

Ms Lucas and Ms Wright
The Planning Inspectorate
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Economy, Environment & Infrastructure
**Planning and Economic
Development**
Simon Excell
Assistant Director – Planning and
Economic Development
Shire Hall, Westgate Street

Please ask for: Simon Excell



Our Ref:

SE/L/cm

Your Ref:

Date: 5th May 2026

Dear Ms Lucas and Ms Wright,

Stroud District Local Plan Review Examination – Response to Additional Questions

Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) writes to you in its role as the local highways authority, in response to your additional questions relating to Matter 11 and the latest evidence published by National Highways (June 2025).

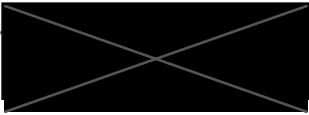
Since the close of the hearing sessions, GCC has continued to work with Stroud District Council (SDC), National Highways and South Gloucestershire Council. We understand that, following further National Highways modelling, SDC considers that 13,227 dwellings (105% of the housing requirement), excluding sites reliant on the Junction 12 scheme, could be delivered without the full J12 scheme being delivered first. This would be a matter for National Highways to comment on (as the Highways Authority for the Strategic Road Network) and GCC recognises that the additional questions have been sent to National Highways also.

GCC would wish to continue to work constructively with Stroud District Council and other partners to identify the best solution to maintain a plan-led development strategy for the district at the earliest opportunity. GCC strongly supports the local plan-led system as the most effective means of coordinating housing growth with timely, viable infrastructure provision. In the absence of an up-to-date local plan, development risks becoming disconnected from infrastructure delivery, leading to poorer outcomes for communities and networks alike. We are now operating within a policy and infrastructure planning vacuum. The sites identified in the draft Local Plan, alongside an increasing number of speculative and unplanned developments, are now coming forward through the planning application system in the absence of an adopted strategic planning framework.

GCC also looks forward to working with Stroud District Council in the preparation of a spatial development strategy assisting in the development of a long-term infrastructure led spatial vision, strengthening evidence for strategic choices.

We remain available to assist the Inspectorate with any further clarification should that be helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Excell,
Assistant Director, Planning & Economic Development