

**PSM2**

**South Gloucestershire  
Core Strategy  
Examination**

**Position Statement  
for  
Matter 2: Justification –  
The Evidence Base**

**May 2012**

## **Matter 2 – Justification – The Evidence Base**

**Q1 Is the evidence base sufficiently comprehensive to support the strategy which the Council has put forward and, if not, what critical information is missing?**

Council response – Yes

- 1.1 The evidence base is sufficiently comprehensive to support the policies and strategy set out in the Core Strategy. The requirement for planning policies to be based on evidence was set out in Planning Policy Guidance and Planning Policy Statements, this requirement was met prior to submission of the Core Strategy, which took place on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011. The evidence base has been recorded in the Examination Library.
- 1.2 The additional work carried out by the Council post submission at the request of the Inspector has also been supported by the production of the suitable evidence, this includes the following:
- Updated Sustainability Appraisal (Examination Library Ref: PS3)
  - Review of the BAE Systems Aviation Options Report for Filton Airfield (Examination Library Ref: PS6)
  - Strategic Green Belt Assessment December 2011 (Examination Library Ref: PS7)
  - Supplementary Housing Paper December 2011 (Examination Library Ref: PS8)
  - Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 2 Report (Examination Library Refs: EB31/1 – EB31/5)
  - Updated Retail Evidence (Examination Library Refs: EB63, EB64 and EB65)

**Q2 The Council continues to refer to policies in the South Gloucestershire Local Plan. In view of changes to the development plan system is it satisfactory to rely on older policies and how can any potential deficiency be addressed?**

Council response – Yes

- 2.1 The Core Strategy refers to policies in both the South Gloucestershire Local Plan and the Minerals and Waste Local Plan. These policies were ‘saved’ in 2009 and 2007, respectively, as they were adopted in ‘old style’ local plans. Under paragraph 215 of the NPPF these policies still form part of the development plan. They will, therefore, be the starting point for considering any planning application, in accordance with Section 38(6) of the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act. However, the Council acknowledges that these policies will be ‘trumped’ by the NPPF where they conflict with national policy. Consequently, as they remain part of the development plan, it is satisfactory to rely on these older ‘saved’ policies in accordance with NPPF para 215.
- 2.2 The Council intends to replace ‘saved’ policies with the Policies, Sites and Places DPD and a programme for the production of this document is set out in the LDS Update 2012 (Examination Library Ref: EB1/1), with preparation due to start following closure of the Core Strategy Examination hearing sessions. Until this DPD is in place, any potential deficiency in the ‘saved’ policies will be addressed by the NPPF.