and enhancement of the natural environment as one of its overarching themes. This is to include the retention and enhancement of important landscape, biodiversity and geodiversity features and therefore significant positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity** and 8: **landscape/townscape**. The policy also requires that design of new development should be respectful of its surroundings including local topography, built environment and heritage. As such, a significant positive effect is also expected in relation to SA objective 9: **historic environment**.
- 4.236 It is required by the policy that unacceptable levels of air and water pollution should not result from new development. Development should also incorporate SuDS and result in no increased risk of flooding. Therefore, minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 10: **air quality**, 11: **water quality** and 12: **flooding**. Further benefits relating to air quality are likely to result from Policy CP14, considering that development should provide safe and convenient access to walking, cycling and public transport links. These criteria are likely to help encourage modal shift and may also have beneficial impacts relating to reducing carbon emissions. Therefore, a positive effect is also expected in relation to SA objective 14: **climate change**. The policy is also supportive of measures which would minimise energy use and maximise renewable energy production and as such the positive effect on this objective is recorded as significant.
- 4.237 The support that the policy provides for development which would result in the re-use of previously developed land, and higher densities where appropriate, means that a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 13: **efficient land use**. The re-use of brownfield land in Stroud District may result in the recycling of existing onsite materials and buildings and the policy is also supportive of development which would include facilities for the recycling of waste. As such, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 15: **waste**.
- 4.238 Policy CP14 also supports development which helps to achieve satisfactory provision of transport infrastructure. These types of provisions will be important in terms of securing economic investment in the District over the plan period. A minor positive effect is therefore expected in relation to SA objective 17: **economic growth**.

Policy CP15: A quality living and working countryside

- 4.239 Policy CP15 permits proposals outside of identified settlement development limits to allow for a living and working countryside where certain criteria are met. In certain circumstances the policy permits some new housing in more rural locations, including affordable homes at rural exception sites. A minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 1: **housing**, considering that the policy should help meet housing need in the countryside.
- 4.240 It is recognised that development at more rural locations may have particular impacts in terms of established ecological networks and landscape character as well as the role landscape features play with regards the setting of heritage assets. The policy permits some development in the countryside; however this development is required to not have an adverse impact on natural assets, landscape character or heritage assets or their setting. Therefore, minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity**, 8: **landscape/townscape** and 9: **historic environment**. The positive effect on SA objective 8 is expected to be significant because the overall purpose of the policy is to protect the separate identity of settlements and the overall quality of the countryside in Stroud District.

- 4.241 The policy is likely to support increased access to the countryside and sporting facilities at rural locations, meaning a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 2: **health**. Considering that residents of any new housing in the countryside that may result from the policy may have a reduced level of access to services and facilities, including healthcare, the minor positive effect is likely to be combined with a minor negative effect. A similar mixed minor positive effect and minor negative effect is expected in relation to SA objective 6: **services and facilities** considering that the policy is supportive of rural development that would support essential community facilities.
- 4.242 Overall, the development permitted in the countryside through this policy (which would include some new housing, service provision and the potential enhancement of economic opportunities) is likely to help improve resident's satisfaction with their surrounding at rural locations. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 5: **vibrant communities**.
- 4.243 Providing development at more rural locations is likely to result in increased trips made by private vehicle considering the reduced levels of access these areas provide to existing services and facilities and employment opportunities. A minor negative effect is therefore expected in relation SA objective 10: **air quality** and SA objective 14: **climate change**.
- 4.244 The policy is supportive of the delivery of development through the re-use of existing rural buildings. As such a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 13: **efficient land use**. The policy is also supportive of development which is essential to support new employment uses at rural locations. Development in the countryside is to be supported where it would be essential to the maintenance or enhancement of a sustainable farming or forestry enterprise within the District. It is likely that this type of development would support opportunities for the diversification of the rural economy. As such a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 16: **employment** and a significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 17: **economic growth**.

Policy ES1: Sustainable construction and design

- 4.245 Policy ES1 seeks to meet the Council's Carbon Neutral 2030 commitments by supporting sustainable design and construction in new developments. The policy requires that new development aims to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by improving the efficiency of building designs with consideration for Part L 2013 Building Regulations. Other requirements include reducing the potential for overheating of new development and using sustainably sourced materials. Therefore, a significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 14: **climate change**.
- 4.246 As part of its approach to limiting the District's contribution to climate change, the policy also requires that development should provide cycle parking and electric vehicle charging points. While the use of electric vehicles can still have implications in terms of air quality relating to particulate matter from tyre and road-surface wear, these measures could help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles. As such, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 10: **air quality**. Supporting an increase in travel by bicycle by providing cycle storage could also have positive effects in terms of health and well-being and therefore a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 2: **health**.
- 4.247 The policy is supportive of development that conserves water resources and seeks to improve flood resilience. Minor positive effects are therefore likely in relation to SA objective 12: **flooding**.
- 4.248 Policy ES1 seeks to ensure that new development will minimise the generation of waste, and that the recycling of waste that is generated during the construction and operation of development is maximised. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected in relation for SA objective 15: **waste**.
- 4.249 The policy sets out requirements relating to sustainable design and construction which may affect the viability of some potential schemes in Stroud; however the policy specifies that the emissions standards which should be met are to be adhered to unless it can be clearly demonstrated that the development would be made unviable. The policy is therefore not expected to have implications in terms of the rate of housing delivery and economic investment and negligible effects are therefore expected in relation to SA objective 1: **housing** and SA objective 17: **economic growth**.

Policy ES2: Renewable or low carbon energy generation

- 4.250 Policy ES2 seeks to contribute to the Council's Carbon Neutral 2030 commitments by supporting development that helps to cut greenhouse gas emissions and decarbonise the energy system. It identifies areas within which certain types of renewable energy developments are more likely to be supported by the Council. Therefore, a significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 14: **climate change**.
- 4.251 The policy requires that renewable and low carbon energy developments are considerate of impacts and cumulative issues, relating to landscape character (with particular consideration for the Cotswolds AONB) and visual amenity, historical features, water quality, flood risk, and the amenity of the local area including air quality and noise. These types of development should also be able to demonstrate benefits to the area and local community. Therefore, minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 5: **vibrant communities**, 8: **landscapes/townscapes**, 9: **historic environment**, 10: **air quality**, 11: **water quality**, and 12: **flooding**.
- 4.252 Policy ES2 also requires that proposals should be considerate of impacts relating to biodiversity, as well as recreation and agricultural land use in Stroud. In addition to preserving important ecological networks in the District, these elements of the policy should also help to maintain areas which are of importance for local people in terms of allowing for opportunities for physical activities and protecting future food growing opportunities. Minor positive effects are therefore likely in relation to SA objectives 2: **health**, 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity** and 13: **efficient land use**.
- 4.253 Development for ground-mounted solar energy and wind energy are more likely to be supported within areas identified as suitable on the Policies Map. The Policies Map identifies that much of the District is considered suitable for solar or wind development and this includes some land in areas which may be more sensitive to development. In particular, the Policies Map identifies land to the south of Nailsworth and to the south east of Wotton-under-edge as suitable locations for 'very large (up to 175m)' wind development. These areas are both located within the Cotswolds AONB meaning that there is potential for adverse impacts relating to the character of this designated landscape. However, the policy also states that developments of this type are more likely to be supported if they lie within Landscape Character Areas with lower sensitivity to the relevant development scale. As such it is expected that the policy would help to limit adverse impacts relating to landscape in the District. The support the policy provides for a level of development within the AONB means that some uncertainty is attached to the minor positive effect identified in relation to SA objective 8: **landscapes/townscapes**.
- 4.254 The Policies Map also identifies potential for very large wind development at several locations adjacent to the internationally designated (SAC, SPA and Ramsar site) Severn Estuary, including to the south west of Berkeley and north east of Sharpness. There is potential for negative impacts on wildlife in the area, both during the construction stage and once wind development is fully operational. While the policy requires development to consider impacts of renewable energy schemes relating to biodiversity, it makes no explicit reference to considering impact on the Severn Estuary. As such, an uncertain minor negative effect is expected in combination with the minor positive effect identified in relation to SA objective 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity**. The effect is uncertain as the exact location and scale of potential renewable energy developments is unknown at this stage. **Depending on the conclusions of the HRA, it is recommended that explicit reference is made to avoiding adverse effects on the integrity of the Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar site in the bullet points under "Additionally, proposals for wind energy development:..."**
- 4.255 The identification of areas within which ground-mounted solar energy and wind energy proposals will be supported, may encourage investment in the renewable energy sector in the District. This may allow for some economic growth as well as local job creation to occur in the area. As such a minor positive effect is also expected in relation to SA objectives 16: **employment** and 17: **economic growth** for Policy ES2.

Policy DES3 Heat supply

- 4.256 Policy DES3 requires that where viable, development proposals should include a communal low-temperature heating system. The policy supports the inclusion of communal heating systems in

line with a hierarchy which supports local existing or planned heat networks firstly, followed by zero-carbon renewable heat or combined heat and power (CHP) and then use of local ambient or secondary heat sources.

- 4.257 It is expected that the policy would directly help provide some residents with the ability to connect to more efficient heating networks in Stroud. The policy is likely to help cut heating bills for residents, thereby limiting the potential for fuel poverty. It is also likely to have direct benefits in terms of reducing carbon emissions from heating. As such a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 3: **social inclusion** and a significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 14: **climate change**.

Policy ES3: Maintaining quality of life within our environmental limits

- 4.258 Policy ES3 seeks to ensure that environmental risks are addressed within new development proposals, particularly in relation to adverse impacts to air, land and water quality. The policy is therefore expected to have significant positive effects in relation to SA objectives 10: **air quality** and 11: **water quality**. Furthermore, the policy also requires that proposals will not cause an increased risk of flooding at or around sites and therefore a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 12: **flooding**. The requirements of the policy for proposals to be refused if they would have an adverse impact on or from contaminated land means that a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 13: **efficient land use**. This effect recorded reflects the potential for the remediation of contaminated sites to result.
- 4.259 Minor positive effects are also expected for the policy in relation to SA objectives 2: **health** and 5: **vibrant communities**. The policy's support for measures to reduce environmental pollution (smell, light, fumes, water and land contamination) are likely to contribute to reducing adverse impacts on resident's health as well as quality of life in the District. These measures should also help improve resident's satisfaction with their surroundings. The policy specifically requires that development should not result in loss of daylight or sunlight, loss of privacy or an overbearing effect. As such a minor positive effect is also expected in relation to SA objective 1: **housing**. As the policy requires that proposals do not increase the potential for anti-social behavior or environmental crime, a minor positive effect is also expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 4: **crime**.

Policy ES4: Water resources, quality and flood risk

- 4.260 Policy ES4 seeks to ensure that new development is appropriately flood resilient and resistant through the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures and construction methods to reduce the risk of future flooding. New developments should incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in accordance with National Standards which aim to mimic more natural drainage processes and remove pollutants from surface run off. As the policy directly seeks to minimise the risk of flooding and potential for water bodies to be polluted, significant positive effects are expected in relation to SA objective 11: **water quality** and SA objective 12: **flooding**. A minor positive effect is also expected in relation to SA objective 14: **climate change** considering that addressing these issues will help the District to adapt to changes in climate.
- 4.261 By supporting the incorporation of multifunctional sustainable drainage measures at new developments, the policy could also provide a range of associated benefits. SuDS schemes may comprise techniques such as green roofs or the protection of wetlands or ponds; therefore, minor positive effects can be expected in relation to SA objective 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity** and SA objective 8: **landscapes/townscapes**.
- 4.262 The policy aims to ensure that new development maintains a good level of water efficiency by applying water conservation techniques such as grey water recycling. A minor positive effect is therefore expected in relation to SA objective 15: **waste**.

Policy ES5: Air quality

- 4.263 Policy ES5 seeks to ensure that new development demonstrates appropriate mitigation measures to reduce its impact on local air quality. This policy aims to maintain the predominantly good quality of air in Stroud District, and therefore a significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 10: **air quality**. By mitigating the impacts of new development on air quality, residents are likely to experience benefits in terms of health and wellbeing. The policy specifically

requires that development within areas of poorer air quality should incorporate measures to mitigate emission levels in order to protect public health and well-being. A minor positive effect is therefore expected in relation to SA objective 2: **health**.

- 4.264 The policy also requires developments to implement appropriate traffic management and highway improvements to mitigate emission levels. Improvements of this nature have the potential to indirectly improve public access to services and facilities and employment opportunities, as a result of reduced congestion. Therefore, minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 6: **services and facilities** and 16: **employment**.
- 4.265 Appropriate mitigation measures including landscaping or tree planting in order to separate the development and increase the distance from highways and junctions have the potential to enhance the local landscape, as well as create green corridors and habitat for wildlife. Therefore, minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity** and 8: **landscapes/townscapes**.
- 4.266 The policy supports development which allows for the provision of the management and expansion of the capacity natural environment to mitigate poor air quality. Improvements of this type are likely to benefit the District's potential to adapt and mitigate climate change by providing carbon sinks. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 14: **climate change**.

Policy DES1: Conversion of redundant agricultural or forestry buildings

- 4.267 Policy DES1 addresses the conversion of disused agricultural and forestry buildings located outside of settlements in Stroud District. A minor positive effect is expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 1: **housing** as the policy sets out an appropriate hierarchy to dictate use following conversion which is supportive of housing for essential agricultural or forestry workers firstly, followed by affordable housing and open market housing which sit lower in the hierarchy. This is likely to contribute to meeting specific housing needs in rural parts of the District. In addition, minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 16: **employment** and 17: **economic growth** because the use hierarchy is likely to provide workers with good access to employment opportunities and support the rural economy. It also provides some scope for farm/forestry diversification for employment use.
- 4.268 Considering that the policy requires that conversions of this type should be at a location which is well related to existing infrastructure, amenities and services, the potential for an increased numbers of private car journeys when converted properties are occupied is likely to be limited. Minor positive effects are therefore expected in relation to SA objectives 6: **services and facilities**, 10: **air quality** and 14: **climate change**.
- 4.269 The policy also requires that proposals will not result in adverse impacts on the character of the existing building and its setting including that relating to agricultural or forestry character. As such, minor positive effects are expected for the policy in relation to SA objectives 8: **landscapes/townscapes** and 9: **historic environment**. While the conversion of buildings at rural locations has increased potential to result in adverse impacts in terms of setting and character, the policy addresses these types of adverse impacts.
- 4.270 As the policy permits the conversion of existing buildings in certain circumstances, it may help to reduce the need to develop greenfield land in Stroud District. A minor positive effect is therefore also expected in relation to SA objective 13: **efficient land use**.

4.271 The likely sustainability effects of Delivery Policies ES6 to ES12, and Delivery Policy DES1 are described below.

Table 4.12 SA findings for the second group of Delivery Policies relating to environment and surroundings

SA Objective	ES6 – Providing for biodiversity and geodiversity	ES7 – Landscape character	ES8 – Trees, hedgerows and woodlands	ES9 – Equestrian development	ES10 – Valuing our historic environment and assets	ES11 – Maintaining, restoring and regenerating the District’s canals	ES12 – Better design of places	DES2 – Green infrastructure	ES16 – Public art contributions
SA 1: Housing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA 2: Health	+	0	0	+	0	+	+	+	0
SA 3: Social inclusion	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	+	0
SA 4: Crime	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
SA 5: Vibrant communities	+	0	0	0	0	+	++	+	++
SA 6: Services and facilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
SA 7: Biodiversity/geodiversity	++	+	++	+	0	+	0	++	0
SA 8: Landscapes/townscapes	+	++	++	+	++	++	+	++	+
SA 9: Historic environment	0	+	0	+	++	++	+	?	0
SA 10: Air quality	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	0
SA 11: Water quality	+	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	0
SA 12: Flooding	+	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	0
SA 13: Efficient land use	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA 14: Climate change	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0
SA 15: Waste	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA 16: Employment	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0
SA 17: Economic growth	0	0	0	+	0	0	+		+

Policy ES6: Providing for biodiversity and geodiversity

4.272 Policy ES6 sets out the requirement for all new development to provide a net gain in biodiversity. The policy supports new development that maximises opportunities to enhance and create links between ecological networks and encourages the incorporation of enhancement within the design of development. A significant positive effect is therefore expected in relation to SA objective 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity.**

4.273 Enhancements relating to the natural environment, which Policy ES6 requires, is likely to have a range of associated benefits in terms for people in nearby communities. Opportunities for

landscaping, retention of open space, and SuDS provision are also likely to result. As such the policy has the potential to result in benefits relating to the protection of local character, increased flood resilience, and improved water quality. The maintenance of undeveloped open space may also provide space of increased uptake of recreation and cultural activities among residents and the sequestration of air pollutants and carbon. As such minor positive effects are identified in relation to SA objectives 2: **health**, 5: **vibrant communities**, 8: **landscapes/townscapes**, 10: **air quality**, 11: **water quality**, 12: **flooding** and 14: **climate change**.

Policy ES7: Landscape character

- 4.274 Policy ES2 requires development proposals to protect, conserve, or enhance the special features and diversity of the different landscape character types found within Stroud District. The policy ensures that development is only permitted if all aspects are sympathetic and complement the landscape character, and if natural features including trees, hedgerows and water features which contribute to the landscape character are retained and appropriately managed. Therefore, a significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 8: **landscapes/townscapes**.
- 4.275 The policy also ensures that priority is given to the conservation and enhancement of the natural and scenic beauty of the landscape within the Cotswolds AONB, or land that might affect its setting. In addition to having consideration for the biodiversity interest of the area, development should also be considerate of the historic and cultural heritage of the landscape of the AONB. Therefore, minor positive effects are likely in relation to SA objectives 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity**, and 9: **historic environment**.
- 4.276 The policy states that major development is not to be permitted within the AONB unless it is demonstrated to be in the national interest and that there is a lack of alternative sustainable development sites. This element of the policy could affect housing delivery and economic growth in this part of the District. The overall effects recorded in relation to SA objectives 1: **housing** and 17: **economic growth** are negligible however considering that the sites required to meet the housing need and level of job provision needed to support this level of growth are likely to be identified at other areas of the District.

Policy ES8: Trees, hedgerows and woodlands

- 4.277 Policy ES8 seeks to enhance and expand Stroud District's hedgerow, tree, and woodland resource. The policy would not permit development that would result in the unacceptable loss of or damage to these resources, and where a loss of this type is considered acceptable adequate replacement should be made. A significant positive effect is therefore expected in relation to SA objective 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity**.
- 4.278 The policy also requires development to ensure that soft landscaping which considers local landscape character is incorporated. This is to include the planting of indigenous hedge and tree species. Therefore, a significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 8: **landscapes/townscapes**.
- 4.279 By supporting the expansion of Stroud District's woodland and tree resource, Policy ES8 will provide a number of associated environmental benefits. Tree planting can increase the adsorption of air borne pollutants from vehicle emissions and other sources and prevent the leaching of pollutants into surface and ground waters. Woodland and tree canopies can also act to intercept rainfall and increase soil stability and water retention. Minor positive effects are therefore expected in relation to SA objectives 10: **air quality**, 11: **water quality**, and 12: **flooding**.

Policy ES9: Equestrian development

- 4.280 Policy ES9 is supportive of development for the purposes of keeping horses for recreational or commercial purposes where it would not result in adverse effects in terms of the environmental quality of the rural area. This type of development will benefit the community by providing opportunities for active recreation. A minor positive effect is therefore expected in relation to SA objective 2: **health**. Equestrian business is increasingly popular in the District and provides opportunities for small-scale employment and investment in the local economy. As the policy is broadly supportive of this type of development, minor positive effects are also expected in relation to SA objective 16: **employment** and SA objective 17: **economic growth**.

4.281 The policy would help to address the provision of development which could otherwise have some impacts in terms of ecological diversity as a result in increased grazing, as well as landscape setting as field patterns are disrupted and character of existing buildings and settlements caused by change of use. As the policy would seek to prevent adverse impacts in relation to these issues uncertain positive effects are expected in relation to SA objective 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity**, SA objective 8: **landscape/townscape** and SA objective 9: **historic environment**.

Policy ES10: Valuing our historic environment and assets

4.282 Policy ES10 seeks to preserve, protect and enhance the District's historic environment. The policy sets out that proposals which conserve and enhance the significance and setting of the District's heritage assets and its townscapes will be supported. This includes reference to key views and vistas, as well as designated and undesignated heritage assets and archaeology. Therefore, significant positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 8: **landscapes/townscapes** and 9: **historic environment**.

Policy ES11: Maintaining, restoring and regenerating the District's canals

4.283 Policy ES11 supports the restoration and enhancement of Stroud District's canals. This includes improvement of access to and along the canals to encourage transport and recreational uses. Development adjacent to any canal and should be respectful of the canal's character and setting, as well as having regard to improving views along and from the canal. The Cotswold Canals fall within the Industrial Heritage Conservation Area and therefore the policy should directly help to preserve the setting of this designated heritage asset. As such significant positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 8: **landscapes/townscapes** and 9: **historic environment**.

4.284 The policy also aims to restore and enhance the District's canals in order to provide opportunities for leisure and recreational activities. These types of improvements are likely to enhance the identity of the District's communities and settlements by providing a sense of place and are also likely to improve the satisfaction of residents with the area. Therefore, minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 2: **health** and 5: **vibrant communities**.

4.285 Supporting the enhancement of the towpaths along the canals is likely to provide routes for walking and cycling. Modal shift may help to support improvements in local air quality and limit the District's contribution to climate change. Minor positive effects are therefore also expected in relation to SA objectives 10: **air quality** and 14: **climate change**.

4.286 The policy seeks to ensure that improvements to any canal includes enhancement of its biodiversity value. A minor positive effect is therefore expected in relation to SA objective 7: **biodiversity**. It is likely that improvements to the canals would help to support flood resilience and mitigate adverse impacts relating to water pollution. Minor positive effects are therefore also expected in relation to SA objectives 11: **water quality** and 12: **flooding**.

Policy ES12: Better design of places

4.287 Policy ES12 requires development to be well-designed and laid out to create high quality and successful places. Significant positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 3: **social inclusion** and 5: **vibrant communities** due the requirements of the policy for development to achieve socially integrated places, with well-planned routes, space for commercial and community activity and well-designed buildings and landscaped spaces. As well as having the potential to reduce social isolation in the District, the policy is likely to help create neighbourhoods where a high number of residents are satisfied with their surroundings.

4.288 The inclusion of safe pedestrian/cycle routes may result in developments where there is increased uptake of active travel amongst residents and therefore a minor positive effect is expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 2: **health**. There may also be positive effects in relation to limiting adverse impacts in terms of air quality and carbon emissions due to potentially a reduced proportion of people being reliant on private car trips. In addition, well designed layouts of developments where there is a mix of uses, may contribute to the accessibility of services and facilities and an overall reduced need to travel. As such, minor positive effects are expected for the policy in relation to SA objectives 6: **services and facilities**, 10: **air quality** and 14: **climate change**.

- 4.289 The policy's promotion of mixed-use developments may encourage the provision of employment opportunities in close proximity to residential properties and therefore a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 16: **employment**. As commercial building stock is to be maintained in the District as new development is provided, it is likely that this policy will help encourage local investment. A minor positive effect is therefore expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 17: **economic growth**.
- 4.290 The policy places an emphasis on the requirement for Design and Access Statements to demonstrate sufficient consideration of local context. This is likely to help ensure positively designed buildings and landscaped spaces that will not cause adverse impacts on the existing character of the District. As such, minor positive effects are expected for the policy in relation to SA objectives 8: **landscapes/townscapes** and 9: **historic environment**. The policy also promotes the creation of safe, attractive public spaces, which may help reduce the potential for incidences of crime. Therefore, a minor positive effect is also expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 4: **crime**.

Policy DES2: Green infrastructure

- 4.291 Policy DES2 seeks to protect and enhance existing green infrastructure provision in Stroud and to avoid harm to strategic green infrastructure assets as a result of new development. Green infrastructure benefits biodiversity in terms of habitat creation and connectivity and the policy requires that proposals improve the networks and corridors of green infrastructure to maximise their potential benefits to ecology. To ensure demonstrable benefits from this requirement, the policy states that replacement green infrastructure or mitigation should seek to deliver net gains in biodiversity. As such, a significant positive effect is expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity**. A significant positive effect is also identified for the policy in relation to SA objective 8: **landscapes/townscapes**. Preventing the loss of green infrastructure is likely to ensure that the District's environmental assets continue to contribute to the area's character and setting. The policy also requires that long term management arrangements are established for green infrastructure assets, which is likely to ensure they provide benefits in perpetuity.
- 4.292 Green infrastructure can also contribute to the setting of heritage assets. Impacts relating to the setting of these assets will be dependent upon the specific design of new green infrastructure and therefore an uncertain but potentially positive effect is identified in relation to SA objective 9: **historic environment**.
- 4.293 Green infrastructure also yields potential benefits in relation to mitigating climate change. Positive effects may result in terms of carbon sequestration and providing space for walking and cycling which may reduce reliance upon private car trips. The policy promotes the improvement of green infrastructure to support these functions and therefore minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 14: **climate change** and 10: **air quality**. Green infrastructure can have further benefits in terms of allowing for the retention of surface water and reducing the potential for run off of pollutants into water bodies. Minor positive effects are therefore expected in relation to SA objectives 11: **water quality** and 12: **flooding**.
- 4.294 In addition to mitigating climate change, the policy also promotes the enhancement of green infrastructure areas and corridors to improve their functionality for recreational purposes. As such, the policy could increase the potential for uptake of physical activity amongst residents in the District to the benefit of local public health and a minor positive effect is expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 2: **health**. Minor positive effects are also expected for the policy in relation to SA objectives 3: **social inclusion** and 5: **vibrant communities** as the approach to enhancing existing and delivering new green infrastructure has the potential to result in improved social cohesion through an improved sense of place and better opportunities for residents to meet in attractive environments.

Policy ES16: Public art contributions

- 4.295 Policy ES16 addresses the funding of art and design works through new developments in Stroud District. It requires that major development proposals should provide proportionate contributions towards publicly accessible art and design works that help to create a sense of place for the

development. A significant positive effect is therefore expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 5: **vibrant communities**.

- 4.296 These types of enhancements also have the potential to enhance the cultural offer of areas in the District and may even result in greater levels of tourism if projects are particularly successful. As such, a minor positive effect is also expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 17: **economic growth**. In addition, there may be opportunities for such projects to contribute positively to the existing townscapes of settlements. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected for the policy in relation to SA objective 8: **landscapes/townscapes**.

5 Sustainability Appraisal findings for the Draft Plan Sites

- 5.1 This chapter sets out the SA findings for the draft site allocations included in Draft Plan. The Draft Plan includes 34 draft site allocations that contribute to the Draft Plan strategy and one 'other' site allocation (G2 Land at Whaddon which will potentially contribute to meeting Gloucester's housing needs. From here on in this SA Report, for ease of reference, these sites are collectively referred to as draft site allocations.
- 5.2 The draft site allocations have been taken forward by the Council for inclusion in the Draft Plan for a variety of reasons. **Appendix 8** outlines the reasons for including the draft site allocations (as well as the reasons for discounting the alternative site options not included). Three of the potential site options (PS09 Rooksmoor Mill, PS14 Stanley Mills and PS31 Quedgeley East) at North Woodchester, Kings Stanley and Hardwicke respectively which were previously included in the Emerging Strategy Paper are now committed development and are not presented as draft site allocations in the Draft Plan. These sites have therefore not been appraised as part of this SA Report.
- 5.3 The summary of SA findings for all site options considered at each stage of plan preparation is presented in **Table A5.1 to Table A5.6** in **Appendix 5** of this report, followed by the detailed appraisal matrices. It should be noted that the appraisal of all the reasonable site options in **Appendix 5** was undertaken on a consistent basis using the SA assumptions set out in **Appendix 4**, and without taking any policy requirements into account (i.e. 'policy-off').
- 5.4 **Table 5.1** below lists all of the draft site allocations included in the Draft Plan and shows how each draft site allocation relates to those site options previously appraised as part of the Emerging Strategy stage in 2018, and where any updates have been made to the site boundaries. Draft site allocations which were not previously included in the Emerging Strategy Paper are highlighted in green (these have come forward since that consultation).
- 5.5 The detailed appraisal matrices for the draft site allocations presented in **Appendix 7** and summarised below has taken the information provided for each site allocation within the Draft Plan into account (i.e. the quantum and type of development proposed and the fact that detailed policy criteria will be developed to highlight specific mitigation measures and infrastructure requirements, along with a development brief incorporating a masterplan). The individual site matrices for the draft site allocations in **Appendix 7** show two columns of SA effects for each site: the first column shows the findings of the site appraisal from the Emerging Strategy stage (which did not include detailed policy requirements); the second column shows the SA effects of the site boundary as presented in the Draft Plan, along with consideration of the potential policy requirements set out in the Draft Plan. Note that where a site now included as a draft site allocation was not actually included in the previous Emerging Strategy stage, the SA findings from the 'policy-off' appraisals in **Appendix 5** are presented in the first column.
- 5.6 The Draft Plan presents each site allocation relative to the settlement it is located at or in closest proximity to and the SA effects for the draft site allocations are summarised in this same order in **Table 5.2** at the end of this chapter. There are two draft site allocations at which new settlements would be delivered, shown with an asterisk in **Table 5.2**. The description of the SA findings for the draft site allocations presented in this Chapter is split between the 33 draft site allocations that do not constitute new settlements and the two site allocations at Sharpness and Wisloe at which new settlements would be delivered.

Table 5.1 Relationship between draft site allocations appraised as part of the SA of Draft Plan and sites options appraised as part of the SA of the Emerging Strategy Paper

Draft Plan Allocation ref, name, and proposed use	Emerging Strategy Paper ref, name, and proposed use	SALA site ref and name	What was the site appraised for as part of the appraisal of reasonable alternatives at the early stage of the SA?	Any boundary changes?
G1 South of Hardwicke - Approximately 1200 dwellings - Local centre - Community uses - Primary school - Green infrastructure - Open space and strategic landscaping	G1 South of Hardwicke - Potential to meet Gloucester's unmet housing needs subject to being considered against all reasonable alternatives on the edge of Gloucester	Includes: HAR001 Land at Hardwicke and HAR002 Land at Church Lane, Hardwicke	HAR001 and HAR002 appraised for residential use only	No - equivalent to boundaries of HAR001 and HAR002 in both Emerging Strategy Paper and Draft Plan.
G2 Land at Whaddon - Approximately 2500 dwellings - Local centres including shops, community and employment uses - Secondary and primary schools - Bus interchange and safeguarded rail halt - Green infrastructure - Open space and strategic landscaping	G2 Whaddon - Potential to meet Gloucester's unmet housing needs subject to being considered against all reasonable alternatives on the edge of Gloucester	BRO002 Land at Whaddon	BRO002 appraised for mixed use	No - equivalent to boundaries of BRO002 in both Emerging Strategy Paper and Draft Plan.
PS01 Brimscombe Mill - 40 dwellings - Employment uses - Community uses - Open space uses	PS01 Brimscombe Mill - 40 dwellings - Employment uses	Includes: BRI008 Brimscombe Mills & Mill Pond and BRI022 Lakeside Depot	BRI008 and BRI022 previously appraised separately for residential use only	No - site is equivalent to merging of BRI008 and BRI022 in both Emerging Strategy Paper and Draft Plan.
PS02 Brimscombe Port - 150 dwellings - Canal related tourism - Employment uses - Community uses - Open space uses	PS02 Brimscombe Port - 150 dwellings - Canal related tourism - Employment uses	BRI009 Brimscombe Port Industrial Estate	BRI009 appraised for mixed use	No - site equivalent to BRI009 in both Emerging Strategy Paper and Draft Plan.
PS05 East of Tobacconist Road - 80 dwellings - Community building - Open space uses - Strategic landscaping	PS05 East of Tobacconist Road - 100 dwellings - Doctors surgery - Community and open space uses	MIN005 Land at Glebe Farm	MIN005 appraised for residential use only	No - site equivalent to MIN005 in both Emerging Strategy Paper and Draft Plan.
PS06 The New Lawn - 80 dwellings - Community and open space uses	PS06 The New Lawn, Nailsworth - 80 dwellings - Community uses (subject to relocation of football ground)	NAI008 The New Lawn	NAI008 appraised for residential use only	No - site equivalent to NAI008 in both Emerging Strategy Paper and Draft Plan.
PS07 North of Nympsfield Road - 25 dwellings - Community and	PS07 North of Nympsfield Road/Nortonwood Junction	NAI012 Land north of Nympsfield Road/ Nortonwood junction	NAI012 appraised for residential use only	No - site equivalent to NAI012 in both Emerging Strategy Paper and Draft Plan.

Draft Plan Allocation ref, name, and proposed use	Emerging Strategy Paper ref, name, and proposed use	SALA site ref and name	What was the site appraised for as part of the appraisal of reasonable alternatives at the early stage of the SA?	Any boundary changes?
- open space uses - Strategic landscaping	- 25 dwellings - Open space uses			
PS10 Railway land/car parks, Cheapside - 75 dwellings - Town centre uses	PS10 Railway Land/car parks, Cheapside - 75 dwellings - Open space uses	STR014 Railway Land/car parks	STR014 appraised for mixed use	No - site equivalent to STR014 in both Emerging Strategy Paper and Draft Plan.
PS11 Merrywalks Arches, Merrywalks - 25 dwellings - Town centre uses	PS11 Merrywalks Arches, Merrywalks - 25 dwellings - Town centre uses	STR015 Merrywalks Arches (former Cotswold Indoor Bowls)	STR015 appraised for mixed use	No - site equivalent to STR015 in both Emerging Strategy Paper and Draft Plan.
PS12 Police station/magistrate court, Parliament St - 45 dwellings - Town centre uses	PS12 Police station/Magistrates Court, Parliament St - 45 dwellings - Town centre uses	STR018 Police station/Magistrates Court	STR018 appraised for residential use only	No - site equivalent to STR018 in both Emerging Strategy Paper and Draft Plan.
PS13 Central river corridor / canal corridor - 120 dwellings - Canal related tourism uses - Employment uses - Community and open space uses	PS13 Central river/canal corridor - 120 dwellings - Canal related tourism - Employment uses	Includes: STR004 Land to the rear of Avocet Business Park; STR006 Lodgemore/Fromehall Mills; and STR007 Lower Wharf Industrial Estate	PS13 boundary was not appraised in its own right. STR004, STR006 and STR007 were appraised separately for mixed use (STR004 and STR006) or residential (STR007)	PS13 - equivalent to STR004, STR006 and STR007 in both Emerging Strategy Paper and Draft Plan.
PS16 South of Leonard Stanley primary School - 25 dwellings - Community and open space uses	PS16 South of Leonard Stanley Primary School - 30 dwellings - Open space uses	LEO007 Land at Leonard Stanley	LEO007 appraised for residential use only	No - site equivalent to LEO007 in both Emerging Strategy Paper and Draft Plan.
PS17 Magpies site, Oldends Lane - 10 dwellings - Community and open space uses	PS17 Magpies site, Oldends Lane - 10 dwellings - Community and open space uses	STO002 Magpies site, Oldends Lane	STO002 appraised for residential use only	No - site equivalent to STO002 in both Emerging Strategy Paper and Draft Plan.
PS19 Northwest of Stonehouse - 650 dwellings - 5ha employment land - Primary school - Strategic landscaping - Green Infrastructure - Community and open space uses	PS19 North/northwest of Stonehouse (a) - 500 dwellings - Open space uses - 5ha employment land (b) - 150 dwellings - Open space uses	Includes: STO016 Land north west of Stonehouse; and STO021 Stagholt Farm (STO015 now not included in site boundary)	STO015 appraised for residential STO016 appraised for mixed use STO021 appraised for residential use only (as per SALA 2019)	Yes - boundary of STO016 was adjusted for PS19 in the Emerging Strategy Paper. The boundary of PS19 in Draft Plan comprises PS19(a) in the Emerging Strategy Paper (which excludes STO015) plus STO021.
PS20 M5 Junction 13 - 10ha employment land - Sports stadium - Sports pitches - Canal use - Open space uses - Strategic landscaping	PS20 M5 Junction 13 (a) - 10ha employment land - Canal uses - Open space uses (b) - 18ha sports stadium - Community uses	Includes: EAS007 D1 Land at Junction 13 of the M5 (south); EAS007 D2 Land at Junction 13 of the M5 (north) and EAS019 Field north of Travelodge at Chipmans Platt	EAS007 previously appraised for employment, residential and for a football stadium EAS019 appraised for residential use only (as per SALA 2019)	Yes - site in Emerging Strategy Paper equivalent to EAS007, however, the boundary of PS20 in Draft Plan also includes EAS019.
PS21 Land adjacent to Tilsdown House - 15 dwellings	PS21 Land adjacent to Tilsdown House (northern part)	CAM008 Land adjacent to Tilsdown House	CAM008 appraised for residential only	Yes - site in Emerging Strategy Paper equivalent to CAM008,

Draft Plan Allocation ref, name, and proposed use	Emerging Strategy Paper ref, name, and proposed use	SALA site ref and name	What was the site appraised for as part of the appraisal of reasonable alternatives at the early stage of the SA?	Any boundary changes?
- Community and open space uses	- 15 dwellings			however, boundary of PS21 in Draft Plan has been adjusted to include only part of CAM008.
PS24 West of Draycott - 700 dwellings - Primary school - Strategic landscaping - Green infrastructure - Community and open space uses	PS24 West of Draycott - 700 dwellings - Open space uses	Includes: CAM013 Land west of Draycott Crescent; CAM025 Land NW Cam; and CAM026 Land west of A4135 Draycott)	CAM013, CAM025, CAM026 all appraised previously for residential only	Yes - site in Emerging Strategy Paper equivalent to CAM013, CAM025 and CAM026, however boundary of PS24 in Draft Plan has been adjusted to include only part of these sites.
PS25 East of River Cam - 180 dwellings - Community and open space uses	PS25 East of River Cam - 180 dwellings - Open space uses	Includes: CAM E East of River Cam	CAM E appraised for residential use only	Yes - site boundary of CAM E was adjusted for PS25 in Emerging Strategy Paper. PS25 remains equivalent from Emerging Strategy Paper to Draft Plan.
PS27 1-25 Long Street - Town centre uses	PS27 1-25 Long Street - Town centre uses	DUR003 1-25 Long Street	DUR003 appraised for mixed use	Yes - site in Emerging Strategy Paper equivalent to DUR003, however, boundary of PS27 in Draft Plan has been adjusted to include only part of DUR003.
PS28 Land off Prospect Place - 10 dwellings - Community and open space uses - Town centre uses	PS28 The Old Dairy/ Land off Prospect Place - 10 dwellings - Town centre uses	DUR017 The Old Dairy/ Land off Prospect Place	DUR017 appraised for residential use only	No - site equivalent to DUR017 in both Emerging Strategy Paper and Draft Plan.
PS30 Hunts Grove Extension - 750 dwellings - Primary school - Community and open space uses - Strategic landscaping	PS30 Hunts Grove extension - 750 dwellings - Community and open space uses	HAR004 SA4 Hunts Grove Extension	HAR004 appraised for residential use only	No - site equivalent to HAR004 in both Emerging Strategy Paper and Draft Plan.
PS32 South of M5/J12 - 5ha employment land - Strategic landscaping	PS32 South of M5/J12 - 5ha employment land	HFD009 Quedgeley East Extension	HFD009 appraised for employment use	No - site equivalent to HFD009 in both Emerging Strategy Paper and Draft Plan.
PS33 Northwest of Berkeley - 120 dwellings - Community and open space uses - Strategic landscaping	PS33 Northwest of Berkeley - 120 dwellings - Open space uses	BER006 Land north of Berkeley and south west of bypass	BER006 appraised for residential use only	No - equivalent to site BER006 in both Emerging Strategy Paper and Draft Plan.
PS34 Sharpness Docks - Dock uses, associated industrial and distribution uses	PS34 Sharpness Docks - 300 dwellings - 7ha employment land - Tourism, leisure,	NEW001 Sharpness Docks	NEW001 appraised for mixed use	No - equivalent to site NEW001 in both Emerging Strategy Paper and Draft Plan.

Draft Plan Allocation ref, name, and proposed use	Emerging Strategy Paper ref, name, and proposed use	SALA site ref and name	What was the site appraised for as part of the appraisal of reasonable alternatives at the early stage of the SA?	Any boundary changes?
(including 7ha expansion land) - Tourism uses - Leisure and recreational development - 300 dwellings	and recreational uses			
PS35 Land at Focus School, Wanswell - 70 dwellings - Community and open space uses (including the retention and enhancement of existing open space)	PS35 Land at Focus School, Wanswell - 70 dwellings - Community and open space uses	NEW006 Land at Focus School-Berkeley Campus, Station Road	NEW006 appraised for residential use only	No - equivalent to site NEW006 in both Emerging Strategy Paper and Draft Plan.
PS36 New settlement at Sharpness - 10ha employment land - 2400 dwellings by 2040 (5000 dwellings by 2050 when PS36a taken forward) - Shops and community uses - Primary and secondary schools - Open space uses - Strategic landscaping - Green infrastructure	PS36 Land south and east of Sharpness Docks and Newtown - 2400 dwellings by 2040 - 10ha employment land - Community and open space uses	Includes: part of NEW002 Land at Sharpness (Sanigar Farm); NEW002a Additional land at Newtown and Wanswell; NEW003a Land south of Sharpness Primary School; NEW003b Land at Sanigar Lane; and NEW005 Land north of Oakfield Way. Land to the south of site SA5A South of Severn Distribution Park removed.	NEW002 appraised for mixed use, NEW003a, NEW003b and NEW005 appraised for housing NEW002a appraised for residential, employment, and community facilities (as per SALA 2019)	Yes - the site boundary of NEW002 was adjusted for PS36 in Emerging Strategy Paper. The boundary of PS36 in Draft Plan now also includes also includes NEW002a and NEW005.
PS37 New settlement at Wisloe - 5ha employment land - 1500 dwellings - Shops and community uses - Primary school(s) - Open space uses - Strategic landscaping - Green infrastructure	PS37 Land at Wisloe - 1500 dwellings by 2040 - 5ha employment land - Community and open space uses	Includes: SLI002 Land at Cambridge/Coaley A; SLI004 Lane east of Gossington; SLI005 Land south of Cambridge; SLI006 M D Collins Steel Buildings Ltd; and SLI007 Land south of Slimbridge (Wisloe) roundabout.	SLI002, SLI004 and SLI005 have been appraised together for mixed use previously SLI006 appraised for residential and employment and SLI007 appraised for residential, employment, and community facilities (as per SALA 2019)	Yes - site boundary equivalent to sites SLI002, SLI004 and SLI005 in the Emerging Strategy Paper, however, the boundary of PS37 in Draft Plan has been adjusted to include SLI006 and SLI007.
PS38 South of Wickwar Road - 50 dwellings - Community and open space uses - Strategic landscaping	PS38 South of Wickwar Road - 50 dwellings - Open space uses	Includes: KIN005 Land at Cloverlea Barn and KIN011 Land south of Westfield House	KIN005 and KIN0011 appraised for residential use only	No - equivalent to sites KIN005 and KIN011 in both Emerging Strategy Paper and Draft Plan.
PS41 Washwell Fields - 20 dwellings - Community and open space uses - Strategic landscaping	PS41 Washwell Fields - 20 dwellings - Open space uses	PAI004 (part) Washwell Fields	PAI004 appraised for residential use only	Yes - the site boundary of PAI004 was adjusted for PS41 in Emerging Strategy Paper. PS41 remains equivalent from

Draft Plan Allocation ref, name, and proposed use	Emerging Strategy Paper ref, name, and proposed use	SALA site ref and name	What was the site appraised for as part of the appraisal of reasonable alternatives at the early stage of the SA?	Any boundary changes?
				Emerging Strategy Paper to Draft Plan.
PS42 Land off Dozule Close, Leonard Stanley - 15 dwellings - Community and open space uses (open space on the southwest of the site and adjoining Marsh Lane to be retained)	Not included in Emerging Strategy Paper	LEO009 Land off Dozule Close	LEO009 appraised for residential use only (as per SALA 2019)	No - equivalent to site LEO009 promoted through the 2019 SALA.
PS43 Javelin Park - 9ha employment land - Strategic landscaping	Not included in Emerging Strategy Paper	Part of HFD012 Land west of Gloucester Road (B4008)	HFD012 appraised for employment use only (as per SALA 2019)	Yes - the site boundary of HFD012 adjusted for PS43 in the Draft Plan. HFD012 was promoted through the 2019 SALA.
PS44 Northwest of Whitminster Lane - 30 dwellings - Community and open space uses	Not included in Emerging Strategy Paper	FRA004 Fields northwest of Whitminster Lane	FRA004 appraised for residential use only	No - equivalent to site FRA004 appraisal of which was presented in previous iterations of the SA Report.
PS45 Land west of Upton's Gardens - 10 dwellings - Community and open space uses - Strategic landscaping	Not included in Emerging Strategy Paper	WHI004 Land west of Upton's Garden	WHI004 appraised for residential use only	No - equivalent to site WHI004 appraisal of which was presented in previous iterations of the SA Report.
PS46 Land west of School Lane - 30 dwellings - Community and open space uses - Strategic landscaping	Not included in Emerging Strategy Paper	Part of WHI005 Land West of School Lane	WHI005 appraised for residential use only	Yes - the site boundary of WHI005 adjusted for PS46 in the Draft Plan. Appraisal of WHI005 was presented in previous iterations of the SA Report.
PS47 Land west of Renishaw New Mills - 9ha employment land - Strategic landscaping	Not included in Emerging Strategy Paper	KIN012	KIN012 appraised for employment use only (as per SALA 2019)	No - equivalent to site KIN012 promoted through the 2019 SALA.

Summary of SA findings for the draft site allocations (excluding the two new settlements)

- 5.7 The majority (28 sites) of the 33 draft site allocations are expected to have positive effects in relation to SA objective 1: **housing**. These are sites that would support the delivery of new homes in the District. Five of these sites, including those at Stonehouse (PS19), Cam (PS24), Hardwicke and Hunts Grove (PS30 and G1), and Whaddon (G2), are expected to have significant positive effects given that they would allow for the delivery of at least 600 homes.
- 5.8 Seven of the 33 draft site allocations include existing open space or recreation facilities (for example an area of green space or cycle route) which might be lost to development dependent

upon its specific design. As these facilities might otherwise be used by residents to encourage more active lifestyles in the District and benefit public health, uncertain significant negative effects have been identified in relation to SA objective 2: **health**. Of these six sites, sites at Hardwicke (G1), Brimscombe and Thrupp (PS02), Nailsworth (PS06), Stroud (PS13), Stonehouse (PS17 and PS20) and Newtown and Sharpness (PS34) would also allow for an area of open space or new recreation/sports facilities to be incorporated as part of the development. Therefore, a significant positive effect has also been recorded in relation to SA objective 2 for these sites. Twenty-three additional draft site allocations are expected to have a significant positive effect in relation to this SA objective as they are either located within close proximity of a doctor's surgery and an area of open space and a cycle route, or would incorporate an area of open space as part of the development.

- 5.9 In total 30 of the 33 draft site allocations are located on brownfield land or would provide new community facilities which is expected to have minor positive effects in relation to SA objective 5: **vibrant communities**. Of these sites, a total of 12 sites located at Brimscombe and Thrupp (PS01 and PS02), Nailsworth (PS06), Stroud (PS10, PS11, PS12 and PS13), Stonehouse (PS17), Dursley (PS27 and PS28) and Newtown and Sharpness (PS34 and PS35) contain a large portion of brownfield land and it is expected that development at these sites could help to promote regeneration at these settlements. These sites are also expected to have minor positive effects in relation to SA objective 13: **efficient land use** and uncertain minor positive effects in relation to SA objective 15: **waste**. The re-use of brownfield land is likely to prevent the loss of higher value agricultural soils thereby representing more efficient land use in the District and may allow for the re-use of materials already onsite. A minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 5 for 18 additional draft site allocations that are located on greenfield land as they would allow for provision of new community uses. Significant negative effects are expected in relation to SA objective 13 for the majority of the remaining draft site allocations which are located on a large amount of greenfield land and/or take in Grade 1, 2 or Grade 3 agricultural soils. The exception to this is draft site allocation PS21 at Cam. Although this site is on greenfield land it is relatively small in size (0.44ha) and does not contain higher value agricultural soils.
- 5.10 The Tier 1 settlements in the District provide access to a good range of existing services and facilities. Sites at these settlements (Stroud – PS10, PS11, PS12 and PS13; Stonehouse – PS17 and PS19; Cam – PS21 PS24 and PS25, Dursley – PS27 and PS28) and site G2 at Whaddon are likely to provide a good level of access to a range of existing services and facilities. Significant positive effects are therefore expected in relation to SA objective 6: **services and facilities**.
- 5.11 Those sites that would provide new community or town centre uses at Brimscombe and Thrupp (PS01 and PS02), Minchinhampton (PS05), Nailsworth (PS06 and PS07), Leonard Stanley (PS16 and PS42), Stonehouse (PS20), Hardwicke and Hunts Grove (PS30 and G1), Berkeley (PS33), Newtown and Sharpness (PS35), Kingswood (PS38), Painswick (PS41), Frampton (PS44), and Whitminster (PS45 and PS46) are not directly at a Tier 1 settlement or within a town centre, as such the positive effects expected in relation to SA objective 6 are likely to be minor. A number of sites (PS20, PS30, and PS35) by Stonehouse, Hardwicke and Huntsgrove and Newtown and Sharpness respectively, are expected to have a significant negative effect in relation to SA objective 6 given that they are not directly adjacent to the settlement development limits.
- 5.12 Seven of the 33 draft site allocations (G1, PS02, PS07, PS13, PS17, PS34 and PS35) are located within very close proximity (250m) of internationally or nationally designated biodiversity or geodiversity sites or would involve the loss of existing green infrastructure assets at the site. This includes sites PS34 and PS35 at Newtown and Sharpness which are in close proximity to Severn Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site and SSSI. Significant negative effects have therefore been identified in relation to SA objective 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity** for these draft site allocations. Twenty-one additional draft site allocations are expected to have minor negative effects in relation to SA objective 7. These sites are located between 250m and 1km of one or more internationally or nationally designated biodiversity or geodiversity sites or are within 250m of a locally designated site. Some of these sites are within 3km of Rodborough Common SAC or within 7.7km of Severn Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site which are the respective catchment zones established around these designated sites within which new residential development has the potential to contribute to recreational pressure. For four sites at Stonehouse (PS19), Cam (PS24), Hardwicke (G1) and Whaddon (G2) minor positive effects are expected in combination with the negative effects identified. Development at these sites is to incorporate green infrastructure in

line with the relevant Draft Plan Site Allocation Policy, which may allow for improved habitat and wider habitat connectivity in the area. In all cases, the potential effects are uncertain depending on the detailed proposals that eventually come forward at each site and the types of habitats and species present at the nature conservation sites. In addition, mitigation of potentially significant effects is provided by requirements in other policy approaches in the Local Plan Review (see **Table 6.4**).

- 5.13 Areas around the settlements of Brimscombe and Thrupp, Minchinhampton, Nailsworth, Stonehouse and Painswick have been identified as having high landscape sensitivity to employment or residential development. As such five draft site allocations (PS02, PS05, PS07, PS20 and PS41) at these settlements are expected to have significant negative effects in relation to SA objective 8: **landscape/townscape**. Some of the land which contains the draft site allocations around Stroud, Stonehouse, Newtown and Sharpness, Hardwicke and Hunts Grove and Kingswood has not been assessed as part of the landscape sensitivity assessment for the District and does not lie within close proximity of the Cotswolds AONB. Therefore, an uncertain effect has been recorded in relation to SA objective 8 for those draft site allocations. Twenty-one of the draft site allocations lie on land which has been identified as having medium/low or medium sensitivity to development, or lie within close proximity of the AONB and as such a minor negative effect is expected in relation to this SA objective.
- 5.14 Heritage impact assessment work has been undertaken as part of the SALA for Stroud. The work identified potential heritage constraints and the potential for development to impact on elements of the historic environment. It also concludes that opportunities may exist to achieve benefits in relation to the historic environment at eight draft site allocations. These sites lie at the settlements of Brimscombe and Thrupp, Stroud, Dursley and Newtown and Sharpness meaning that an uncertain minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 9: **historic environment**. All of these effects are expected as part of an overall mixed effect with the negative effect expected in relation to the six sites at Brimscombe and Thrupp (PS01 and PS02), Stroud (PS10, PS11 and PS13) and Newtown and Sharpness (PS34) likely to be significant given the particular sensitivity of these locations as per the findings of the SALA. Based on the SALA heritage findings, significant negative effects alone are expected in relation to this SA objective for draft site allocations G1, PS05, PS20 PS21 and PS47 at Hardwicke, Minchinhampton, Stonehouse, Cam and Kingswood respectively.
- 5.15 The SALA Transport Assessment rated the accessibility of sites by walking, car and bus in the District to town/district/local centres, employment sites and services and facilities that people may be required to access on a regular basis. Those draft site allocations which would provide development other than only employment (i.e. residential, mixed-use, etc.) and are located in close proximity to the large settlements are amongst those which scored most favourably as part of that assessment work. These draft site allocations are considered most likely to help reduce the need to travel by private car in the District. The findings of this assessment work have informed the sustainability effects identified in relation to SA objective 10: **air quality**. A lower SALA score indicates lower likely overall emissions from traffic, and therefore more positive effects in terms of this SA objective. In relation to the Tier 1 settlements, significant positive effects are expected in relation to SA objective 10 for three of the four draft site allocations at Stroud (PS10, PS11 and PS12) while the remaining site (PS13) is likely to have a minor positive effect. Furthermore, one site at Dursley (PS28) is likely to have a significant positive effect in relation to SA objective 10, while the other site at Dursley (PS27) is likely to have a minor positive effect. One of three sites at Cam (PS21) is expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to SA objective 10. Draft site allocations PS24 and PS25 at Cam, and site PS19 at Stonehouse are expected to have a significant negative effect based on the findings of the SALA Transport Assessment. As the draft site allocation policies relating to these locations would require development to be delivered to prioritise walking and cycling, a minor positive effect is expected in combination with the significant negative effect. Draft site allocation G2 at Whaddon is expected to have a mixed significant positive effect and minor negative effect as land is to be safeguarded for a rail halt at this location, but it performed relatively poorly in the SALA Transport Assessment.
- 5.16 Of the sites which would provide development other than employment uses (i.e. residential, mixed-use, etc.) a further nine draft site allocations (G1, PS05, PS30, PS34, PS38, PS41, PS44, PS45 and PS46) beyond those at Tier 1 settlements are expected to have a significant negative

effect. For the site south of Hardwicke (G1), development is required to prioritise walking, cycling and public transport over the use of the private car and therefore a minor positive effect is expected in combination with the negative effect also identified. Sites which would provide employment uses and no residential uses (PS20, PS32, PS43 and PS47) which are not located in close proximity to a rail station but are within 400m of one or more bus stops and therefore are expected to have only a minor positive effect in relation to this SA objective.

- 5.17 Drinking Water Safeguarding Zones or Source Protection Zones cover much of the area at the settlements Brimscombe and Thrupp, Minchinhampton, Nailsworth, Stroud, Leonard Stanley, Stonehouse, Cam, Dursley and Painswick. As such, a total of 22 draft site allocations which are at or in close proximity to these settlements have the potential to have adverse impacts in terms of protecting water sources in the District and an uncertain significant negative effect has been identified in relation to SA objective 11: **water quality**. The remaining eleven draft site allocations are not found in close proximity to these zones, and therefore a negligible effect is expected in relation to this SA objective.
- 5.18 Of the 33 draft site allocations, eight contain large portions of land which are within flood zones 3a or 3b. These sites are at Brimscombe and Thrupp (PS01 and PS02), Hardwicke (G1), Stroud (PS13), Stonehouse (PS20), Whaddon (G2), Berkeley (PS33) and Newtown and Sharpness (PS34) and are expected to have a significant negative effect in relation to SA objective 12: **flooding**. Seventeen draft site allocations lie on greenfield land outside of flood Zone 3 and therefore a minor negative effect in relation to SA objective 12 has been identified. A further eight sites lie mostly on brownfield land outside of flood zone 3, and therefore a negligible effect is expected.
- 5.19 Five of the 33 draft site allocations are expected to have a significant negative effect alone in relation to SA objective 16: **employment**. Sites at Leonard Stanley (PS42), Newtown and Sharpness (PS35), Whitminster (PS45 and PS46) and Painswick (PS41) would provide uses which would do not include employment and are either further than 1km from an employment site and are not at a Tier 1 or Tier 2 settlement, or could result in development which would involve the loss of an existing employment use. One site in Stroud (PS12) is in close proximity to a number of employment sites and is at a Tier 1 settlement, but is currently in employment use meaning that existing employment opportunities could be lost as new development is delivered at this site. As such a mixed significant positive and significant negative effect is expected in relation to SA objective 6. Sites at Stonehouse (PS17, PS19 and PS20), Cam (PS24 and PS25) Dursley (PS28), and Berkeley (PS33) are expected to have a significant positive effect in relation to this SA objective 16. Most of these sites are those which would provide residential uses in close proximity to a key employment site and within a Tier 1 or Tier 2 settlement. The significant positive effect recorded for draft site allocation PS20 in relation to this SA objective is also due to delivery of at least 10ha of employment land.
- 5.20 Draft site allocations at Stroud (PS13), Stonehouse (PS17, PS19 and PS20) and Whaddon (G2) would provide new development which is located in close proximity to existing primary and secondary educational facilities or would deliver at least 10ha of employment land. It is expected that these sites would help to promote longer term economic growth in the District, including through the promotion of higher levels of educational attainment. A significant positive effect is therefore expected in relation to SA objective 17: **economic growth** for these five draft site allocations. Development at site G2 would also allow for delivery of new educational facilities in Stroud. This is also the case for site G1 and therefore a significant positive effect is also expected for this site in relation to SA objective 17. The remaining twenty-seven draft site allocations are expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to this SA objective. Some of these sites are located in close proximity of either a primary or secondary school, but not both. Some of the sites would provide employment land that would be less than 10.0ha.

Summary of SA findings for the two draft site allocations which comprise new settlements

- 5.21 Sites PS36 and PS37 are set out in the Draft Plan as draft site allocations for new Garden Villages at Sharpness and Wisloe respectively. Both settlements are to be guided by the "Garden City

Principles” (as defined by the Town and Country Planning Association⁴²) and some of the effects identified for these sites are reflective of this requirement.

- 5.22 Both draft site allocations would support the delivery of a high number of new homes (2,400 and 1,500 at Sharpness and Wisloe over the plan period, respectively). As such significant positive effects are expected in relation to SA objective 1: **housing**.
- 5.23 While both draft site allocations would provide access to a variety of existing open space facilities which might be used by residents to partake of more active lifestyles, neither provides nearby access to healthcare facilities. Therefore, negative effects have been identified in relation to SA objective 2: **health** for both draft site allocations. Both sites would incorporate an area of open space when developed and therefore a significant positive effect is expected in relation to this SA objective for the new settlements at Sharpness and Wisloe. However, draft site PS36 at Sharpness would result in development occurring on an existing area of open space which could result in loss of an existing provision in the District, dependent on the design of the development. As such the negative effect expected in relation to SA objective 2: **health** for this site is likely to be significant and uncertain.
- 5.24 Development at both draft site allocations is to include community uses. Furthermore, the requirement for development to be in line with the Garden City Principles is expected to help promote access to these facilities as part of the creation of vibrant and sociable neighbourhoods. As such minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 5: **vibrant communities** and 6: **services and facilities** for draft site allocations PS35 and PS36.
- 5.25 Draft site allocation PS36 is located within 250m of the international designated biodiversity site at the Severn Estuary. Site PS37 is located within the 7.7km catchment area identified around the Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar site and therefore additional residential development could result in recreational pressures affecting the ecological integrity of the site. As such the negative effect expected for site P36 in relation to SA objective 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity** is likely to be significant and the negative effect expected for draft site allocation PS37 is likely to be minor. However, it is expected that the delivery of development at both sites in line with the Garden City Principles is likely to support the incorporation of green infrastructure which might help to allow for improved habitat provision and connectivity, as well as avoidance of recreation pressure within the Severn Estuary site. Therefore, the negative effects identified for both sites are likely to be combined with minor positive effects. The overall effect for both sites is uncertain considering that impacts relating to biodiversity will be dependent in part on the design of any development which is unknown at this stage.
- 5.26 Only the land at draft site allocation PS36 has been assessed as part of the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment work for Stroud District. Land within the site boundary was assessed as being of medium–high/medium–high sensitivity to residential development and high sensitivity to employment development and therefore a significant negative effect is expected in relation to SA objective 8: **landscapes/townscapes**. As the land at draft site allocation PS37 has not been assessed as part of the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment the overall effect expected in relation to this SA objective is uncertain. Both draft site allocations would incorporate strategic landscaping as development is delivered and therefore there may be potential to mitigate any adverse impacts which might result in relation landscape character. As such further uncertainty is attached to the effects for both draft site allocations. The land at draft site allocation PS36 has been assessed as having moderate heritage constraints as part of the SALA heritage assessment. The land at draft site allocation PS37 has been screened out of this heritage assessment work. As such a minor negative effect and negligible effect are expected in relation to SA objective 9: **historic environment** for the new settlements at Sharpness and Wisloe respectively.
- 5.27 The new settlement at Sharpness would provide significant new sustainable transport improvements (including a new rail station and rapid bus services) while the settlement at Wisloe would provide for less significant sustainable transport improvements (including connections to Cam and Dursley rail station and rapid bus). The draft site allocations are, however, presently not well related to existing services and facilities, town centres and important employment centres. As such a mixed significant negative effect and significant positive effect is expected for draft site

⁴² TCPA (November 2017) *Practical Guides for Creating Successful New Communities*

allocation PS36 and a mixed minor positive effect and significant negative effect is expected for draft site allocation PS37 in relation to SA objective 10: **air quality**.

- 5.28 Only the new settlement at Wisloe is expected to have an adverse impact on water quality in the District given that it lies within an SPZ. As such a significant negative effect is expected in relation to SA objective 11: **water quality** for draft site allocation PS37, while a negligible effect is expected in relation to the same SA objective for draft site allocation PS36. Both draft site allocations are located on greenfield land which is outside of flood zones 3a and 3b. As such, their development is likely to result in the increase in impermeable surfaces in the District which could have adverse impacts in terms of flood risk. Therefore, a minor negative effect is expected in relation to SA objective 12: **flooding**.
- 5.29 Both draft site allocations would involve the development of a sizeable amount of greenfield land to deliver the new settlements. Both sites also include Grade 3 agricultural land. However, more detailed information available about the agricultural land at the Wisloe draft site allocation (PS37) indicates that this land falls within the Grade 3b category (which is not classified as 'best and most versatile' agricultural land). Considering the large area of greenfield land take which would result through the development of both draft site allocations, the negative effect expected in relation to SA objective 13: **efficient land use** is recorded as significant. An uncertainty is identified in relation to this SA objective for draft site allocation PS36 as it is unknown whether this land contains mostly Grade 3a (which is 'best and most versatile') or Grade 3b agricultural land.
- 5.30 As both draft site allocations are to be delivered in line with the Garden City Principles this is likely to help promote the use of zero-carbon and energy-positive technology. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 14: **climate change** for both draft site allocation PS36 and PS37. As both of the new settlements would be delivered on greenfield land they are unlikely to result in the re-use of existing materials or buildings onsite and therefore a negligible effect is expected in relation to SA objective 15: **waste**.
- 5.31 Both sites would provide a substantial amount of new employment land at the new settlements: Sharpness (10.0ha) and Wisloe (5.0ha). Furthermore, the delivery of new development in line with the Garden City principles is likely to help ensure that a wide range of local jobs are provided within easy commuting distance of homes. Both sites are to provide new education facilities which is likely to help support educational attainment and longer term economic growth in Stroud. As such, significant positive effects are expected in relation to SA objective 16: **employment** and SA objective 17: **economic growth** for draft site allocation PS36 and PS37.

Further consideration for pressures on education facilities in Stroud

- 5.32 Due to the sensitivity of data relating to schools' capacities it has not been possible to consider this issue in relation to individual draft site allocations included in the Draft Plan. However, the findings of Gloucestershire County Council's School Places Strategy⁴³ provide an overview of areas in the District at which capacity issues for primary and secondary schools may result as new development is delivered. The strategy identifies that the large amount of development to be delivered at the new settlements in the District could have capacity impacts relating to the areas surrounding Stonehouse and Berkeley. It is, however, identified that the level of growth to be provided at each location would be enough to support new education facilities. Within the wider Stonehouse area, facilities at Eastington, Kings Stanley and Leonard Stanley are likely to look to create some additional capacity to accommodate the additional pupils in the near future. In the area around Dursley there is sufficient supply to meet demand and a surplus of primary places remains; however Uley and Coaley are geographically isolated and therefore could be under pressure from local demand, reflecting issues of education provision in a rural community.
- 5.33 Across the County monitoring of new housing delivery is to continue and S106 contributions will be sought by the County Council if appropriate. At Eastcombe in the medium term (3 to 5 years) S106 provision is to be monitored at Brimscombe Port with some expansion at local school potentially required. Within the area surrounding Stroud, Cainscross, Painswick and Stonehouse

⁴³ Gloucestershire County Council (November 2018) *School Places Strategy 2018-2023*

there is a requirement in the long term (5 to 10 years) to monitor secondary school capacity with potential for low level demand for additional places. The County Council has also identified that in the areas surrounding Dursley and Wotton-under-Edge there will be a medium term need to monitor demand for secondary places with the potential need for bulge classes for 2019 and 2021. In the Wotton-under-Edge area, new housing developments local to Kingswood Primary School should be monitored as there are short term capacity issues due to this school's site restrictions. There is likely to be a requirement to continue to hold discussions with developers to inform how they will make provision available locally. There may be primary school capacity within the wider planning area, at Wotton-under-Edge, however, this would require parents and children to travel out of Kingswood village for primary education.

- 5.34 In all it is expected that continued County Council monitoring and contributions sought through S106 will help to address any capacity issues which might emerge. The level of development in the Stroud area will mean that demand is expected to fill surplus capacity in local primary schools. There is sufficient capacity in the District to accommodate the likely demand for secondary school places from housing in most cases, although there will be small pockets of additional need. The most notable increases in educational demand are likely to occur at the new settlements at Sharpness and Wisloe, however, the amount of growth supported will allow for the delivery of new facilities to meet this demand.

Table 5.2 Summary of SA findings for draft site allocations by settlement

SA Objectives	SA 1	SA 2	SA 3	SA 4	SA 5	SA 6	SA 7	SA 8	SA 9	SA 10	SA 11	SA 12	SA 13	SA 14	SA 15	SA 16	SA 17
Brimscombe and Thrupp																	
PS01	+	++/-	0	0	+	+	-?	-?	--/+?	0	--?	--	+	0	+?	+	+?
PS02	+	++/-- ?	0	0	+	+	--?	--?	--/+?	0	--?	--	+	0	+?	+?	+?
Minchinhampton																	
PS05	+	++	0	0	+	+	-?	--?	--	--	--?	-	--?	0	0	+	+?
Nailsworth																	
PS06	+	++/-- ?	0	0	+	+	-?	-?	0	0	--?	0	+	0	+?	+	+?
PS07	+	++/-	0	0	+	+	--?	--?	0	0	--?	-	--?	0	0	+	+?
Stroud																	
PS10	+	++	0	0	+	++	-?	-?	--/+?	++	--?	0	+	0	+?	+	+?
PS11	+	++	0	0	+	++	-?	-?	--/+?	++	--?	0	+	0	+?	+	+?
PS12	+	++	0	0	+	++	-?	-?	+/-?	++	--?	0	+	0	+?	++/--	+?
PS13	+	++/-- ?	0	0	+	++	--?	?	--/+?	+	--?	--	+	0	+?	+?	++?
Leonard Stanley																	
PS16	+	++/-	0	0	+	+	-?	-?	0	0	--?	-	--?	0	0	-	+?
PS42	+	++/-	0	0	+	+	0?	-?	0	0	--?	-	--?	0	0	--	+?
Stonehouse																	
PS17	+	++/-- ?	0	0	+	++	--?	?	0	-	--?	0	+	0	+?	++	++?
PS19	++	++/-	0	0	+	++	+/-?	-?	0	+/-	--?	-	--?	0	0	++	++
PS20	0	++/-- ?	0	0	+	--/+	-?	--?	--	+	--?	--	--	0	0	++	++
Cam																	

SA Objectives	SA 1	SA 2	SA 3	SA 4	SA 5	SA 6	SA 7	SA 8	SA 9	SA 10	SA 11	SA 12	SA 13	SA 14	SA 15	SA 16	SA 17
PS21	+	++/-	0	0	+	++	-?	-?	--	+	--?	-	-	0	0	+	++?
PS24	++	++/-	0	0	+	++	+/-?	-?	?	--/+?	--?	-	--	0	0	++	++?
PS25	+	++/-	0	0	+	++	-?	-?	0	--/+	--?	-	--?	0	0	++	++?
Dursley																	
PS27	0	++	0	0	+	++	-?	-?	+/-?	+	--?	0	+	0	++?	+	+
PS28	+	++	0	0	+	++	-?	-?	-	++	--?	0	+	0	++?	++	++?
Hardwicke and Hunts Grove																	
PS30	++	++/-	0	0	+	--/+	-?	?	0	--	0	-	--	0	0	+	++?
PS32	0	+	0	0	0	0	0?	?	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	+	+
PS43	0	+	0	0	0	0	0?	?	0	+	0	-	--	0	0	+	+
G1	++	++/-- ?	0	0	+	+	+/--?	-?	--	+/--	0	--	--	0	0	+	++?
Whaddon																	
G2	++	++/-	0	0	+	++	+/-?	-?	-	-/+	0	--	--	0	0	+	++?
Berkeley																	
PS33	+	++	0	0	+	+	-?	-?	0	-	0	--	--?	0	0	++	++?
Newtown and Sharpness																	
PS34	+	++/-- ?	0	0	+	+	--?	-?	--/+?	--	0	--	+	0	++?	++?	++?
PS35	+	++/-	0	0	+	--/+	--?	?	0	-	0	0	+	0	++?	--	++?
New settlement at Sharpness																	
PS36*	++	++/-- ?	0	0	+	+	+/--?	--?	-	++/--	0	--	--?	++?	0	++	++?
New settlement at Wisloe																	
PS37*	++	++/-	0	0	+	+	+/-?	?	0	+/--	--?	-	--	+	0	++	++

SA Objectives	SA 1	SA 2	SA 3	SA 4	SA 5	SA 6	SA 7	SA 8	SA 9	SA 10	SA 11	SA 12	SA 13	SA 14	SA 15	SA 16	SA 17
Frampton																	
PS44	+	++	0	0	+	+	-?	-?	-	--	0	-	--	0	0	+	+
Whitminster																	
PS45	+	++/-	0	0	+	+	-?	-?	-	--	--?	-	--?	0	0	--	+
PS46	+	++/-	0	0	+	+	-?	-?	0	--	--?	-	--?	0	0	--	+
Kingswood																	
PS38	+	++/-	0	0	+	+	0?	-?	0	--	0	-	--?	0	0	+	+
PS47	0	+	0	0	0	0	0?	?	--	+	0	-	--?	0	0	+	+
Painswick																	
PS41	+	++	0	0	+	+	-?	--?	0	--	--?	-	--?	0	0	--	+

6 Cumulative effects of Stroud District Plan Review – Draft Plan

- 6.1 **Table 6.1** below presents a summary of all the potential sustainability effects identified for the Stroud District Plan Review – Draft Plan. From this summary it is possible to assess the likely significant effects of the Draft Plan as a whole (including the draft site allocations) on each of the SA objectives. This enables a description of the likely cumulative effects of the plan as required by the SEA Regulations, which is presented below Table 6.1.
- 6.2 **Table 6.2** provides a summary of the likely cumulative effect of the Draft Plan for each SA objective.

Table 6.1 Summary of cumulative effects of Stroud Draft Local Plan

SA Objectives	SA 1: Housing	SA 2: Health	SA 3: Social inclusion	SA 4: Crime	SA 5: Vibrant communities	SA 6: Services and facilities	SA 7: Biodiversity/geodiversity	SA 8: Landscapes/townscapes	SA 9: Historic environment	SA 10: Air quality.	SA 11: Water quality	SA 12: Flooding	SA 13: Efficient land use	SA 14: Climate change	SA 15: Waste	SA 16: Employment	SA 17: Economic growth
Key priorities	++/- ?	+	+	0	+	++	++	+?	+?	++	0	+	++	++	+?	++/- ?	++/- ?
Vision for the District	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+
<i>Strategic Objectives</i> SO1	++	++	++	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
SO1a	0	++	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SO2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	++
SO3	0	0	0	+	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+
SO4	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	++	0	0	0
SO5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	++	++	++	++	0	0
SO6	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Place Making: the development strategy																	
DCP1	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	++	+	+	0	++	0	0	0
CP2	++	++/-	+/-	0	+/-	++/-	--?	--?	+?/-- ?	+/-	-	-	--	+/-	+	++/-	++/-
CP3	++	++	+	0	+/-	++/-	--?	+/-?	+/-?	+	-	-	+	+	+	++/-	++/-
CP4	+	+	0	+	++	0	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	0
CP5	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	++	+	0	0

SA Objectives	SA 1: Housing	SA 2: Health	SA 3: Social inclusion	SA 4: Crime	SA 5: Vibrant communities	SA 6: Services and facilities	SA 7: Biodiversity/geodiversity	SA 8: Landscapes/townscapes	SA 9: Historic environment	SA 10: Air quality.	SA 11: Water quality	SA 12: Flooding	SA 13: Efficient land use	SA 14: Climate change	SA 15: Waste	SA 16: Employment	SA 17: Economic growth
CP6	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	+/-	0	0	0	+/-	0	0	+
Making Places: Shaping the future of Stroud District																	
Vision for the Stroud Valleys	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	+
Site PS01	+	++/-	0	0	+	+	-?	-?	--/+?	0	--?	--	+	0	+?	+	+?
Site PS02	+	++/--?	0	0	+	+	--?	--?	--/+?	0	--?	--	+	0	+?	+?	+?
Site PS05	+	++	0	0	+	+	-?	--?	--	--	--?	-	--?	0	0	+	+?
Site PS06	+	++/--?	0	0	+	+	-?	-?	0	0	--?	0	+	0	+?	+	+?
Site PS07	+	++/-	0	0	+	+	--?	--?	0	0	--?	-	--?	0	0	+	+?
Site PS10	+	++	0	0	+	++	-?	-?	--/+?	++	--?	0	+	0	+?	+	+?
Site PS11	+	++	0	0	+	++	-?	-?	--/+?	++	--?	0	+	0	+?	+	+?
Site PS12	+	++	0	0	+	++	-?	-?	-/+?	++	--?	0	+	0	+?	++/--	+?
Site PS13	+	++/--?	0	0	+	++	--?	?	--/+?	+	--?	--	+	0	+?	+?	++?
Vision for the Stonehouse cluster	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	+
Site PS16	+	++/-	0	0	+	+	-?	-?	0	0	--?	-	--?	0	0	-	+?
Site PS17	+	++/--?	0	0	+	++	--?	?	0	-	--?	0	+	0	+?	++	++?
Site PS19	++	++/-	0	0	+	++	-/+?	-?	0	+/-	--?	-	--?	0	0	++	++

SA Objectives	SA 1: Housing	SA 2: Health	SA 3: Social inclusion	SA 4: Crime	SA 5: Vibrant communities	SA 6: Services and facilities	SA 7: Biodiversity/geodiversity	SA 8: Landscapes/townscapes	SA 9: Historic environment	SA 10: Air quality.	SA 11: Water quality	SA 12: Flooding	SA 13: Efficient land use	SA 14: Climate change	SA 15: Waste	SA 16: Employment	SA 17: Economic growth
Site PS20	0	++/--?	0	0	+	--/+	-?	--?	--	+	--?	--	--	0	0	++	++
Site PS42	+	++/-	0	0	+	+	0?	-?	0	0	--?	-	--?	0	0	--	+?
Vision for Cam and Dursley	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	+
Site PS21	+	++/-	0	0	+	++	-?	-?	--	+	--?	-	-	0	0	+	+?
Site PS24	++	++/-	0	0	+	++	-/+?	-?	?	--/+	--?	-	--	0	0	++	+?
Site PS25	+	++/-	0	0	+	++	-?	-?	0	--/+	--?	-	--?	0	0	++	+?
Site PS27	0	++	0	0	+	++	-?	-?	-/+?	+	--?	0	+	0	+?	+	+
Site PS28	+	++	0	0	+	++	-?	-?	-	++	--?	0	+	0	+?	++	+?
Vision for Gloucester's rural fringe	+	0	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	+	+
Site PS30	++	++/-	0	0	+	--/+	-?	?	0	--	0	-	--	0	0	+	+?
Site PS32	0	+	0	0	0	0	0?	?	0	+	0	-?	--?	0	0	+	+
Site PS43	0	+	0	0	0	0	0?	?	0	+	0	-	--	0	0	+	+
Site G1	++	++/--?	0	0	+	+	+/--?	-?	--	+/--	0	--	--	0	0	+	++?
Site G2	++	++/-	0	0	+	++	-/+?	-?	-	++/--	0	--	--	0	0	+	++?
Vision for the Berkeley Cluster	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	+	+
Site PS33	+	++	0	0	+	+	-?	-?	0	-	0	--	--?	0	0	++	+?

SA Objectives	SA 1: Housing	SA 2: Health	SA 3: Social inclusion	SA 4: Crime	SA 5: Vibrant communities	SA 6: Services and facilities	SA 7: Biodiversity/geodiversity	SA 8: Landscapes/townscapes	SA 9: Historic environment	SA 10: Air quality.	SA 11: Water quality	SA 12: Flooding	SA 13: Efficient land use	SA 14: Climate change	SA 15: Waste	SA 16: Employment	SA 17: Economic growth
Site PS34	+	++/--?	0	0	+	+	--?	-?	--/+?	--	0	--	+	0	+?	+?	+?
Site PS35	+	++/-	0	0	+	--/+	--?	?	0	-	0	0	+	0	+?	--	+?
Site PS36	++	++/--?	0	0	+	+	+/--?	--?	-	++/--	0	--	--?	+?	0	++	++?
Site PS37	++	++/-	0	0	+	+	-/+?	?	0	+/--	--?	-	--	+	0	++	++
Vision for the Severn Vale	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	0	+
Site PS44	+	++	0	0	+	+	-?	-?	-	--	0	-	--	0	0	+	+?
Site PS45	+	++/-	0	0	+	+	-?	-?	-	--	--?	-	--?	0	0	--	+?
Site PS46	+	++/-	0	0	+	+	-?	-?	0	--	--?	-	--?	0	0	--	+?
Vision for the Wotton Cluster	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	+
Site PS38	+	++/-	0	0	+	+	0?	-?	0	--	0	-	--?	0	0	+	+?
Site PS47	0	+	0	0	0	0	0?	?	--	+	0	-	--?	0	0	+	+
Vision for the Cotswold Cluster	+	0	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+
Site PS41	+	++	0	0	+	+	-?	--?	0	--	--?	-	--?	0	0	--	+?
Homes and Communities																	
DCP2	+	++	++	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CP7	++	+	++	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
CP8	++	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	+

SA Objectives	SA 1: Housing	SA 2: Health	SA 3: Social inclusion	SA 4: Crime	SA 5: Vibrant communities	SA 6: Services and facilities	SA 7: Biodiversity/geodiversity	SA 8: Landscapes/townscapes	SA 9: Historic environment	SA 10: Air quality.	SA 11: Water quality	SA 12: Flooding	SA 13: Efficient land use	SA 14: Climate change	SA 15: Waste	SA 16: Employment	SA 17: Economic growth
CP9	++	0	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CP10	++	0	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0
DHC1	++	+/-	0	0	+	+/-	0	0	0	+/-	0	0	0	+/-	0	+/-	0
DHC2	++	-	+	0	+	+/-	0	+/-?	0	-	0	0	-	-	0	0	0
DHC3	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	+
DHC4	++	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
DHC5	0	++	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
DHC6	0	++	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0
DHC7	0	++	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	+	0	0	0
HC1	++	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	-?	0	0	0	-?	0	0	0
HC2	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	+	+
HC3	++	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HC4	++	+/-	+	0	0	+/-	0	-?	-?	+/-	0	0	-	+/-	0	+/-	0
HC5	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
HC6	+	+/-	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	+/-	0	0	+	+/-	+	+	0
HC7	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
HC8	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0
Economy and Infrastructure																	

SA Objectives	SA 1: Housing	SA 2: Health	SA 3: Social inclusion	SA 4: Crime	SA 5: Vibrant communities	SA 6: Services and facilities	SA 7: Biodiversity/geodiversity	SA 8: Landscapes/townscapes	SA 9: Historic environment	SA 10: Air quality.	SA 11: Water quality	SA 12: Flooding	SA 13: Efficient land use	SA 14: Climate change	SA 15: Waste	SA 16: Employment	SA 17: Economic growth
CP11	+?	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+/-	0	+	+/-	+/-	0	++	++
CP12	+	+	+	0	++	++	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	++
CP13	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	++	0	+	+
EI1	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	+/-	-	-	0	+/-	0	++	++
EI2	+	0	0	0	+	+	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	+/-	+	+/-?	+	+/-	0	++	++
EI2a	0	0	0	0	0	0	--?	?	--?	-	0	-	+	+/-	0	++	++
EI4	+?	0	0	0	0	0	+?	+?	+?	+/-?	0	+?	+/-	+/-?	0	++	++
EI5	0	0	0	0	0	0	+?	+?	+?	+/-?	+?	0	+	+/-?	0	++	++
EI6	0	+	++	0	+	++	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	+	0
EI7	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
EI8	0	+	+	0	+/-?	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	+?	+?
EI9	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	++
EI10	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+/-	0	0	+	+/-	0	+	++
EI11	+	++	+	0	+	++	+	+	+	+/-	0	0	0	+/-	0	+	0
EI12	0	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	+
DEI1	0	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	++	0	+	0
EI14	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	-0	++	0	0	0	++	0	+	+
EI15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	++

SA Objectives	SA 1: Housing	SA 2: Health	SA 3: Social inclusion	SA 4: Crime	SA 5: Vibrant communities	SA 6: Services and facilities	SA 7: Biodiversity/geodiversity	SA 8: Landscapes/townscapes	SA 9: Historic environment	SA 10: Air quality.	SA 11: Water quality	SA 12: Flooding	SA 13: Efficient land use	SA 14: Climate change	SA 15: Waste	SA 16: Employment	SA 17: Economic growth
EI16	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	++	0	+	0
Our Environment and Surroundings																	
CP14	+	+	0	+	+	+	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	++	+	0	+
CP15	+	+/-	0	0	+	+/-	+	++	+	-	0	0	+	-	0	+	++
ES1	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	++	+	0	0
ES2	0	+	0	0	+	0	+/-?	+?	+	0	+	+	+	++	0	+	+
DES3	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0
ES3	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	++	++	+	+	0	0	0	0
ES4	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	++	++	0	+	+	0	0
ES5	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	++	0	0	0	+	0	+	0
DES1	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	+	+
ES6	0	+	0	0	+	0	++	+?	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0
ES7	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ES8	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0
ES9	0	+	0	0	0	0	+?	+?	+?	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+
ES10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ES11	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	++	++	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0
ES12	0	+	++	+	++	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	+

SA Objectives	SA 1: Housing	SA 2: Health	SA 3: Social inclusion	SA 4: Crime	SA 5: Vibrant communities	SA 6: Services and facilities	SA 7: Biodiversity/geodiversity	SA 8: Landscapes/townscapes	SA 9: Historic environment	SA 10: Air quality.	SA 11: Water quality	SA 12: Flooding	SA 13: Efficient land use	SA 14: Climate change	SA 15: Waste	SA 16: Employment	SA 17: Economic growth
DES2	0	+	+	0	+	0	++	++	?	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	
ES16	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+

Table 6.2 Summary of the likely cumulative sustainability effects for the Stroud District Local Plan Review – Draft Plan (November 2019)

SA Objective	Cumulative effect of the Draft Local Plan
SA1: Housing	++
SA2: Health	+/-
SA3: Social Inclusion	+
SA4: Crime	+
SA5: Vibrant communities	+
SA6: Services and facilities	+/-
SA7: Biodiversity/geodiversity	+/--
SA8: Landscapes/townscapes	+/--
SA9: Historic environment	+/--
SA10: Air quality	+/-
SA11: Water quality	+/-
SA12: Flooding	+/-
SA13: Efficient land use	+/--
SA14: Climate change	++/-
SA15: Waste	+
SA16: Employment	++/-
SA17: Economic growth	++

SA objective 1: To provide affordable, sustainable and decent **housing** to meet local needs.

- 6.3 The Draft Plan includes policies which would support the delivery of the required number of new homes over the plan period to address local housing need in the District. Policies CP2 and CP3 outline that the district will accommodate 12,800 additional dwellings between 2020 and 2040 with many of these homes to be delivered at the larger settlements and new growth points at Sharpness and Wisloe. Housing delivery in Stroud District may also contribute to meeting the unmet housing needs of Gloucester City for the Plan period by providing for growth at Whaddon, subject to the location being consistent with the strategy of the JCS.
- 6.4 Policy CP8 requires that new housing development should be a high-quality design and should help to address local requirements in terms of housing type, tenure and size. A proportion of housing in the District will be provided as affordable homes, as set out in Policy CP9. The Draft Plan also addresses specific housing requirements of older people (Policy DCP2) as well as gypsies and travellers and travelling showpeople (Policy CP10).
- 6.5 Draft site allocations at Stonehouse (PS19), Cam (PS24), Hardwicke (PS30 and G1), Whaddon in the Gloucester fringe (G2) Sharpness and Newtown (PS36) and Wisloe (PS37) have the potential to deliver a substantial number of new homes in Stroud to meet local needs (as well as that of

Gloucester city). These sites could also help to support the delivery of a range of new housing type in the District.

- 6.6 Overall, a cumulative **significant positive** effect is likely in relation to housing.

SA objective 2: To maintain and improve the community's **health** with accessible healthcare for residents, including increasing levels of physical activity, especially among the young.

- 6.7 The Draft Plan's approach to protecting wellbeing and health in the District is set out in Policy DHC5. This policy states the Council will support proposals that include design measures to encourage healthier lifestyles. The approach includes promoting access to healthy foods, supporting physical and mental health and providing access to local health care facilities. The Draft Local Plan also includes Policies DHC6 and DHC7 which provide direct support for the protection of existing and the provision of new open spaces, outdoor recreation facilities, playing fields or allotments. Additionally, the potential to encourage modal shift including active modes in the District is embedded in the Draft Plan. Policies DCP1, CP4 and CP5 would facilitate improvement of walking and cycle networks in the District and the provision of community facilities alongside housing growth through master planning of strategic and other major developments. As such it is expected that the Draft Plan is likely to help provide opportunities for residents to partake of more active and healthier lifestyles. The Draft Plan also includes policies (ES3, ES4, ES5 and DES2) that will help to prevent negative impacts on resident's health by requiring that development minimises its contribution to pollution, either through design or mitigation measures.
- 6.8 The proposed development strategy, which is detailed in part by Policy CP2 and CP3 would result in development being concentrated at locations which currently provide access to the widest range of services and facilities. Critical mass would be provided at the new settlements at Sharpness and Wisloe which is likely to support the delivery of new services and facilities at these locations. As such, the proposed growth strategy is likely to be of particular benefit in terms of access to healthcare facilities and facilities which would support more active lifestyle choices among residents. It is noted however that the development strategy may be detrimental in terms of supporting the delivery of services and facilities of a more substantial nature at more rural locations. There is also potential for there to be inadequate health related service provision in the early stages of development at the new settlements at Sharpness and Wisloe. As such there is potential for adverse impacts in terms of access to healthcare facilities at rural locations and the new settlements particularly in the short term.
- 6.9 Of the draft site allocations included in the Draft Local Plan, 32 are likely to have a significant positive effect in relation to health as they are located in close proximity to healthcare facilities as well as to existing features which might encourage more active lifestyles among residents (e.g. areas of open space, footpaths, etc.), or they would incorporate an area of open space as part of the development. However, six sites are likely to have a significant negative effect in relation to health given that they are not located within close proximity of healthcare facilities and assets which could help promote more active lifestyles, or they contain such an asset which might be lost dependent upon the design of development at the site.
- 6.10 Overall, a cumulative **mixed minor positive and minor negative** effect is likely in relation to health.

SA objective 3: To encourage **social inclusion**, equity, the promotion of equality and a respect for diversity and meet the challenge of a growing and ageing population

- 6.11 The Draft Plan includes a number of policies (DCP2, CP7, DHC5, DHC6, DHC7, DES2, EI6, EI8 and ES12) which directly seek to maintain and improve accessibility to services and amenities including active social, leisure and recreation opportunities. These policies are also likely to help provide opportunities for people from a variety of backgrounds with a range of needs (including older people and people with disabilities) to live and meet in attractive locations.
- 6.12 Through Policies CP2 and CP3, the Draft Plan directs a large proportion of new development to locations that allow for access to the widest range of services and facilities (i.e. higher tier settlements). Within the proposed development strategy set out in these policies, it is likely that the delivery of new services and facilities will be supported through the provision of critical mass at the new settlements at Sharpness and Wisloe. Focussing much of the new growth at larger

settlements is likely to be of particular benefit in terms of facilitating improved levels of social inclusion. However, this approach could limit the delivery of similar services and facilities at smaller settlements and rural locations. There is also potential for there to be inadequate service provision in the early stages of development of the new settlements at Sharpness and Wisloe, which may limit the potential for this development to address the issue of social inclusion.

- 6.13 Despite these potential minor negative effects, overall, a cumulative **minor positive** effect is likely in relation to social inclusion.

SA objective 4: To reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and disorder and the fear of crime.

- 6.14 The majority of the Draft Plan, including all of the draft site allocations, are not likely to have a direct effect on this objective. Policies CP4 and CP14 however are supportive of the creation of safe town centres and communities in which public safety is prioritised and the fear of crime is reduced respectively, which will in part be achieved through high quality design and layout.
- 6.15 Although policy CP14 does require development to consider crime prevention in the design and layout of developments, this issue will be further considered at the planning application stage and will likely be influenced through the inclusion of features such as street lighting and overlooked public and private spaces.
- 6.16 Overall a cumulative **minor positive** effect is likely in relation to crime.

SA objective 5: To create and sustain vibrant communities.

- 6.17 Policies ES12 and ES16 in the Draft Plan are expected to have a direct positive impact in relation to this SA objective. These policies have the potential to help increase the attractiveness of the District and increase residents' satisfaction with their neighbourhoods. In addition to helping to promote higher quality design of development and space to meet a variety of needs these policies would also benefit the aesthetic quality of the District by supporting the provision of publicly accessible art and design works.
- 6.18 The Draft Plan's policy approach (CP12) to addressing the District's needs in terms of town centres is also expected to play a similar role in terms of creating vibrant communities given that it is expected to help improve the offer of services at these locations.
- 6.19 Policies CP2 and CP3 would allow for a concentrated approach to future growth in the District, with most new development being directed in and around settlements where there are already good levels of community service provision. These policies also direct a high amount of growth to new settlements at Sharpness and Wisloe which is likely to support provision of new community facilities at these locations in the long term. However, this concentrated approach may not be of benefit to rural communities in terms of community facility provision, resulting in an imbalance across the District.
- 6.20 Of the 35 draft site allocations included in the Draft Local Plan, 34 are expected to have minor positive effects in relation to this SA objective. In most cases, this is because development would incorporate new community facilities, but in some cases development would occur on brownfield land, thereby contributing to the regeneration of the District.
- 6.21 Overall a cumulative **minor positive** effect is likely in relation to the creation of vibrant communities.

SA objective 6: To maintain and improve access to all services and facilities.

- 6.22 Policies CP2 and CP3 would result in much of the housing development over the plan period being concentrated at locations that provide the best level of access to services, i.e. the Tier 1 settlements of Stroud, Stonehouse and Cam and Dursley. A significant amount of growth is also to be directed to new settlements at Sharpness and Wisloe, which will provide new services and facilities as part of development and positive effects on this SA objective. However, this approach could limit the potential for new substantial services and facilities to be supported at the smaller and more rural settlements of the District and there may be potential for service and facility provision to be inadequate during the early stages of development at the new settlements.
- 6.23 Policies in the Draft Plan (Policies EI6, EI7, EI8 and EI9) which seek to protect the viability of town centres in Stroud are expected to help maintain access to service provision at these

locations. Ensuring support for successfully functioning town centres and service provision in accessible locations, particularly by public transport, will be of benefit to a high number of residents within the District. Policies DHC6 and DHC7 seek to ensure that existing open spaces and recreation facilities are protected and opportunities to provide further facilities of this nature are maximised.

- 6.24 The majority of draft site allocations included in the Draft Plan are expected to result in positive effects in relation to this SA objective as some of them would incorporate new community uses as part of development. Sites at the Tier 1 settlements of Stroud, Stonehouse and Cam and Dursley as well as at Whaddon at the urban edge of Gloucester city are expected to result in significant positive effects in relation to this SA objective as these locations provide good access to a range of services and facilities.
- 6.25 Overall a cumulative mixed **minor positive and minor negative** effect is likely in relation to the improving access to services and facilities.

SA objective 7: To create, protect, enhance, restore and connect habitats, species and/or sites of biodiversity or geological interest.

- 6.26 The Draft Plan includes policies which would support the conservation and enhancement of the countryside and biodiversity in the District as new development is delivered over the duration of the plan period. Policies ES6, ES8, DES2, CP14, DHC6 and DHC7 provide the greatest potential for positive impacts in relation to this SA objective through a requirement to provide net gain in biodiversity at development sites, the protection of biodiversity designations and greenspaces and the incorporation of green infrastructure as growth occurs in the District.
- 6.27 However, the high level of development supported over the plan period through policy CP2 is likely to result in some habitat loss, disturbance and fragmentation as well as the potential for increased recreational pressures on designated biodiversity sites where new residential development is delivered.
- 6.28 The majority of the draft site allocations included in the Draft Plan are also likely to have a negative effect on this SA objective given that they would be within close proximity of a designated biodiversity site. There is potential for particular pressures to result in relation to the Severn Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site, Cotswold Beechwoods SAC and Rodborough Common SAC due to the proximity of draft site allocations and their sensitivity to residential development and recreational pressures. In addition, seven draft site allocations located at Brimscombe and Thrupp (PS02), Nailsworth (PS07), Stroud (PS13), Stonehouse (PS17) and Newtown and Sharpness (PS34, PS35 and PS36) are in close proximity of a national or international designated site or include an identified green infrastructure asset which might be lost as part of the development. Therefore, the impact at these sites is expected to be significant negative.
- 6.29 Overall a cumulative **mixed minor positive and significant negative** effect is likely in relation to biodiversity and geodiversity.

SA objective 8: To conserve and enhance the local character and distinctiveness of landscapes and townscapes and provide sustainable access to countryside in the District.

- 6.30 The large areas of rural countryside which surround the main and more peripheral settlements, play a large role in influencing the landscape character of Stroud District as well as the townscapes of those settlements. The Cotswolds AONB to the east heavily influences the character of this portion of the District and is particularly sensitive to new development.
- 6.31 The Draft Plan contains a number of policies (CP5, DHC6, DHC7, CP14, CP15, ES7, ES8, ES10, ES11 and DES2) which are likely to help promote a high quality of design and the protection of existing green space and landscape character including important landscape features that characterise the District. In particular, Policy ES7 seeks to support proposals that will conserve and enhance the setting of the Cotswolds AONB, with priority to be given to the conservation and enhancement of the natural and scenic beauty of the landscape. Policies ES12 and ES16 may help to mitigate negative impacts relating to the aesthetic quality of settlements in the District by encouraging high quality design and layout of new development as well as opportunities to incorporate public art works.

- 6.32 The proposed development strategy (in particular elements of Policies CP2 and CP3) seeks to deliver much of the development over the plan period at the main settlements of the District thereby limiting the level of development which would be supported at the smaller and more rural settlements. Although much of the new growth would potentially avoid the more sensitive locations of the District particularly within the AONB, the high level of development required over the plan period will result in the loss of large areas of greenfield land and potential encroachment on the open countryside. Furthermore, development supported through the proposed development strategy would occur around some settlements such as Stroud which are noted to have high landscape sensitivity to new development.
- 6.33 The majority of draft site allocations set out for development in the Draft Plan are expected to have an adverse effect in terms of enhancing the local distinctiveness and character of landscapes in the District. These sites have been assessed as having at least medium/low or medium sensitivity to development as set out in the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for Stroud District or are located within 500m of the AONB. Seven sites at Brimscombe and Thrupp (PS02), Minchinhampton (PS05), Nailsworth (PS07), Stonehouse (PS20), Cam (PS22), Newton and Sharpness (PS36) and Painswick (PS41) are located at locations which have been identified as having medium/high or high sensitivity to development. Development at these locations could have significant negative effects on landscape character in the district.
- 6.34 Overall a cumulative **mixed (minor positive and significant negative)** effect is likely in relation to landscape.

SA objective 9: To conserve and/or enhance the significant qualities, fabric, setting and accessibility of the District's **historic environment**.

- 6.35 The scale and location of development included in the Draft Plan, as set out in Policies CP2 and CP3 could adversely affect heritage assets and their settings, particularly where development is to occur on larger scale greenfield sites. Loss of greenfield land is likely to significantly alter the setting of nearby heritage assets and may disturb archaeological assets on site. Development would also occur in close proximity to locations which are potentially sensitive in terms of heritage assets such as the Industrial Heritage Conservation Area which runs through Stonehouse and Stroud, as the proposed development strategy focusses much of the growth towards the main settlements. The Industrial Heritage Conservation Area is on the heritage at risk register meaning that it may be particularly sensitive to new development and change which is not considerate of its setting. However, the Draft Plan does encourage the re-use of brownfield land across the District by focussing much of the growth over the plan period within the settlement development limits of the larger settlements, through Policy CP3. This policy approach could result in beneficial effects in terms of the setting of heritage assets.
- 6.36 Policy ES10 relates mostly directly to the protection and enhancement of the District's heritage assets. Policies CP5, DHC6, DHC7, CP14, ES11 and DES2 are likely to support the delivery of high quality design across the plan area and protect important areas of greenspace and elements of the local built environment which provide the setting for heritage assets in Stroud District. In addition, Policies ES12 and ES16 seek to encourage design that is sympathetic to the existing townscape of settlements and increase the attractiveness of settlements through the incorporation of public art works.
- 6.37 A number of the draft site allocations included in the Draft Plan are likely to have significant negative effects in relation to this SA objective. Sites at Brimscombe and Thrupp (PS01 and PS02), Minchinhampton (PS05), Stroud (PS10, PS11 and PS13), Stonehouse (PS20), Cam (PS21), Newtown and Sharpness (PS34) and Kingswood (PS47) have been identified as having significant or very significant heritage constraints as per the findings of the SALA heritage assessment. Conversely, draft site allocations PS01, PS02, PS10, PS11, PS12, PS13, PS27 and PS34 were identified through the SALA heritage assessment as having opportunities to achieve enhancements in terms of the historic environment.
- 6.38 Overall, a cumulative **mixed (minor positive and significant negative)** effect is likely in relation to the historic environment.

SA objective 10: To ensure that **air quality** continues to improve.

- 6.39 The relatively high level of development supported over the plan period through the Draft Plan is expected to result in an increase in the number of journeys being made on a daily basis in Stroud District. Residents are likely to need to travel regularly to access services, facilities and employment sites, which could have an adverse impact on local air quality. However, the policy approach set out through Policies CP2 and CP3 goes some way to provide a spatial strategy for development that could help to minimise the need to travel, particularly by private car. By concentrating large proportions of housing development at Tier 1 settlements where there is currently the best access to services, facilities, jobs and infrastructure, there is potential to reduce trip distance and for a large proportion of trips to be made by more sustainable modes of transport. Policies CP2 and CP3 also allow for a high proportion of development at new settlements at Sharpness and Wisloe. These are large-scale developments that will have sufficient critical mass to support the delivery of services and facilities onsite and would incorporate sustainable transport infrastructure and employment land. The delivery of new development in line with Garden City Principles is likely to further promote the ability to achieve modal shift. However, there is a possibility that residents will have inadequate access to services and facilities during the early stages of development, which may result in a need to travel further afield using private car trips, resulting in decreased air quality in the short term.
- 6.40 However, Policies CP14, ES3 and ES5 require development proposals not to contribute to reduced air quality. In particular, Policy ES5 is likely to contribute significantly to limiting any increases in air pollution as new development is provided in Stroud District. This policy sets out specific mitigation criteria relating to air quality including approaches to the scale and location of transport infrastructure as well as supporting the expansion of the capacity of the natural environment to mitigate poor air quality. The provision of infrastructure to support modal shift will be of particular importance to limiting air pollution as growth occurs in the District. Policy EI12 directly addresses this issue, but would also support the delivery of strategic road improvements, thereby increasing the potential for higher numbers of private car journeys to be made in the plan area. Policy DHC7 relates to the provision of green open space and is also expected to help address issues of air quality in the District given the potential for increased sequestration of air pollutants.
- 6.41 Many of the draft site allocations have been identified as having the potential to require new residents or employees to travel greater distances on a regular basis as set out through the findings of the SALA Transport Accessibility Assessment. While sites PS10, PS11 and PS12 at Stroud and site PS28 at Dursley (all of which would provide an element of residential development) are particularly well related to existing services and facilities by more active modes of transport, an additional 14 draft site allocations are expected to have significant negative effects on air quality in the District due to the poor level of access they would provide to services and facilities. A number of draft site allocations would require development to be delivered to encourage the use of more sustainable transport modes. Sites G2, PS36 and PS37 are expected to have significant positive effects in relation to the potential to achieve modal shift in the long term as they would incorporate significant new sustainable transport infrastructure, including railway and rapid bus improvements.
- 6.42 Overall, a cumulative **mixed minor positive and minor negative** effect is likely in relation to air quality.

SA objective 11: To maintain and enhance the **quality of ground and surface waters** and to achieve **sustainable water resources management** in the District.

- 6.43 The Draft Plan's proposed development strategy, as set out in Policies CP2 and CP3, would result in the majority of development occurring by settlements which have been identified as containing land which mostly falls outside of Source Protection Zones. The pattern of development set out through this approach, however, would include large areas of land which fall within Drinking Water Safeguarding Zones and Source Protection Zones and could therefore have a significant negative effect on water quality; including 23 of the 35 draft site allocations.
- 6.44 Despite the potential for negative effects on water quality due to development in areas safeguarded for drinking water sources, there are a number of policies (CP14, ES3, ES4, ES11 and DES2) that are likely to help mitigate these effects. In particular, Policy ES4 sets out specific

criteria for development to ensure no deterioration of water quality and the enhancement of watercourse corridors and catchments. Policy ES4 would help to encourage improved water efficiency at developments. In addition, the design and construction techniques used for new development are likely to be able to avoid adverse effects on groundwater.

- 6.45 Overall a cumulative **mixed minor positive and minor negative** effect is likely in relation to water quality.

SA objective 12: To manage and reduce the risk of **flooding** and resulting detriment to public wellbeing, the economy and the environment.

- 6.46 The Draft Plan's policy approach includes the prioritisation of the use of brownfield land (Policy CP2), the regeneration of underutilised or low value employment sites (Policies EI2 and EI4) and the preservation and provision of open space and community facilities (Policies DHC6 and DHC7). The aforementioned policies have the potential to preserve greenfield areas of the District that contribute to the safe infiltration of surface water, thereby limiting the potential for increased flood risk as development occurs. The Draft Plan also includes Policy ES4, which makes the most significant contribution to this SA objective given that it specifically relates to addressing local flood risk. New development is to be sited with consideration for the sequential test and implementation of the "Exception Test" where necessary and is required to incorporate SuDS.
- 6.47 The Draft Plan supports development which is to occur on sites which take in large portions of land in flood zone 3a and 3b in the District. Development at the draft site allocations at Brimscombe and Thrupp (PS01 and PS02), Stroud (PS13) Stonehouse (PS20), south of Hardwicke (G1) Whaddon (G2) Berkley (PS33), Newtown and Sharpness (PS34) and the new settlement at Sharpness (PS36) would result in increases in the number of residents who have potential to be affected by flooding in Stroud. As such, it is expected that the development of these sites would have significant negative effects in terms of flood risk in the district. However, the majority of draft site allocations are only likely to have minor negative effects because they are outside of the high-risk flood zones.
- 6.48 Overall a cumulative **mixed minor positive and minor negative** effect is likely in relation to flooding.

SA objective 13: To improve efficiency in **land use** and protection of soil quality through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings and encouraging urban renaissance.

- 6.49 The Draft Plan includes several policies which are likely to promote a more efficient pattern of land use, including the redevelopment of brownfield sites in Stroud District. The proposed development strategy which Policies CP2 and CP3 form part of, directs a large proportion of new growth within the settlement development limits which may help to maximise the potential of brownfield. Policies EI2 and EI4 seek to maximise the potential of existing employment sites through regeneration and expansion. Nevertheless, the high level of development set out through the Draft Plan will result in large areas of greenfield land being developed and therefore a significant negative effect on this SA objective.
- 6.50 Many of the draft site allocations are on greenfield land, including sites at Minchinhampton (PS05), Nailsworth (PS07), Leonard Stanley (PS16 and PS42), Stonehouse (PS19 and PS20), Cam (PS24 and PS25), Hardwicke and Hunts Grove (PS30, PS32 and PS43), Whaddon (G2), Berkeley (PS33), Kingswood (PS38 and PS47), Painswick (PS41), Frampton (PS44) and Whitminster (PS45 and PS46) as well as the new settlements at Newtown and Sharpness (PS36) and Wisloe (PS37). These greenfield sites are large and/or contain Grades 1, 2 or 3 agricultural soils which are likely to be lost as a result of development (although much of the land within the boundaries at PS37 has been identified as being Grade 3b, which is not classified as 'best and most versatile' land).
- 6.51 Overall a cumulative **mixed minor positive and significant negative** effect is likely in relation to the efficient use of land and preservation of higher value soils.

SA objective 14: To implement strategies that help mitigate global warming by actively reducing greenhouse gases and adapt to unavoidable **climate change** within the District.

- 6.52 The Draft Plan includes an overarching policy (DCP1) dedicated to ensuring carbon neutrality in the District by 2030, which is ahead of the Government target of 2050. To achieve this aim the policy sets out a number of criteria which new development will be required to meet. The proposed development strategy of the Draft Local Plan detailed through Policy CP2 and Policy CP3 is likely to support the achievement of this target by focussing a high proportion of new growth at the larger settlements of the District where residents will have reduced need to travel long distances on a regular basis.
- 6.53 The scale of development set out in the Draft Plan, however, will inevitably result in an increase in the number of journeys undertaken in the plan area. Considering that many of these trips will be made by private vehicle the level of growth supported will be to the detriment of climate change. Development may particularly affect emissions during the initial construction phase due to transport to and from construction sites. The District's contribution to climate change for the most part, however, will be impacted upon by the number of day-to-day journeys undertaken and how these journeys are made, which Policies DCP1, CP2 and CP3 may help to mitigate.
- 6.54 The high levels of residential and employment growth for the District, which are set in Policy CP2, would result in increased levels of travel locally but may also help to support an increased level of self-containment in Stroud District. Some of the economic growth would take place at the M5/A38 corridor which would provide varying levels of access to employment opportunities for residents within the main settlements in the District.
- 6.55 Other policies in the Draft Plan (EI12, DEI1, DES2, ES1, ES2, DES3 ES4) support measures which are likely to help provide climate change mitigation and adaption as development is delivered over the plan period. These policies will contribute to modal shift in Stroud District. They will also have benefits relating to climate change given that they should help to incorporate new green infrastructure which will support carbon sequestration, help to manage flood risk, support more sustainable design and construction practices, as well as the delivery of new infrastructure which supports energy generation from renewable sources and more efficient heat supply.
- 6.56 Overall a cumulative **mixed significant positive and minor negative** effect is likely in relation to climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

SA objective 15: To minimise the amount of **waste** produced, maximise the amount that is reused or recycled, and seek to recover energy from the largest proportion of the residual material, and achieve the sustainable management of waste.

- 6.57 It is expected that the level of growth, as set out in Policy CP2, would result in increases in local waste production. However, new development may help to encourage sustainable waste management or recycling practices dependent upon whether new infrastructure and storage space to support changes in the behaviour of local people is provided. Furthermore, the delivery of high levels of development will not adversely impact upon rates of recycling and re-use in the District. Policies CP4 and CP5 are likely to contribute positively to the achievement of higher rates of recycling in Stroud as they require that development proposals must give adequate consideration to storage space for waste collection materials and that strategic sites minimise waste and maximise recycling during constructions. The potential for sustainable construction techniques as well as the operation of new development to minimise waste is supported through Policy ES1, which sets out specific criteria that development proposals should fulfil. Policy CP14 states that development in the District should respect environmental limits, which includes minimising the amount of waste produced.
- 6.58 Furthermore, prioritising the use of brownfield land to provide future growth in the District is a theme which runs through much of the Draft Plan. It is expected that this approach to new development in the District may help to encourage the re-use of onsite buildings and materials thereby limiting construction and demolition waste. The proposed development strategy, which is partially set out through Policy CP3, directs a high proportion of development to areas within the settlement development limits where the potential for re-use of brownfield sites is likely to highest.

- 6.59 Thirteen of the draft site allocations, including those located at Brimscombe (PS01 and PS02), Nailsworth (PS06), Stroud (PS10, PS11, PS12 and PS13), Stonehouse (PS17), Dursley (PS27 and PS28) and Newtown and Sharpness (PS34 and PS35) contain significant portions of brownfield land and development at these locations may result in the re-use of onsite buildings and materials dependent upon the design of proposals which come forward.
- 6.60 Overall, a cumulative **minor positive** effect is likely in relation to waste.

SA objective 16: To deliver, maintain and enhance sustainable and diverse employment opportunities, to meet both current and future needs.

- 6.61 The proposed growth strategy in the Draft Plan seeks to provide new employment land to meet needs in Stroud District for the next 20 years. It seeks to provide economic growth and additional jobs on and adjacent to existing high value employment sites as well as within the M5/A38 corridor and as part of mixed used developments. Policies CP2 and CP3 set out the specific locations where most of the employment growth is to occur, many of which are located in areas with access to the motorway or A-road network and are well related to the larger settlements.
- 6.62 By concentrating employment growth within the A38/M5 corridor and at locations where housing growth would also be provided, the Draft Plan is expected to help maximise the potential for inward investment that will ensure that new employment sites are supported by strategic scale transport infrastructure. This new economic growth and the resultant employment opportunities provided may, however, be less accessible to some people in the District; particularly those at the larger settlement of Dursley.
- 6.63 It is expected that the updates to the settlement boundaries set out through Policy CP3 would have both positive and negative effects in relation to the provision of accessible employment opportunities in the District. The update boundaries would result in the majority of new employment opportunities being provided at locations which are in close proximity to a large number of residents. The boundaries would also allow for a compact pattern of development which may help to promote vitality and viability resulting in inward investment and job creation.
- 6.64 Policy CP11 directly addresses new employment development in Stroud District with new provision to be supported at a range of sites and premises across the District. New development should not hinder existing employment and where possible should be readily accessible by public transport.
- 6.65 Policies EI1, EI2, EI2a, EI4, EI5 and EI10 also make particular contributions to the achievement of employment provision in the District. These policies are likely to help protect existing key employment sites in Stroud District. Appropriate redevelopment for mixed uses is to be supported at certain employment sites where the overall employment offer is at least the same as it was prior to the new proposal. They will also help to support the viability and diversification of rural employment opportunities by allowing the appropriate extensions of rural employment sites as well as farm or forestry diversification schemes and rural tourism. The Draft Plan also supports some employment provision at the District's town centres through Policy CP12. Several draft site allocations are expected to be of particular benefit in terms of providing accessible employment opportunities in the District. This includes sites at Stroud (PS12), Stonehouse (PS17, PS19 and PS20), Cam (PS24 and PS25), Dursley (PS28), Berkeley (PS33), Newtown and Sharpness (PS36) and Wisloe (PS37). These are sites which would deliver a large amount of employment land or would provide new homes in close proximity to a key employment site and within a Tier 1 or 2 settlement where further employment opportunities are likely to be located.
- 6.66 Sites at Stroud (PS12), Newtown and Sharpness (PS35), Painswick (PS41), Leonard Stanley (PS42) and Whitminster (PS45 and PS46) have been identified as containing a current employment use or are not within close proximity to employment site and that are not at a Tier 1 or 2 settlement, and therefore have the potential to have a negative effect.
- 6.67 Overall a cumulative **mixed (significant positive/minor negative)** effect is likely in relation to employment opportunities.

SA objective 17: To allow for sustainable **economic growth** within environmental limits and innovation, an educated/ skilled workforce and support the long term competitiveness of the District.

- 6.68 The Draft Plan's proposed development strategy, as set out in part through Policy CP2, is likely to be beneficial in relation to encouraging inward investment. The proposed development strategy would focus employment growth within the A38/M5 corridor and create new sustainable communities at locations (most notably at Wisloe and Sharpness) where development can provide new and improved services and infrastructure. The relatively high level of growth concentrated at a number of locations where economic development would benefit from access to strategic transport infrastructure is likely to prove attractive to developers and in the longer term would support enhancements to existing infrastructure. The settlement development limits set out through Policy CP3 have the potential to limit the areas where economic growth could occur but would focus growth at more sustainable locations and is also likely to help support the viability of town centres in Stroud District.
- 6.69 New employment development is supported at a range of sites and premises across the District as set out through Policy CP11. Ensuring that new development should not hinder existing employment is likely to help continue support for economic growth in the District. Policies EI1 and EI2 protect key employment sites, and support redevelopment of other employment sites where mixed use development is provided and a decrease in employment opportunities would not result. This approach is likely to mean that those sites which are currently most attractive to businesses are maintained for economic use and regeneration occurs where at least the same employment opportunities for the local community would be provided by the new development. The Draft Plan, through Policies EI4, EI5 and EI10, also supports diversification of the rural economy. These policies would allow for the extension of rural employment sites as well as farm or forestry diversification schemes and rural tourism provided that the necessary criteria are met.
- 6.70 Requiring developers to support infrastructure provision through appropriate contributions, may make development less viable in certain circumstances. However, the requirement for contributions through CIL in line with the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) set out through Policy CP6, is expected to help support long term investment in the District. Transport improvements and mitigation that will help to ensure the successful functioning of employment land and town centres in the District will help to foster future economic growth and business start-ups. The policy will also help to promote long term skills uptake through support for education facilities.
- 6.71 The draft site allocations in the Draft Plan which would allow for residential growth in close proximity to both a primary school and a secondary school (and therefore education opportunities) or would allow for a high level of employment development are expected to be of particular benefit in terms of achieving this SA objective. This includes sites at Stroud (PS13), Stonehouse (PS17, PS19 and PS20) and Whaddon (G2). The new settlements to be provided at Sharpness (PS36) and Wisloe (PS37) are likely to help promote educational attainment in the District by supporting the delivery of new education facilities which would benefit residents at these sites and in the surrounding area. The site to the south of Hardwicke (G1) would also support the delivery of new education facilities in Stroud District to the benefit of this SA objective.
- 6.72 Overall a cumulative **significant positive effect** is likely in relation to economic growth.

In-combination effects

- 6.73 There is potential for the cumulative effects described above to give rise to in-combination effects with development planned for areas that are outside of but in close proximity to the District. In-combination effects may also occur with county-wide initiatives such as transport infrastructure projects within Gloucestershire County. **Table 6.3** sets out relevant plans which are considered most likely to give rise to in-combination effects with the effects identified for the plan alone.

Table 6.3 Summary of development with potential to result in in-combination effects with Stroud District Plan Review – Draft Plan

Plan	Progress	Development proposed with potential for in-combination effects with development within Stroud
<p>The District is bordered by the Forest of Dean District to the west. The boundary with the Forest of Dean District is formed by the extent of the River Severn meaning that distance between the two local authority areas is more than 1.0km in many places.</p>		
<p>Forest of Dean District <i>The current Adopted Local Plan includes the Core Strategy (February 2012) and the Allocations Plan (June 2018)</i></p>	<p>The Forest of Dean District Core Strategy was adopted in February 2012 and sets the overall vision for how the district and places within it should evolve up to 2026. The Allocations Plan includes sites for housing, employment, shopping and other built development.</p> <p>The District Council is currently reviewing the Local Plan to guide development up to 2041. The review process is at a very early stage and consultation is presently being sought on issues and options for the plan.</p>	<p>The Core Strategy (Policy CSP5) sets out that Lydney (1,900 homes), Cinderford and Ruspidge urban area (1,050 homes), Coleford (650 homes) and Newent (350 homes) would accommodate a large proportion of the 5,162 homes required over the plan period.</p> <p>Development within Lydney (and most notably site A47 'East of Lydney' which would provide 1,684 homes) is in close proximity to the boundary with Stroud. Development within Cinderford and Newent would approximately 5.0km and 10.0km from the Stroud boundary respectively. Much of the new growth at Cinderford would be provided within the Northern Quarter AAP boundary which is located on the far north western side of the existing development at the settlement.</p>
<p>The District is border by Gloucester City and Tewkesbury Borough to the north.</p>		
<p>Gloucester City and Tewkesbury Borough <i>The adopted plan in both authorities comprises the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) (December 2017) with saved policies from the Gloucester Local Plan (1983) also material in that authority area</i></p>	<p>The JCS was adopted by Gloucester City Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, and Tewkesbury Borough Council in December 2017. It sets the plan for co-ordinated strategic development in Gloucester City, Cheltenham Borough and Tewkesbury Borough up to 2031. Only two policies from the 1983 Local Plan are relevant for planning decisions in Gloucester City and these relate to heights of buildings and the site identified at Abbeydale to provide two</p>	<p>The JCS (Policy SP1) sets out that provision will be made to meet the need for approximately 35,175 new homes and a minimum of 192 hectares of B-class employment land across the plan area up to 2031. At least 13,287 dwellings are to be provided within the Gloucester City administrative boundary. Strategic allocations (policy SA1) set out to help provide this level of housing include the Winneycroft Strategic Allocation (620 homes), and urban extensions at Innsworth and Twigworth (2,295 homes and 9.1ha of employment land), South Churchdown (1,100 homes</p>

Plan	Progress	Development proposed with potential for in-combination effects with development within Stroud
	<p>Primary Schools.</p> <p>The JCS authorities are currently reviewing the plan to guide development up to at least 2036. The review process is at a very early stage and consultation was undertaken from November 2018 to January 2019.</p>	<p>and 17.4ha of employment land) and North Brockworth within Tewkesbury Borough (1,500 homes and 3.0ha of employment land). The strategic allocations mostly lie on the far northern side of development within Gloucester city, the exception to this being the site at North Brockworth which is within 1.5km to the north of the Stroud District boundary. To meet the needs of Tewkesbury Borough, the JCS will make provision for at least 9,899 new homes, at least 7,445 of which will be provided through existing commitments, development at Tewkesbury town, and smaller-scale development meeting local needs at Rural Service Centres and Service Villages.</p>
<p>The District is border by the Cotswold District to the east.</p>		
<p>Cotswold District</p> <p><i>Cotswold District Local Plan 2011-2031 (August 2018)</i></p>	<p>The Cotswold District Local Plan was adopted in August 2018 and set out policies and proposals to meet the challenges facing the area up to 2031.</p>	<p>The plan sets out to deliver at least 8,400 dwellings and at least 24 hectares for B class employment use from 2011 to 2031 at the Principal Settlements. A large proportion of the new development (2,350 homes and 9.1ha of employment land) is to be provided at the strategic site south of Chesterton in Cirencester which lies outside of the AONB within proximity 7.0km to the east of the Stroud District boundary. Tetbury within the AONB is within 2.5km of the Stroud District boundary and includes sites which would provide modest amounts of development (43 homes and 18 homes at Blind Lane and Northfield Garage respectively).</p>
<p>The District is border by the South Gloucestershire District to the south.</p>		
<p>South Gloucestershire District</p> <p><i>The development plan includes the Core Strategy 2006-2027</i></p>	<p>The Core Strategy was adopted in December 2013 and the PSP Plan was adopted in November 2017. The Core Strategy</p>	<p>The Core Strategy identifies that 28,355 new homes are to be delivered in the period 2006 to 2027. Housing and employment development (Policy CS11 and</p>

Plan	Progress	Development proposed with potential for in-combination effects with development within Stroud
<p><i>(December 2013) Policies, Sites and Places Plan (PSP Plan) (November 2017)</i></p>	<p>forms the strategic component of the Council's Local Plan up to 2027, while the PSP Plan sets out development management policies and details of town centres and site allocations.</p>	<p>Policy CS15) is mostly to be concentrated within the Bristol North Fringe/East Fringe urban areas to the south of the district. Development within the Yate/Chipping Sodbury and Thornbury would be within 5.0km and 6.0km of Stroud District respectively, to the south. This development would allow for greater self-containment at these settlements. Land at Yate is to allow for up to 3,000 new homes with 97ha of employment land allocated or safeguarded. At Thornbury 800 new homes and 19ha of safeguarded employment land are set out.</p>
<p>The four West of England Councils – Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol City, North Somerset, and South Gloucestershire are working together to produce a West of England Joint Spatial Plan (JSP). The District is bordered by South Gloucestershire area to the south.</p>		
<p>West of England <i>The Joint Spatial Plan Submission document – The Publication Plan (November 2017)</i></p>	<p>The JSP was submitted for examination in April 2018. As of September 2019 the inspectors have recommended that the JSP be withdrawn from examination. The West of England councils are now considering the inspectors' detailed comments before determining the best way forward.</p>	<p>The JSP (Policy 1 and Policy 2) sets out that provision is to be made in the West of England area for at least 105,500 homes between 2016 and 2036. Of the homes to be provided, South Gloucestershire is to accommodate 32,500. The JSP identifies 12 Strategic Development Locations (SDLs) which are to be brought forward as allocations through each authority's new Local Plan. South Gloucestershire is to accommodate five SDLs, with Charfield (1,200 dwellings and 5ha of new employment land), Buckover (3,000 homes and 11ha of employment land) and Thornbury (500 dwellings and 5ha of additional employment land) all within a maximum of 6.0km of the District boundary.</p> <p><i>Considering the inspectors' recommendations relating to the JSP, the development set out in the document cannot currently be considered as part of the in-</i></p>

Plan	Progress	Development proposed with potential for in-combination effects with development within Stroud
		<i>combination cumulative effects relating to the Draft Local Plan.</i>
<p>Gloucestershire County Council is responsible for providing the transport strategy for Stroud District, as well as Cheltenham, Cotswold District, Gloucester City and Tewkesbury</p>		
<p>Gloucestershire County Council <i>Gloucestershire's Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2015-2031 (November 2017)</i></p>	<p>The LTP sets out the transport strategy for the County to enable sustainable economic growth up to 2031.</p>	<p>Within Stroud the highways priorities are set out to support the level of expected future growth in the area. Short term priorities have been identified as improvements to the A419 corridor at Stonehouse; B4066 corridor improvements at Berkeley; improvements to the A38 Berkeley Bridges at Berkeley; improvements for cycle access at Stroud Town Centre and local Park and Ride facilities. Long term priorities have been identified as improvements to Cam and Dursley railway station; Stonehouse railway station enhancements; cycle access improvements for Cam and Dursley Greenway to Railway Station; cycle access improvements to national cycle route 45 in Stroud; access improvements for Cainscross roundabout in Stroud; and cycle access improvements for a Multi-Use Track at the B4008 between Little Haresfield and Stonehouse.</p>

- 6.74 In combination with the level of housing and employment development proposed in the Stroud Draft Plan, development set out in the various local plan documents above is likely to reinforce the significant positive effects already identified in relation to SA objective 1: **housing**, as well as SA objective 16: **employment** and SA objective 17: **economic growth**. The employment growth provided at settlements which are well related to the District may help to balance the redevelopment of existing employment sites for alternative uses at Stroud, Newtown and Sharpness and Painswick. The new employment growth at Gloucester and South Gloucestershire (most notably at Thornbury) is likely to prove particularly accessible to residents of Stroud District considering that the strategic road (M5 and A38) network runs directly through these areas. This would include new employment land at Brockworth which is located within 6.5km of Painswick along the A46 where a net loss of employment uses might result, although this could result in greater car use and longer journeys.
- 6.75 The delivery of a relatively high level of growth within Stroud District and in the surrounding areas will result in the development of a substantial amount of greenfield land. This is likely to take in areas of Grade 2 and Grade 3 agricultural land, as well as a small amount of Grade 1 agricultural land to the west and north of the city of Gloucester. Similar to the Stroud Draft Plan, focussing much of the growth at the larger settlements of the JCS and South Gloucestershire areas in

particular are likely to provide further opportunities to allow for the redevelopment of brownfield land when considering wider in-combination effects. As such the significant negative effect which has been identified in combination with a minor positive effect in relation to SA objective 13: **land use** is likely to remain when considering in-combination effects.

- 6.76 It is also likely that the level of growth expected in-combination, which will involve the development of large areas of greenfield land as well as the intensification of uses at other sites, will have impacts in terms of the existing character of the area. These impacts are likely to relate to both landscape character and the setting of the historic environment. Similar to the approach of the Stroud Draft Plan, much of the new development in the surrounding authority areas would be delivered to avoid the Cotswolds AONB. A large proportion of the new growth which is close proximity to Stroud in Cotswolds District is to be directed towards Cirencester outside of the AONB boundaries. Within the Forest of Dean development (45 dwellings and 4ha of employment land) would occur at Lydbrook which lies within the Wye Valley AONB. While this development would not affect the special character of the Cotswolds AONB, parts of which lie within Stroud District, it could lead to degradation of the landscape character of the wider area. As such there is potential for the significant negative effect identified in relation to SA objective 8: **landscape/townscape** and SA objective 9: **historic environment** to be strengthened. However, there is potential for development in the surrounding areas to provide opportunities to improve local character through appropriate landscape design, the incorporation of green infrastructure and bringing brownfield land back into uses. Mitigation requirements set out through policies in the surrounding area's local plan documents may provide further benefits in relation to these SA objectives meaning that there is potential for the minor positive effects identified in combination to be encouraged.
- 6.77 The LTP includes sustainable transport improvements such as to rail and cycle access as well as local Park and Ride facilities. However, the schemes identified also include improvements to the strategic road network. These improvements could help to limit the potential for adverse impacts in terms of air quality (particularly by encouraging modal shift and reducing the potential for congestion) and the release of greenhouse gases in the area. There is also potential for the increased capacity of the strategic road network in the plan area to allow for a higher volume of vehicles being accommodated on roads in the plan area. As a whole, the development in the District and that in the surrounding areas, is likely to result in an increase in the number of trips being made regularly to commute or meet other local needs. As such, there is potential for both the minor negative effect and minor positive effect identified in relation to SA objective 10: **air quality** and SA objective 14: **climate change** to be increased to significant.
- 6.78 The loss of greenfield land to development in the District combined with development proposed in surrounding areas has the potential to result in fragmentation of existing habitats and impacts on ecological features. Large scale new development supported through the Stroud Draft Plan and the plans in surrounding areas may, however, present opportunities to allow for the delivery of strategic green infrastructure to the benefit of habitat connectivity. Development sites allocated in the JCS area by Gloucester city (at Brockworth in particular) and in Forest of Dean at Lydney have the potential to result in increased human activities to the detriment of biodiversity at the Cotswold Commons and Beechwoods NNR and SAC and Severn Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site, which would be over and above the effects identified for the Draft Plan alone. The significant negative identified in relation to SA objective 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity** therefore has the potential to be exacerbated, although it recognised that the minor positive effect identified could be strengthened through the incorporation of appropriate mitigation at new development locations.
- 6.79 Service provision and the creation of vibrant and successfully functioning communities are important factors for consideration when delivering high levels of new growth in any area. The level of growth proposed with the District and the surrounding areas has the potential to result in local capacity issues relating to service provision. Larger scale new development is however also likely to support new service provision in the long term. Where new growth is supported in areas which are well related to the District boundary new services provided will be of particular benefit to the nearby rural communities of Stroud. This is particularly likely to be the case for new development at the city of Gloucester, Brockworth and Thornbury considering their accessibility via the strategic road network. Development at Yate is also likely to be beneficial in this respect but would lack the same level of access from Stroud District considering that the most direct route

is provided by the B4060. As such, development provided outside of the District has the potential to result in both additional positive and negative effects identified in relation SA objective 2: **health**, SA objective 3: **social inclusion**, **SA objective 5: vibrant communities** and SA objective 6: **access to services and facilities**. Further mitigation of any negative effects identified is contained in the policies of the Draft Plan itself (see Mitigation section below). It is expected that these policies would help to ensure new services and facilities are provided to support new residents, encourage development which responds to the needs of a range of types of residents and ensure satisfaction with the new development provided.

Recommendations

Emerging Strategy stage

- 6.80 The SA findings relating to the emerging future growth strategy and the site options for the District contained in the Emerging Strategy Paper (November 2018) as presented in **Appendix 3** and **Appendix 5** of this report were initially presented as internal notes to the Council in late summer 2018. This work included a summary of the sustainability effects for the four potential growth strategy options as well as the site options considered for allocation by the Council.
- 6.81 The SA concluded that the growth strategy option which would result in a more concentrated pattern of development would perform slightly better in sustainability terms overall than the other three options. Therefore, it was recommended that a hybrid option which resembled the concentrated development option but also included growth at the one or two growth points and/or one or two of the smaller towns and larger villages as well might be taken forward. This approach could achieve the potential growth, uplift and funding for the provision of new infrastructure of including a small number of large growth points within the District while also avoiding the areas of the District which are most constrained by sensitive features. The SA also recommended that in selecting site options to allocate, there would be a need to avoid settlements where negative environmental effects on biodiversity/geodiversity, landscape/townscape, historic environment, water quality and flooding are more likely.
- 6.82 The Council took these SA recommendations into account as part of the production of the Emerging Strategy Paper.

Current Draft Plan stage

- 6.83 The SA of the Stroud District Local Plan Review – Draft Plan has identified a number of additional recommendations, to be considered by the Council (alongside consultation responses) when preparing the pre-submission version of the plan in 2020. These are summarised below:
- Delivery policies could include support for the remediation of contaminated land.
 - Delivery policies could include the requirement for residential development not to be sited in close proximity to unsuitable neighbouring uses (e.g. waste management facilities, the strategic road network or railway lines), which might otherwise have impacts on the residential amenity of the new development.
 - Policy DES3 could be updated to make explicit reference to requiring proposals for wind development to avoid adverse effects on the integrity of the Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar site. The policy is supportive of larger schemes of this nature at locations in close proximity to this designated site meaning specific consideration for its protection should be included through the policy. This recommendation may be influenced by the conclusions of the HRA in relation to the Severn Estuary site, which are currently being finalised.
 - Policy ES6 could be updated to refer directly to the need to ensure development would not result in detrimental impacts relating to the Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar site as well as Rodborough Common SAC considering the particular sensitivities of these sites to residential development and the catchment areas which have been identified for these sites. This recommendation may be influenced by the conclusions of the HRA in relation to the Severn Estuary site and Rodborough Common SAC, which are currently being finalised.

- Policy ES6 could also better reflect the guidance regarding biodiversity net gain requirements, as at present this requirement is only alluded to in the introductory text for the policy.

Mitigation

- 6.84 The Draft Plan supports a high level of development over the plan period. As this chapter describes, alongside many positive effects, a number of potential negative effects arising from this new development have been identified in relation to many of the SA objectives. The SEA Regulations advocate an approach that negative effects should be addressed in line with the mitigation hierarchy: avoid effects where possible, reduce the extent or magnitude of effects, then seek to mitigate any remaining effects.
- 6.85 **Table 6.4** summarises the key policies of the Draft Plan which could mitigate potential negative effects of delivering a high level of growth over the plan period in relation to each of the SA objectives.

Table 6.4 Draft Plan policies that would contribute to the mitigation of negative effects identified

SA Objective	Mitigation provided by Draft Plan policies
SA 1: Housing	<p>Policies CP2: Strategic growth and development locations; CP3: Settlement Hierarchy; and DHC2: Sustainable Rural Communities set out the necessary principles for the development of housing at appropriate locations in the District to meet local needs.</p> <p>Policies DGP2: Supporting Older People; DHC4: Community-led housing; CP7: Lifetime communities; CP8: New Housing Development; CP9: Affordable Housing; DHC1: Meeting housing need within defined settlements; HC2: Providing new homes above shops in our town centres; HC3: Self-build and Custom Build Housing Provision; HC4: Local housing need (exception sites); and HC7: Annexes for dependents or carers are likely to help contribute to delivering a sufficient mix of homes (including affordable homes) that addresses a variety of needs in the long term in the District.</p> <p>Policies HC1: Detailed Criteria for New Housing Developments; HC6: Residential Sub-Division of Dwellings; and HC8: Extensions to Dwellings support appropriate extensions to existing properties in Stroud to allow for the adaptability of homes and help ensure that new housing development is appropriately designed to meet the needs of the District.</p>
SA 2: Health	<p>Policies DHC5: Wellbeing and Healthy Communities; DHC6: Protection of Existing Open Spaces and Built and Indoor Sports Facilities; DHC7: Provision of New Open Space and Built and Indoor Sport Facilities; EI11: Providing Sport, Leisure, Recreation and Cultural Facilities; E12: Promoting transport choice and accessibility; ES3: Maintaining Quality of Life Within our Environmental Limits; and DES2: Green Infrastructure all seek to ensure that the health of the District’s communities are promoted by maintaining a healthy and safe living environment and encouraging healthier lifestyle choices. They are also likely to help promote opportunities for increased levels of physical activity, including through the uptake of active modes of travel. These policies are also likely to help ensure that local communities are supported by the necessary infrastructure and accessible health care services.</p>
SA 3: Social inclusion	<p>Policies DGP2: Supporting Older People; CP7: Lifetime Communities; CP10: Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Sites; DHC4: Community-Led Housing; EI11: Providing Sport, Leisure, Recreation and Cultural Facilities; are expected to contribute to ensuring that development is supported by services and infrastructure that will help to reduce the potential for social isolation in Stroud District. These policies will also help to provide development to address the needs of needs of groups of specific portions of the local population.</p>
SA 4: Crime	<p>Policies CP4: Place Making; CP14: High Quality Sustainable Development; ES3: Maintaining Quality of Life Within Our Environmental Limits; and ES12: Better Design of Places are all expected to contribute to creating well designed and safe environments within the District where there is reduced potential for the incidences and fear of crime.</p>
SA 5: Vibrant communities	<p>Policies CP4: Place Making; CP7: Lifetime Communities; DHC4: Community-Led Housing; DHC5: Wellbeing and Healthy Communities; HC1: Detailed Criteria for New Housing Developments; EI6: Protecting Individual and Village Shops, Public Houses and Other Community Uses; EI11: Providing Sport, Leisure, Recreation and Cultural Facilities; ES12: Better Design of Places; and ES16: Public Art Contributions are all expected to work towards improving the satisfaction of people in the District as a place to live by supporting the delivery of high quality</p>

SA Objective	Mitigation provided by Draft Plan policies
	development and community services and facilities to foster more vibrant communities in the District. Several of the policies would also help to contribute to improving the aesthetic of the District as well as protecting residential amenity.
SA 6: Services and facilities	<p>DHC5: Wellbeing and healthy communities; DHC6: Protection of existing open spaces and built indoor sports facilities; DHC7: Provision of new open space and built and indoor sports facilities; EI6: Protecting individual and village shops, public houses and other community uses; and EI11: Providing sport, leisure, recreation and cultural facilities, seek to ensure that a sufficient level of community facilities is provided to support growth in the District, as well as protecting and enhancing existing facilities.</p> <p>Policies CP3: Settlement Hierarchy; Policies CP4: Place making; CP5: Environmental development principles for strategic sites; EI12: Promoting transport choice and accessibility; and EI16: Provision of public transport facilities seek to ensure that new development is provided at locations where services and facilities are accessible and would also support sustainable transport provisions to allow for improved accessibility to these types of provisions.</p>
SA 7: Biodiversity/geodiversity	Policies ES6: Providing for biodiversity and geodiversity ; ES8: Trees, hedgerows and woodlands ; and DES2: Green Infrastructure will help to ensure the protection of the District's ecological assets by requiring that development proposals provide a net gain in biodiversity and by preventing harm relating to designated biodiversity sites. In general, it is expected that these policies would help to prevent potential habitat loss and disturbance and fragmentation of important ecological features. These policies will also seek to appropriately enhance the value, functionality, and connectivity of these features.
SA 8: Landscapes/townscapes	Policies ES7: Landscape character ; ES8: Trees, hedgerows and woodlands and ES12: Better design of places require development proposals to consider the special features and landscape character of the District (including that of the Cotswolds AONB). These policies will help to ensure that buildings are appropriately designed, and that landscaping is sensitive to the local landscape character.
SA 9: Historic environment	Policies ES7: Landscape character ; ES10: Valuing our historic environment and assets ; and ES12: Better design of places seek to protect and conserve historic and cultural features in the District, as well as locally distinctive landmark features. Development is also required to be well designed to be sensitive to the local context. Where appropriate, development proposals that enhance the District's heritage assets will be supported.
SA 10: Air quality	<p>Policies DCP1: Delivering Carbon Neutral by 2030; ES1: Sustainable construction design; ES3: Maintaining quality of life within our environmental limits; ES2: Renewable or low carbon energy generation; and ES5: Air quality, will help to improve the air quality in the District by encouraging energy generation from alternative sources and high quality design which promotes energy efficiency at new developments. These policies are also expected to help limit the potential for air pollution to be exacerbated through the scale, nature or location of new development.</p> <p>Policies EI12: Promoting transport choice and accessibility and EI16: Provision of public transport facilities, will help to promote modal shift in Stroud District as well as helping to prevent growth in traffic volume, particularly by private vehicle. This approach is likely to help limit air pollution resulting as new growth occurs in the plan area.</p>
SA 11: Water quality	Policies CP14: High quality sustainable development ; ES1: Sustainable construction design ; ES3: Maintaining quality of life within our environment limits and ES4: Water resources, quality and flood risk seek to minimise the potential for adverse effects on the quality and quantity of local water bodies as a result of development proposals, as well as conserving and enhancing the ecological flood storage value of the water environment.

SA Objective	Mitigation provided by Draft Plan policies
	These policies will also help to ensure more efficient of water use and recycling of water resources in new development.
SA 12: Flooding	Policies CP14: High quality sustainable development; ES1: Sustainable construction and design; ES3: Maintaining quality of life within our environmental limits; and ES4: Water resources, quality and flood risk seek to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding by ensuring that new development minimises its vulnerability to flooding and implements measures to maximise future flood resilience. Proposals for development should also be considerate of the sequential test and the "Exception Test" where necessary and will incorporate SuDS thereby limiting the delivery of vulnerable development in high risk areas and requiring that measures to ensure risk of flooding is not increased.
SA 13: Efficient land use	Policies CP3: Settlement Hierarchy; EI2: Regenerating existing employment sites; EI4: Development at existing employment sites in the countryside; and CP14: High quality sustainable development seek to promote development on previously developed brownfield land, either by the regeneration of existing sites or the adaptation of existing buildings. This approach is considered to help contribute to more efficient land use in the District.
SA 14: Climate change	<p>Policies DCP1: Delivering Carbon Neutral by 2030; EI12: Promoting transport choice and accessibility; EI16: Provision of public transport facilities; ES1: Sustainable construction and design; ES2: Renewable or low carbon energy generation; and DES3: Heat supply all aim to reduce carbon emissions through the promotion of more sustainable modes of transport, the recycling of waste and water, encouraging more efficient building design and the use of energy from renewable sources. These policies also seek to reduce the vulnerability of new development to impacts caused by future climate change such as flooding.</p> <p>Policies ES6: Providing for biodiversity and geodiversity and DES2: Green infrastructure seek to enhance biodiversity value in the District by ensuring a net gain in biodiversity, and therefore mitigate the potential loss of biodiversity caused by climate change. The maintenance of areas of open space as part of the green infrastructure network will also help to promote climate change mitigation and adaptation by allowing for areas which act to sequester carbon and helping to limit the potential for the heat island effect and the proliferation of impermeable surfaces which might increase flood risk.</p>
SA 15: Waste	Policies ES1: Sustainable construction and design; ES4: Water resources, quality and flood risk; CP5: Environmental development principles for strategic sites; and CP14: High quality sustainable development seek to ensure that new development maximises the recycling of any waste generated during construction and operation, promote the recycling of grey water and seek to minimise generation of waste.
SA 16: Employment	Policies CP11: New employment development; EI1: Key employment sites; EI2: Regenerating existing employment sites; EI2a: Former Berkeley Power Station; and EI4: Development at existing employment sites in the countryside all contribute to the increased provision of employment opportunities at sustainable locations by supporting the allocation of sites for new employment development and protecting the against the regeneration of existing viable employment sites for other uses.
SA 17: Economic growth	Policies CP11: New employment development; CP13: Demand management and sustainable travel measures; EI1: Key employment sites; EI5: Farm and forestry enterprise diversification; Delivery Policy EI7: Non-retail uses in primary frontages; EI8: Non-retail uses in secondary frontages; EI10: Provision of new tourism opportunities; and EI12: Promoting transport choice and accessibility are expected to help ensure that there is

SA Objective	Mitigation provided by Draft Plan policies
	sufficient space for economic growth in the District and that infrastructure which enables sustainable economic growth, such as transport provisions and high speed broadband is supported. These policies are also likely to help ensure that town centres in the District remain viability and continue to attract appropriate levels of footfall and that the rural economy and tourism are sufficiently supported.

7 Monitoring

- 7.1 The SEA Regulations require that “*the responsible authority shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action*” and that the environmental report should provide information on “*a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring*”. Monitoring proposals should be designed to provide information that can be used to highlight specific issues and significant effects, and which could help decision-making.
- 7.2 Monitoring should be focused on the significant sustainability effects that may give rise to irreversible damage (with a view to identifying trends before such damage is caused) and the significant effects where there is uncertainty in the SA and where monitoring would enable preventative or mitigation measures to be taken. In line with a precautionary approach, those SA objectives against which no significant adverse effects have been identified but uncertainty is recorded have been included in the monitoring framework. Significant adverse effects and/or uncertain effects have been identified against all SA objectives.
- 7.3 **Table 7.1** overleaf sets out a number of suggested indicators for monitoring the potential sustainability effects of the Draft Plan. Where possible, this draws from the proposed monitoring framework for the adopted Stroud District Local Plan (2015) that has been prepared by Stroud District Council. Monitoring indicators have been updated to take account of representations received in relation to the SA Scoping Report and those for the SA report for the Emerging Strategy Paper during consultation. Note that the indicators proposed are included as suggestions at this stage may change when Stroud District Council prepares its monitoring framework for the Local Plan Review.
- 7.4 The data used for monitoring in many cases will be provided by outside bodies. Information collected by other organisations (e.g. the Environment Agency) can also be used as a source of indicators. It is therefore recommended that the Council continues the dialogue with statutory environmental consultees and other stakeholders that has already been commenced, and works with them to agree the relevant sustainability effects to be monitored and to obtain information that is appropriate, up to date and reliable.

Table 7.1 Proposed Monitoring Framework for the Stroud District Local Plan Review – Draft Plan

SA objectives	Proposed monitoring indicators
<p>Housing SA 1: To provide affordable, sustainable and decent housing to meet local needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net additional dwellings (also considered as a percentage of net dwellings required). • Percentage of Affordable housing. • Percentage reduction of unfit/non-decent homes. • Net additional transit and residential pitches (gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople) permitted and completed to meet identified requirement. • Number of small scale housing applications permitted. • Quantum of new self build housing. • Number of permitted schemes for rural housing. • Net additional care home bed spaces. • Gross completions by dwelling type and size. • Total windfalls from previous year. • Percentage of windfall allowance completed.
<p>Health SA 2: To maintain and improve the community's health with accessible healthcare for residents, including increasing levels of physical activity, especially among the young.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity of health services. • Percentage of people who regularly take 30 minutes exercise more than three times a week. • Number of playgrounds to NPFA standard. • Health inequality indicators. • Net change in floorspace of sports centres. • Quantity of public open space lost. • Quantity of public open space provided. • Percentage of the city's 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>Social Inclusion SA 3: To encourage social inclusion, equity, the promotion of equality and a respect for diversity and meet the challenge of a growing and ageing population</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of leisure facilities per 1,000 people. • Percentage in fuel poverty.
<p>Crime SA 4: To reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and disorder and the fear of crime.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of population concerned about crime. • Incidences of crime per 1,000 population.
<p>Vibrant Communities SA 5: To create and sustain vibrant communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of new development built on previously developed land (brownfield completions). • Proportion of vacant shops in all centres.

SA objectives	Proposed monitoring indicators
<p>Services and Facilities SA 6: To maintain and improve access to all services and facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of libraries per 1,000 people. • Number of visits to libraries in Stroud per annum. • Number of visits to leisure facilities in Stroud per annum. • Quantity of community facilities lost through development. • Quantity of new community facilities. • Net change in floorspace of cultural uses in the town centres.
<p>Biodiversity/Geodiversity SA 7: To create, protect, enhance, restore and connect habitats, species and/or sites of biodiversity or geological interest.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of planning applications involving a BAP habitat being created or managed as a result of new development. • Number of trees with preservation orders in place. • Number of planning applications with conditions to ensure works to manage or enhance the condition of SSSI features of interest. • Percentage area of SSSIs in adverse condition as a result of development. • Percentage of granted planning permissions within areas of biodiversity and geodiversity value. • Area of net biodiversity gain. • 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>Landscapes/Townscapes SA 8: To conserve and enhance the local character and distinctiveness of landscapes and townscapes and provide sustainable access to countryside in the District.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of development approved in areas where there is a need to take account of landscape character. • Number of applications permitted within the AONB. • Amount of new development in AONB with commentary on likely impact.
<p>Historic Environment SA 9: To conserve and/or enhance the significant qualities, fabric, setting and accessibility of the District's historic environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Listed Buildings (all grades) in the district. • Number and percentage of Listed Buildings at Risk (all grades). • Number of listed buildings. • Number of non-designated heritage assets (these can be, but are not always, "locally listed"). • Number of conservation areas with an up to date appraisal and heritage at risk survey. • Number of instances of substantial harm to non-designated heritage assets. • Amount of development permitted on land safeguarded for the canals. • Total distance (metres) of restored canal.

SA objectives	Proposed monitoring indicators
<p>Air Quality SA 10: To ensure that air quality continues to improve.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of residents driving a car or van. • Percentage of trips made using walking or cycling. • Number of applications that do not provide a travel plans and / or transport assessment that is contrary to transport advice. • Percentage of new residential development within 800 metres of public transport facilities. • Number of applications located within 800 metres of a District, Local or Neighbourhood Centre. • Number of permitted schemes with accompanying public transport facilities included within 400 metres. • Level of air pollution recorded through Air Quality Strategy.
<p>Water Quality SA 11: To maintain and enhance the quality of ground and surface waters and to achieve sustainable water resources management in the District.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage increase in use of recycled water. • Number of developments in Drinking Water Safeguarding Zones and Source Protection Zones. • Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on water quality grounds. • Percentage of the District's main water bodies achieving 'good' status.
<p>Flooding SA 12: To manage and reduce the risk of flooding and resulting detriment to public wellbeing, the economy and the environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood risk grounds. • Permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Lead Local Flood Authority.
<p>Efficient Land Use SA 13: To improve efficiency in land use and protection of soil quality through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings and encouraging urban renaissance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of new development built on previously developed land (brownfield completions). • Percentage of greenfield development completions. • Percentage of dwellings completed at between 30 and 50 dwellings per hectare. • Percentage of new development at Tier 1 settlements.
<p>Climate Change SA 14: To implement strategies that help mitigate global warming by actively reducing greenhouse gases and adapt to unavoidable climate change within the District.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of buildings classed A-C in energy efficiency. • Number of renewable energy developments. • Renewable energy capacity installed (by type) (measured in kW). • Percentage of trips made using green modes of transport.
<p>Waste SA 15: To minimise the amount of waste produced, maximise the amount that is reused or recycled, and seek to recover energy from the largest proportion of the residual material, and achieve the sustainable management of waste.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amounts of household, construction and demolition and commercial and industrial waste produced. • Percentage increase in waste recycled. • Percentage reduction in production of hazardous waste.

SA objectives	Proposed monitoring indicators
<p>Employment SA 16: To deliver, maintain and enhance sustainable and diverse employment opportunities, to meet both current and future needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net employment land gain. • Loss of employment floorspace. • Percentage increase in employment. • Amount of new employment floorspace within identified employment areas. • Number of business registrations and de-registrations. • Quantum of land developed by employment type and location. • Quantum of employment land lost to non-employment development. • Quantum of land developed by employment type and location (key employment areas).
<p>Economic SA 17: To allow for sustainable economic growth within environmental limits and innovation, an educated/ skilled workforce and support the long term competitiveness of the District.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in GVA of the region. • Increase in investment in region. • Increase in education facilities in region. • The percentage of young people aged 16 to 18 not in education, training or employment. • Proportion of vacant shops in all centres. • Number of non-retail uses on primary & secondary frontages. • Percentage class A1 retail use in primary frontage. • Percentage class A1 retail use in secondary frontage. • Number of applications granted contrary to advice in relation to retail impact assessment. • Holiday Home completions.

8 Conclusions

- 8.1 The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) objectives developed at the Scoping stage of the SA process have been used to undertake a detailed appraisal of the Stroud District Local Plan Review – Draft Plan. Part of this appraisal involved the consideration of draft site allocations and draft policies. The draft policies considered related to how the Council might address the key issues and needs of the District and these have also been appraised. The SA also involved the appraisal of the proposed development strategy for the District as well as the settlement development limits.
- 8.2 The Draft Plan allocates land to accommodate a reasonably large amount of housing, employment and other development within Stroud District to meet its future needs. It also identifies land which could potentially contribute to the unmet housing needs of Gloucester City dependent upon whether there is requirement for this development and if the location is consistent with the approved strategy for the Joint Core Strategy. As such the Draft Plan has the potential to result in beneficial effects relating to the provision of new homes and sites for employment and other uses (including community development and open space) which will help to support future economic growth. However, the relatively high level of growth has also resulted in the potential for adverse effects being identified in relation to many of the environmental objectives, including efficient land use, biodiversity, the historic environment and landscape.
- 8.3 The likely cumulative effects of the Draft Plan were described in **Chapter 6** of this report. Potentially significant positive cumulative effects were identified in relation to SA objectives 1: **housing**, 14: **climate change**, 16: **employment** and 17: **economic growth**. For SA objectives 14: climate change and 16: employment it is expected that the significant positive effect identified would be in combination with a minor negative effect for an overall mixed cumulative effect. Potentially significant negative cumulative effects were identified in relation to SA objective 7: **biodiversity/geodiversity**, 8: **landscape/townscape**, 11: **water quality** and 13: **efficient land use**, in combination with a minor positive effect for an overall mixed cumulative effect.
- 8.4 An ambitious approach to addressing climate change is embedded in the proposed development strategy of the Draft Plan. The target of becoming a Carbon Neutral District by 2030 is ahead of the Government target of net Zero Carbon 2050. The specific criteria which new development will be required to meet to contribute to this aim are expected to greatly limit the District's carbon emissions as the relatively high level of growth supported is delivered over the plan period. The proposed development strategy would result in much of the new growth being located in close proximity to the larger settlements and support concentrations of new growth which would provide critical mass to allow for new service provision. Some limited rural growth to help maintain the viability of these locations is also to be supported which should also reduce some daily journeys. The prioritisation of sustainable modes of transport at new development to discourage the use of private vehicles is expected to help mitigate impacts relating to both climate change and air pollution.
- 8.5 Other measures to mitigate potential environmental effects include specific criteria to protect the special character of the AONB, the setting and significance of heritage assets and designated biodiversity sites in Stroud District. The Draft Plan reflects national policy on biodiversity net gain and seeks to protect existing quality and function of green infrastructure as well as supporting new provision of this type. These requirements are expected to be of particular importance considering the rural character of the District and presence of international and national biodiversity sites (including the Severn Estuary SPA, SAC and Ramsar site, Rodborough Common Sac and Cotswold Beechwoods SAC and NNR) within its boundaries.

Next steps

- 8.6 This SA Report will be available for consultation between 20th November 2019 and 22nd January

2020. Following the consultation on the SA of the Draft Local Plan, the responses received and the findings of the SA will be considered and incorporated into the next iteration of the Stroud Local Plan Review (Pre-submission version).

LUC

November 2019