

MATTER 1 - LEGAL COMPLIANCE / PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Q2 Is the Core Strategy (CS) in general conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework (the Planning Framework) or, if not, is it possible to introduce modifications without detracting from the Council's overall strategy for South Gloucestershire?

- 1.1 Yes, the Core Strategy is in general conformity with the NPPF. It sets out a positive vision for the future of the North Fringe and the aspirations for economic growth and the delivery of new homes at Filton are in accordance with the government's growth agenda.
- 1.2 The presumption in favour of sustainable development is central to the policy approach in the NPPF, as it sets the tone of the government's overall stance and operates with and through the policies contained within the framework. The redevelopment of Filton Airfield will provide sustainable growth in accordance with government objectives.
- 1.3 The NPPF outlines 12 core land-use planning principles that should underpin both plan-making and decision-taking. These core principles include:
 - *Proactively drive and support sustainable economic development to deliver the homes, business and industrial units, infrastructure and thriving local places that the country needs. Every effort should be made objectively to identify and then meet the housing, business and other development needs of an area, and respond positively to wider opportunities for growth...*
 - *,... Allocations of land for development should prefer land of lesser environmental value...*
 - *Encourage the effective use of land by reusing land that has been previously developed (brownfield land), provided that it is not of high environmental value.*
 - *Promote mixed-use developments and encourage multiple benefits from the use of land in urban and rural areas...*
 - *Actively manage patterns of growth to make the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling, and focus significant development in locations which are or can be made sustainable.*

- 1.4 Filton Airfield will become a vacant site in December 2012 when the operational airfield closes. In accordance with the NPPF it is incumbent upon the local planning authority to make the best use of such land and the opportunity that the release of the airfield offers to deliver sustainable economic growth and new homes in a location that contributes towards meeting the objectives of the core strategy.