

South Gloucestershire Local Plan: Policies, Sites and Places

Sustainability Appraisal **Scoping Report Update**

July 2014



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Non-Technical Summary

Sustainability and the Sustainability Appraisal Process

1. The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process is a way of ensuring that all plans and programmes which relate to land use issues are compatible with the aims of sustainable development. This includes documents that will form the South Gloucestershire Local Plan.
2. While the issue of 'sustainable development' is a complex one, sustainable development can be defined as development which meets the needs of everyone, while ensuring environmental quality is also maintained. Specifically, sustainability looks at balancing environmental, social and economic aims.
3. The origins of the SA process lie with the European Union's Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive, which acts to ensure that all plans/policies with land use implications take into consideration environmental issues and impacts. The UK's SA process has widened this scope to also include consideration of social and economic issues when assessing specific plans and programmes relating to land use issues.

The Scoping Report

4. A Scoping Report was produced in 2008, which was used to appraise the Core Strategy. In view of the time that has elapsed since then, the planning reforms introduced by the Government since 2010 and lessons learnt in the delivery of SA work, it is considered appropriate to review the 2008 report, by updating the review of relevant plans and programmes and amending the SA Framework objectives.
5. This Scoping Report sets out a Framework for how the SA will be carried out for the Policies, Sites and Places Plan.
6. The first stage of the scoping process has been to identify and review a large number of relevant plans and programmes that influence this Plan. This includes looking at documents at an international, national, regional and local level. They have been identified and reviewed in order to ensure the Policies, Sites and Places Plan is in compliance with the aims and objectives of complementary plans and programmes.
7. In order to assess what options would be most sustainable for the future development of South Gloucestershire, it has been necessary to identify those key environmental and sustainability issues that currently exist in the District. This process has included looking at a range of information and indicators on environmental, social and economic conditions to illustrate the issues relevant to the District.

8. The Report then sets out the SA Framework. This will be used to assess, against relevant sustainability criteria, the different options and alternatives being considered when producing the Policies, Sites and Places Plan.
9. The Framework consists of a set of sustainability objectives against which the Plan's emerging objectives and policy options will be tested. The chosen sustainability objectives and associated appraisal criteria have been amended from those used in the 2008 Scoping Report, as a result of lessons learnt in the delivery of SA work since the publication of this report. They consist of six broad 'high-level' objectives that are explained/clarified by 23 more specific sub-objectives.
10. The Draft Scoping Report has been subject to statutory consultation with Natural England, the Environment Agency and English Heritage. Responses have been received from Natural England and English Heritage. The final Scoping Report has been amended to incorporate these responses.
11. Following on from this scoping stage, the SA will be undertaken. A Draft SA Report will be published alongside the Draft and Proposed Submission Policies, Sites and Places Plans and a Final SA Report will then be published along with the adopted Plan. Feedback from consultation, together with any other additional findings and updates will be incorporated into an ongoing and iterative SA process (see paragraphs 1.18 – 1.22).
12. The Council will simplify the outcome of the appraisal process by producing simplified, non-technical summaries with each published SA document.

Sustainability Appraisal Framework Objectives

1. Improve Health and Wellbeing

- 1.1 Improve health and support healthy lifestyles
- 1.2 Reduce health inequalities
- 1.3 Reduce crime and fear of crime

2. Support communities that meet people's needs

- 2.1 Make suitable housing available and affordable for everyone
- 2.2 Support the delivery of a full range of community facilities
- 2.3 Give everyone access to opportunities for learning, training, skills, knowledge and culture
- 2.4 Provide opportunities for people to work locally
- 2.5 Provide access to open space / space for formal and informal recreation

3. A diverse and thriving economy that meets people's needs

- 3.1 Give everyone in South Gloucestershire satisfying opportunities for work
- 3.2 Help everyone afford a comfortable standard of living by reducing poverty and income inequality.

4. Meet people's needs for access to places and services with least damage to communities and the environment

- 4.1 Increase % of journeys made by public transport, walking and cycling
- 4.2 Help everyone access basic services easily, safely and affordably

5. Maintain and enhance environmental quality and assets

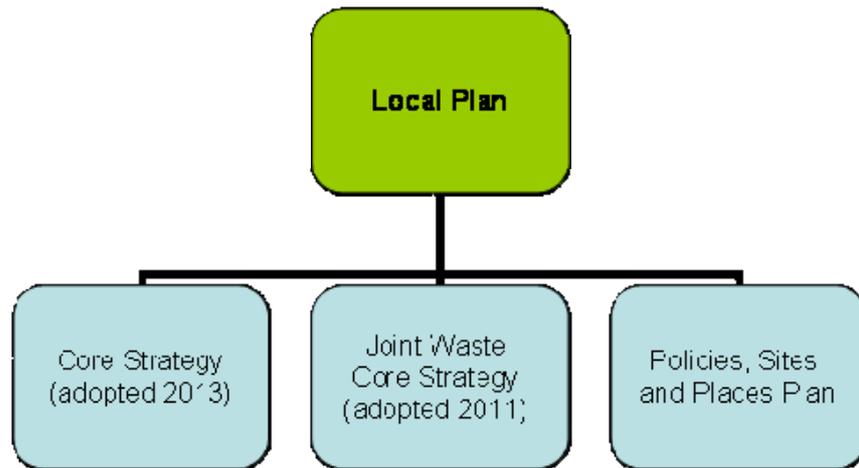
- 5.1 Protect and enhance biological and geological diversity
- 5.2 Protect and enhance local landscape and green space
- 5.3 Promote the conservation and wise use of land
- 5.4 Provide for highest possible standards of urban design
- 5.5 Maintain and enhance historical assets
- 5.6 Reduce vulnerability to flooding and sea level rise

6. Minimise consumption of natural resources

- 6.1 Reduce non-renewable energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions
- 6.2 Reduce water consumption
- 6.3 Minimise consumption and extraction of minerals
- 6.4 Reduce waste
- 6.5 Minimise land, water, air, light and noise pollution.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 South Gloucestershire Council is currently preparing its Local Plan, which will replace the South Gloucestershire Local Plan 2006 and the Minerals and Waste Local Plan. This Local Plan is made up of 3 documents - the Core Strategy, the West of England Joint Waste Core Strategy and the Policies, Sites and Places Plan.



- 1.2 The Core Strategy has been appraised under the previous version of this Scoping Report, which was published in 2008. The relevant documents can be viewed on the Council's Sustainability Appraisal web page <http://www.southglos.gov.uk/Pages/Article%20Pages/Planning%20Transport%20-20Strategic%20Environment/Planning%20policy/Sustainability-appraisal.aspx>
- 1.3 A separate Scoping Report was prepared for the Joint Waste Core Strategy.
- 1.4 This Scoping Report provides the framework for the appraisal of the Policies, Sites and Places Plan. This document will provide the detailed planning guidance for determining planning applications, as well as guiding non-strategic development
- 1.5 The Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires that local plans are prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. Through the local plan, local planning authorities should seek opportunities to achieve each of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and net gains across all three. Significant adverse impacts on any of these dimensions should be avoided and, wherever possible, alternative options which reduce or eliminate such impacts should be pursued

Sustainable Development

1.6 The term sustainable development originates from the Brundtland Commission Report of the World Commission of Environment and Development in 1987, which defined sustainable development as:

“Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

1.7 The Government has developed a strategy for sustainable development that sets out a number of guiding principles:

- Living within environmental limits;
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society;
- Achieving a sustainable economy;
- Promoting good governance; and
- Using sound science responsibly

1.8 It has also identified four priority areas for immediate action across the UK:

- Sustainable consumption and production;
- Climate change and energy;
- Natural resource protection and environmental management; and
- Sustainable communities.

1.9 The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the Government’s view of what sustainable development in England means in practice for the planning system. It identifies three dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. These dimensions give rise to the need for the planning system to perform a number of mutually dependent roles which work simultaneously with one another:

- **an economic role** – contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure;
- **a social role** – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community’s needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being; and
- **an environmental role** – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.10 Under the requirements of European Directive 2001/42/EC (known as the SEA Directive) local authorities are required to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the documents that make up their local plan.
- 1.11 The purpose of SEA is to consider issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage, and landscape and to determine how the Council's policies and proposals in its Local Plan could influence each of these.
- 1.12 By considering these issues in detail, SEA seeks to ensure that environmental considerations are fully integrated in the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes which are likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

Sustainability Appraisal

- 1.13 Whilst SEA focuses on environmental issues, Sustainability Appraisal (SA) widens the approach to also include social and economic issues. The purpose of SA is to ensure that the principles of sustainable development are taken fully into account when preparing the documents that form the Local Plan.
- 1.14 The SA process has been designed so that, by carrying out one appraisal process, local authorities can also satisfy the requirements of the SEA Directive. Therefore, it should be taken that where the Scoping Report refers to the SA process it also incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive.
- 1.15 The process of SA requires an examination of the state of South Gloucestershire as it is today and the identification of key issues that could affect the future sustainability of the District. Using this information, sustainability objectives are then developed, against which the draft policies and proposals of the Policies, Sites and Places Plan will be assessed, in order to ensure that they best achieve the sustainability objectives.
- 1.16 The SA will also put in place a framework to monitor such policies and proposals once in operation, in order to ensure that they are working in a way that accords with sustainability objectives. This will enable future amendments to be made to policies as necessary.

Scoping Report

1.17 The Scoping Report is the first step in undertaking a SA. The Scoping Report undertakes the following tasks:

- Task A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives.
- Task A2: Collecting baseline information.
- Task A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems.
- Task A4: Developing the sustainability appraisal framework.
- Task A5: Consulting on the scope of the sustainability appraisal.

Consultation

1.18 In accordance with the SEA Directive and the Government's SA guidance, comments on this Scoping Report were invited from the following statutory environmental consultation bodies during a 5 week consultation period ending 23rd June 2014:

- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- English Heritage

1.19 **In considering this Scoping Report, consultees were asked to address the following questions:**

- ***Have all relevant plans and programmes been referenced?***
- ***Is any significant environmental, social or economic data missing or misrepresented?***
- ***Are any judgments made concerning baseline information incorrect?***
- ***Are there any additional sustainability issues within South Gloucestershire that need to be considered in the development of the Policies, Sites and Places document?***
- ***Do you agree with the proposed Sustainability Appraisal Framework?***
- ***Are the objectives and indicators set out appropriate?***
- ***Is the proposed methodology for the next stages of the Sustainability Appraisal correct?***
- ***Are there any other comments you would like to make?***

1.20 Responses were received from Natural England and English Heritage. The responses concerned Table 1 in respect of the international nature conservation designations in the Severn Estuary, monitoring indicators for the Cotswolds AONB and built heritage, and baseline information for

built heritage. This Scoping Report Update has been amended to take account of these responses.

2. Task A1 - The requirements of other plans, programmes and policies

- 2.1 The purpose of reviewing other plans, programmes and policies (PPPIs) is to identify relevant sustainability objectives and to ensure that the aims and objectives of the Policies, Sites and Places Plan are consistent with their strategies, objectives and policies. It is important to identify where there may be potential conflicts, and also where the Policies, Sites and Places Plan can contribute to the aims of these other plans/programmes.
- 2.2 Many of the documents listed below were previously reviewed as part of the 2008 Scoping Report. However many documents have now been updated, replaced outright, or deleted. In addition, a number of new documents have been published. The review is set out in Appendix A and represents an up to date reflection of PPPIs as of April 2014. The documents included in the appendix are listed in the following table.

General

- The World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, (September 2002). Commitments arising from Johannesburg Summit.
- United Nations Millennium Declaration (2000)
- DEFRA Securing the Future – UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy (2000)
- DCLG National Planning Policy Framework (2012) and National Planning Policy Guidance (2014) in full
- DEFRA Climate Change The UK Programme (2006)
- The Carbon Plan: Delivering our Low Carbon Future (2011)
- West of England Duty to Cooperate Schedule
- South Gloucestershire Local Plan Core Strategy 2006 - 2027

1: Improve health and wellbeing

- UK Fuel Poverty Strategy (2001)
- ODPM Sustainable Communities in the South West – Building for the Future (2003)
- Valuing People: A New Strategy for Learning Disability for the 21st Century (Government White Paper) (2001)
- SGC Sustainable Community Strategy (2012)

2: Support communities that meet people's needs

- The Barker Review (2004)
- DCLG Written Statement to Parliament Planning and Travellers July (2013)
- DCLG Planning Policy for Travellers Sites March (2012)
- NPPG Rural Housing (2014)
- DCLG Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England (2011)
- Homelessness Act (2002)

- West of England Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2013)
- SGC Housing Strategy for South Gloucestershire 2013 – 2018 (2013)
- South Gloucestershire Council Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document – 2014
- SGC Rural Affordable Housing Pledge (2013)

3: Develop the economy in ways that meet people's needs

- The Portas Review: An independent review into the future of our high streets (2011)
- NPPG Ensuring the vitality of town centres (2014)
- West of England Strategic Economic Plan 2015 – 2030 (2014)
- South Gloucestershire Council Economic Development Strategy 2012 – 2016 (2012)
- South Gloucestershire Local Economic Assessment (2011)

4: Provide access to meet people's needs with least damage to communities and the environment

- NPPG Travel plans, transport assessments and statements in decision-taking (2014)
- CLG Manual for Streets (2007)
- CLG Guidance on Transport Assessment (2007)
- West of England Joint Local Transport Plan 3 2011 – 2026 (2011)

5: Maintain and improve environmental quality and assets

- Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979).
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of international importance especially waterfowl habitat (1971).
- Bonn Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (1979).
- Directive on Conservation of Wild Birds (2009/147/EC)
- Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna & Flora (Directive 92/43/EC) (The Habitats Directive).
- NPPG Considering and enhancing the historic environment (2014)
- NPPG Climate Change (2014)
- NPPG Planning and Flood Risk (2014)
- NPPG Planning and Coastal Change (2014)
- NPPG Air Quality (2014)
- NPPG Land affected by contamination (2014)
- NPPG Land Stability (2014)
- NPPG Light Pollution (2014)
- NPPG Tree Preservation Orders in conservation areas (2014)
- NPPG: Natural Environment (2014)
- NPPG: Noise (2014)
- DEFRA Working with the grain of nature – A Biodiversity Strategy for England, 2002 (Reviewed 2011)
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) (2000)
- DETR Government Rural White Paper: Our Countryside – the Future –

- a Fair Deal for Rural England (2000)
- English Heritage A Strategy for the Historic Environment in the South West (2004)
- English Heritage Buildings at Risk Register
- South Gloucestershire Biodiversity Plan (2007)
- South Gloucestershire Conservation Area Appraisals (various)

6: Minimise consumption of natural resources

- Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992).
- Air Quality Framework Directive (Directive 96/62/EC).
- Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (1991)
- Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)
- Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC).
- Directive to Promote Electricity from Renewable Energy (2001/77/EC).
- Waste to Landfill Directive (99/31/EC).
- Energy White Paper: Our Energy Future – Creating a Low Carbon Economy (2003)
- NPPG Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (2014)
- NPPG Minerals (2014)
- South Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy 2013 - 2015

2.3 Through the process of this review, a number of relevant issues were identified which will need to be addressed in the Sustainability Appraisal and the Policies, Sites and Places Plan. These issues are outlined below:

- Need to protect, conserve and enhance internationally, nationally and locally recognised biodiversity and habitats;
- Ensuring diverse, socially cohesive communities are maintained/created;
- Safeguarding and increasing jobs and productivity
- Meeting local communities' aspirations for development;
- Better and more sustainable access to services, facilities and amenities for all;
- Reduce the need to travel by car;
- Need to address flooding and flood risk;
- Provision of high levels of renewable energy generation/carbon saving;
- Minimisation of waste and more prudent use of resources;
- Improve air quality and reduce all kinds of pollution; and
- Provision and protection of green open spaces and green infrastructure.

2.4 These issues, along with those identified in analysis of the Baseline Data in Section A2, have been used to develop the objectives of the Sustainability Appraisal (as set out in Table 2) and will therefore go on to help shape the Policies, Sites and Places Plan..

A2 - Baseline information and assessment

Introduction

- 3.1 Sustainability appraisal requires the collection of baseline information to provide the basis for predicting and monitoring effects and to aid the identification of sustainability issues and possible methods of dealing with them. Within the baseline data collection, the use of indicators can help to identify issues and help in the provision of methods of monitoring within the sustainable development framework.
- 3.2 The data used to describe South Gloucestershire's social, economic and environmental state has largely been drawn from the Authority's Monitoring Report (AMR) and the council's Quality of Life reports, and represents a wide range of indicators and data sources.

An introduction to South Gloucestershire

- 3.3 South Gloucestershire is an area that has undergone rapid expansion over recent decades, arising principally from its strategic road and rail communications and location adjoining the City of Bristol.
- 3.4 It is a generally prosperous area, with relatively little deprivation, low unemployment, good scores on health indicators and lower than average crime rates. It also contains important environmental assets.
- 3.5 Growth has brought increasingly acute transportation pressures, with high rates of car ownership and usage, and of road traffic growth, as well as pressure on community and social infrastructure and increased house prices.
- 3.6 Further growth is difficult to accommodate given the area's infrastructure capacity which has not kept pace with past growth, its relative lack of previously developed (Brownfield) sites, its environmental quality, and Green Belt policies which apply to much of the rural area.

Population and Demography

3.7 Some key statistics:

- At the time of the 2011 Census, the population of South Gloucestershire was **262,767** (49.6% male and 50.4% female) growing from 245,641 in 2001.
- The population has grown by **7%** between 2001 and 2011 Censuses, this matches growth for the South West region and is slightly below the growth rate of **7.8%** for England and Wales. In the previous 10 years (between 1991 and 2001) population grew by **11.5%** compared with **7.1%** growth across the South West region and **4.3%** for England and Wales.

- It is estimated (Registrar General's Mid-year Estimates) that in 2012 the population was **266,100**.
- Based on mid year estimates, the population has grown **8.1%** between 2001 and 2012 compared with an **8.0%** growth in the South West.

(MYEs published on 26th June 2013)

- 3.9 The age structure of South Gloucestershire's population is very closely aligned with the national (England and Wales) average, with slightly less (0.5%) 15-24 year olds, slightly more (0.2%) 50-64 year olds and slightly more (0.5%) 65-74 year olds. The highest concentrations of older people are in older suburban housing areas and some rural areas. Areas of new development such as Bradley Stoke and Mangotsfield Rural (Emersons Green area) show higher proportions of young adults and children.
- 3.10 The proportion of older people in South Gloucestershire is now higher than the national (England and Wales) average. This is also reflected in the median age that has increased from 37.9 years in 2001 to 40.8 in 2011, this is higher than the national (England and Wales) average (39.0 years). The greatest proportion of elderly (65+) people are in the parishes of Alveston, Hanham Abbots, Olveston, Sodbury, Westerleigh and Winterbourne.

(Source: South Gloucestershire Council, Corporate Research and Consultation team, 2011 Census – First Release Analysis, August 2012 and Census 2011: Population and household estimates analysis at parish level, November 2012)

Housing and Residential Accommodation

- 3.11 The South Gloucestershire Core Strategy identifies a total of 28,355 dwellings to be built in the district over the period 2006-2027. As at 31st March 2014, the 8th year of the plan period, a total 6,905 dwellings had been completed.
- 3.12 Current monitoring of dwelling completions indicates that in the period 2006-2014 62% of total dwelling completions in South Gloucestershire has taken place on previously developed land. Many of the committed sites are also on previously developed land. However, because of the level of housing growth which South Gloucestershire has to accommodate up to 2027, increasingly new housing development will have to be on greenfield sites, as there is a declining amount of brownfield land available in sustainable locations. These greenfield sites support the Core Strategy's Strategy for Development and will help in delivering the longer term vision for the West of England.
- 3.13 The affordable housing completions total for 2006-2014 is 1,957 gross. This represents 27% of the total gross completion figure. A number of major sites are currently progressing through the planning process. In total these represent around 10,000 new dwellings. It is expected that

when completed these will contribute in the order of 3,500 new affordable homes.

Economy

3.14 South Gloucestershire has one of the fastest growing economies in the country with an estimated 38,000 jobs being generated in the past decade, predominantly in the Bristol North Fringe area. There were an estimated 147,000 jobs in South Gloucestershire in 2012.

(Source: Nomis, 2014)

3.15 For many years the economy of South Gloucestershire has been closely associated with the aerospace industry with Airbus UK and BAE Systems based at Filton and Rolls Royce at Patchway. The aerospace industry is a key economic sector, employing some 9,000 people.

3.16 Kingswood, Yate and Thornbury contain well-established industrial areas providing local employment opportunities. The older urban areas of Staple Hill, Kingswood and Hanham have experienced a loss of economic vitality and enterprise created by employment closures, rationalisation programmes, relocations and changing shopping patterns.

3.17 At Emersons Green and Longwell Green, there are more recent business, industrial and retail parks.

3.18 To maintain the area's strategic competitive advantage in research and development, a science park comprising 25ha at Emersons Green, east of the A4171 is being developed. A state-of-the art environment within easy access to the M4 and M5 motorways and Parkway Station and partnered by the universities of Bristol, Bath and UWE, the science park is already home to the National Composites Centre. This is in addition to approximately 100,000 sqm identified for B1 (business) uses, B2 (general industrial) uses and small scale B8 (Distribution) uses to meet employment needs at Emersons Green.

3.19 Warehousing and distribution uses is also a sector experiencing significant growth and expansion. Over recent years the Severnside area has seen considerable activity and development by this market sector, and is recognised as a strategic location for distribution warehousing and industrial uses. However, a balance needs to be maintained between development and protection and enhancement of the ecologically important, fragile and visually prominent coastal zone.

3.20 Beyond the direct influence of the Greater Bristol area, Yate and Thornbury are important centres for locally based employment. The strong local indigenous employment base contributes to securing these settlements a degree of self-containment as places in their own right.

3.21 The development of the Regional Shopping Centre at Cribbs Causeway, the relocation of major companies from Bristol (e.g. Friends Life, Royal

Mail, GE Capital Equipment) and large-scale business park development have established the Bristol North Fringe as one of the largest employment areas in the South West. The relocation of the Defence Procurement Agency to Abbey Wood in the late 1990s brought over 6,000 jobs to the North Fringe.

3.22 In 2012 a total of three Enterprise Areas were identified in South Gloucestershire at: Avonmouth/Sevenside; Emersons Green; and Filton. These are part of a select group of five strategically important employment locations across the West of England that complement the Temple Quarter Enterprise Zone in Bristol. Each Enterprise Area will have defined incentives for business aimed at maintaining the importance of South Gloucestershire for new business investment and growth.

Labour Market

3.23 In South Gloucestershire, 20.7% of all persons in employment are in professional occupations, while 13.4% are employed in associate professional or technical jobs. Only 5.1% of all persons in employment work the process plant and machine operatives area.

3.24 In the year to Dec 2013 (a rolling average from Jan 2013), the employment rate stood at 77.5% of South Gloucestershire's population. The local employment rate remains considerably above the sub-regional and national rates

3.25 In the year to Dec 2013 (a rolling average from Jan 2013), the unemployment rate stood at 5.4% of South Gloucestershire's economically population. The local unemployment rate remains considerably below the national rate

(Source: Nomis via South Gloucestershire Council, Corporate Research and Consultation Team 2014).

Education and Skills

3.26 In 2013, 79.9% of pupils achieved five or more GCSE A*-C grade GCSE's, slightly below the national average of 83.0%. In the same year, 56.6% of residents aged 16-64 were qualified to NVQ level 3. In addition, 31.9% of people aged 16-64 were qualified to NVQ level 4 and above.

3.27 In March 2014 the number of young people (16 to 19 year olds) not in education, employment or training (NEETs) was 3.9%, which is an improvement when compared to the same period last year when the figure was 4.7%.

Social Inclusiveness and Deprivation

3.28 South Gloucestershire's is ranked as the 54th least deprived local authority in England. This relative affluence however, hides a number of

deprived urban wards in the areas of Staple Hill, Kings Chase, Patchway, Woodstock and Filton.

(Source: 2013 South Gloucestershire Council, Annual Monitoring Report)

Health

3.29 In general, residents of South Gloucestershire are healthier than the national average. Results from the 2011 census show that 84.0% of the population (220,816 residents) described themselves as being in “good” or “very good” health, this is above the national average of 81.2%.

(Source: South Gloucestershire Council, Corporate Research and Consultation team, Office for National Statistics)

3.30 Life expectancy and premature mortality is also lower than nationally. Overall, life expectancy has risen in South Gloucestershire by about two and a half years over the last 10 years. Based on the most up to date data, life expectancy at birth is 81.1 years for males and 84.8 years for females, an increase of 2.3 years for men and 2.8 years for women since 2002. Significantly higher than the national average. In 2011, the premature mortality rate in South Gloucestershire was approximately 203 per 100,000 of the population. The rate has continued to decline in line with national trends. The rate remains lower than the regional and national rates.

(Source: 2012 South Gloucestershire Council, Annual Monitoring Report)

Crime and Community Safety

3.31 South Gloucestershire is a safe place to live and recorded crime rates are lower than regional and national averages. Crime rates have been falling over that last six years with a 37% fall in crime since 2006/2007. In 2012/2013 the total rate of recorded crime was 48 offences per 1,000 residents.

Crime rates per 1,000

- Assault with injury – **3.5**
- Serious acquisitive crime – **8.1**
- Criminal damage – **8.2**

(Source: South Gloucestershire Council, Quality of Life Report 2013)

Transport and Accessibility

Congestion

3.32 The economic prosperity of South Gloucestershire and high levels of employment, housing and population growth make tackling congestion a major challenge for the Council. Congestion is a feature of many of the

major roads in the urban areas of South Gloucestershire. The North Fringe in particular has seen traffic growth of 52% (1991-2006).

3.33 Bristol remains a hub for commuting and other trips. However commuting patterns are complex and trips across local authority areas are common. Data on travel to work patterns from the 2011 Census are not yet available, however, data from the 2001 Census shows some 10,000 people travel to work from the North Fringe into Bristol to work each day and 18,000 travel in the opposite direction. 18,000 people travel from Kingswood and the East Fringe into Bristol, but only 5,000 in the opposite direction.

3.34 Much of South Gloucestershire has a rural nature and a higher than average car ownership and usage. The 2011 Census identified that 87% of households had at least 1 car or van compared with 74% in England and Wales. The 2011 Census also revealed that there were 158,289 cars or vans in the area.

Accessibility

3.35 Despite high car ownership levels, a significant proportion of the population does not have access to a car or may only have access to a car at certain times. Accessibility by public transport, walking and cycling to services, facilities and employment in the rural areas is limited. Information for 2010/2011 indicates the following:

- 54% of households live within 30 minutes travel time by public transport of those health facilities in the Bristol Health Service Plan.
- 66% of households live within 40 minutes travel time by public transport from key employment sites.

(Source: South Gloucestershire Council, Corporate Research and Consultation team, Office for National Statistics)

Buses

3.36 Bus routes were traditionally generally provided on radial roads serving Bristol city centre. As a result they did not necessarily serve well the newer large-scale developments, or between these new areas, in North Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset and South Gloucestershire. However, the four West of England Authorities, in partnership with the Department for Transport and public transport operators, invested £80 million to improve key bus corridors. The Greater Bristol Bus network programme was completed in 2012 and in South Gloucestershire the investment in this major project totalled £24.3 million. This investment, together with further investment in other schemes and improvements, has in recent years contributed to increases in bus passenger numbers. In 2012/2013 there were approximately 7.42 million bus journeys in South Gloucestershire.

(Source: 2012 South Gloucestershire Council, Annual Monitoring Report)

Cycling

3.37 Cycling trips also have continued to grow. In 2008 Greater Bristol was chosen as England's first Cycling City and received £11 million from the Depart for Transport to transform cycling. New dedicated on-road cycle lanes and traffic free routes are two areas that have helped to bring about a strong cycling renaissance in the area.

(Source: 2012 South Gloucestershire Council, Annual Monitoring Report)

Joint Local Transport Plan

3.38 The Joint Local Transport Plan 3 (JLTP3) was adopted by the four West of England unitary authorities in late 2010/early 2011. The aim is to create an affordable, low carbon, accessible, integrated, efficient and reliable transport network to achieve a more competitive economy and better connected, more active and healthy communities.

Town Centres and Retailing

3.39 The past two decades have seen the role and function of the main town centres becoming more focused on meeting day-to-day convenience needs with comparison shopping dominated by out of centre facilities. In some cases this is impacting on the viability of the town centres due to competition from out of centre investment and relatively high car ownership and mobility.

3.40 Some town centres have developed an evening economy. Some have lost retail space to financial (A2) services but mergers have decreased that pressure over recent years. Some centres and local parades have lost retail units but gained take-away facilities. This is reflected in the increasing proportion of shopping frontage in non-shop A1 retail use (e.g. cafes and food take-away outlets, building societies and similar). The retail profile has also changed with an increase in lower value A1 shop units.

3.41 Overall, across the district, vacancies of A1 shops in 2013 were generally at or around 10%. However, two town centres, Kingswood and Yate Shopping Centre had vacancy rates of 17.0% and 20.2% respectively. Emersons Green had no retail vacancies in 2013, while the vacancy rates in Chipping Sodbury and Staple Hill were low (1.9% and 2.4% respectively).

(Source: 2013 South Gloucestershire Council, Annual Monitoring Report)

3.42 Less than 30% of the total retail floorspace in South Gloucestershire is now within the new and established town centres. Of this total floorspace, comparison and convenience floorspace is split equally, totalling some 88%. Service floorspace accounts for about 7%, and 5% of the floorspace is vacant.

3.43 Nearly 71% of all retail floorspace in South Gloucestershire is in retail parks or freestanding out of centre stores, 28% of which is located at The Mall. This floorspace represents over 80% of all the comparison floorspace in the district. The retail warehouse parks, when initially developed, were intended to allow for bulky goods sales. These have or are undergoing change with significant redevelopment, often with little restriction to particular classes of goods, such that their role has widened and brought them into competition with traditional town centres. Some have also developed mezzanine floorspace so that overall trading areas have increased significantly.

(Source: 2013 South Gloucestershire Council, Town Centres and Retailing)

Town Centres

3.44 The traditional town centres are Kingswood, Yate, Thornbury, Staple Hill, Chipping Sodbury, Hanham and Downend and new town centres at Filton, Bradley Stoke and Emersons Green.

3.45 Some centres have experienced edge of centre development – e.g. Yate (Lidl, Morrisons and B+Q), Thornbury (Tesco), and Chipping Sodbury (Waitrose).

Local Centres

3.46 There are some 50 local centres within the north and east fringe urban areas. The towns Yate, Thornbury, and the villages of Winterbourne and Frampton Cottrell also have small recognisable centres. New local centres are proposed within the new and developing residential areas, and a new local centre is currently under construction as part of the Wallscourt Farm development.

3.47 Many of the rural settlements have village/neighbourhood stores. Although social and economic changes have resulted in some closures, others are adapting and have seen shops run by the community. Increasingly, petrol stations are now offering a basic level of convenience goods.

Regional Shopping Centre

3.48 The Mall at Cribbs Causeway is a regional/sub-regional centre that provides a range of comparison floorspace found in traditional high streets. The Mall is close to Junction 17 of the M5 and has been developed essentially to serve the car borne market. It is characterised by an undercover shopping “high street” surrounded by open-air car parking.

Retail Parks

3.49 There are retail parks at Cribbs Causeway, Abbeywood and Longwell Green, although Abbeywood is widening its scope to serve local employment and residential areas and moving away from bulky goods retailing.

Free Standing Superstores

3.50 The freestanding out of centre stores are B&Q and Sainsbury's at Stoke Gifford and Aldi (formerly Somerfield) at Bradley Stoke. In addition the Asda and Morrisons stores at Cribbs Causeway and Asda at Longwell Green are freestanding stores adjacent to retail warehouse parks.

Tourism, Leisure, Open Space and Recreation

3.51 Across the district there is a wide range of open space, sport and recreation facilities, both formal and informal. In recent years major leisure development has taken place at Cribbs Causeway and Longwell Green. Both include multi-screen cinemas, bowling alleys, restaurants and bars. There are public leisure centres in Yate, Kingswood, Thornbury, Longwell Green and Bradley Stoke, which include swimming pools, sports halls and fitness training areas. In addition a number of the secondary schools have become specialist in particular sports and have opened their facilities for general community use. In the near future a major new sport stadium is to be built in association with the University of the West of England on land adjacent to the university.

3.52 In 2003 (the last time a survey was undertaken) the District attracted around 4.5 million tourists per annum, which generated around £137.5m per annum for the local economy.

3.53 The Forest of Avon covers a total of 57,300Ha, of which 26,840Ha lies within South Gloucestershire. The Forest plays a crucial role in giving people in South Gloucestershire access to opportunities for leisure, open space and recreation. Within the wider Bristol area the Forest of Avon has been assisted by the four local authorities (including South Gloucestershire) to develop the 45 mile orbital Community Forest Path that runs close to many communities offering access to the countryside, and potential opportunities for local people to participate in health promoting exercise.

3.54 As the highway authority, South Gloucestershire Council is responsible for 783 miles (1,257km) of public rights of way in the district. Many of the rights of way are promoted through leaflets and guidebooks. These routes vary from short circular walks designed to be easily accessible, to long-distance walking routes such as the Cotswold Way and Severn Way. The Council keeps records and maps of these rights of way and their locations.

Biodiversity

- 3.55 South Gloucestershire has Local Nature Reserves, covering a total of over 109 hectares, and 22 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) covering 553 hectares. The South Gloucestershire shoreline between Chittening Warth near Avonmouth and the UA boundary with Gloucestershire forms part of the Severn Estuary and is subject to a series of additional over-lapping nature conservation designations. The Estuary is notified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, covering a total of 4,104 hectares. It is also protected under European law (the Habitats Directive 1992) – it is designated as a Special Protection Area, Special Area of Conservation and RAMSAR site.
- 3.56 South Gloucestershire also contains a rich array of wildlife and geology outside these legally protected sites. In reflection of this, there are some 269 Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCIs) and 53 Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites (RIGS), both non-statutory designations and of critical importance for local biodiversity. Its wildlife includes a diverse variety and species of flora and fauna, from the locally notable (Wild Service Tree, Slowworm and Barn Owl), to national rarities (Bullfinch and Adder's Tongue Spearwort) to internationally protected species such as Great Crested Newt, Dormice and the Lesser Horseshoe Bat. The Forest of Avon covers 57,300 hectares and is home to an array of habitats, forming an important contribution to biodiversity. New woodland is also being created, with 522.2 hectares of woodland being planted between 2003 and 2004.

Green Infrastructure

- 3.57 The protection and provision of Green Infrastructure (GI) is recognised as an important issue in South Gloucestershire and the West of England sub-region. A West of England GI Framework has been produced.
- 3.58 The Council has begun work on a Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document which will complement the West of England Green Infrastructure Framework. The latter's policies and strategies provide a strategic context for Green Infrastructure delivery, including opportunities for working across local authority boundaries.
- 3.59 The purpose of the sub-regional framework is to identify:
- a shared vision, objectives and principles for Green Infrastructure across the West of England;
 - Green Infrastructure of strategic importance, including Green Infrastructure areas and corridors, which may cross local authority boundaries;
 - the benefits delivered by Green Infrastructure, including as part of new development.

3.60 The West of England GI vision is set out as follows:

“By 2026 the West of England will have an enhanced and sustainable green infrastructure network consisting of a multifunctional, connected and legible network of strategic green sites and corridors, that will be widely beneficial to communities, wildlife and the environment to support sustainable growth across the West of England.”

Historic and Cultural Heritage

3.61 South Gloucestershire Council is a unitary authority that possesses a diverse heritage, ranging from the lowland waterlogged landscapes of the Severn Levels, through the coalfields of north Bristol to the prominent and often exposed archaeology of the Cotswolds, interspersed by areas of rural, semi-rural/urban and urban settlement. Its archaeology ranges from palaeoenvironmental deposits to prehistoric hillforts, Roman towns, Saxon burial grounds, Medieval planned settlement and nationally significant historic mining.

3.62 A number of sites are recognised as being of National Importance; there are 37 Scheduled Ancient Monuments 8 historic parks and gardens and one registered Battlefield in the district, as well as over 2000 listed buildings and 30 conservation areas all of which make important contributions to South Gloucestershire’s built environment character and heritage. These numbers give only a taste of the much larger numbers of regionally and locally important sites, monuments and structures that pepper the landscape of the authority. The built heritage and historic landscapes of South Gloucestershire are an important element in providing a sense of place and civic pride for residents and visitors.

3.63 Key to ensuring that this diverse and challenging archaeological and heritage is maintained is policy CS9 of the South Gloucestershire Local Plan: Core Strategy (adopted December 2013), which ensures that “heritage assets are conserved, respected and enhanced in a manner appropriate to their significance.”

Landscape

3.64 The South Gloucestershire area has a predominantly rural and agricultural landscape, greatly influenced by large-scale scarp, ridges, vales, levels and estuary landforms, overlain by a variety of land cover, in places comprising unique natural or historic features. The landscapes of South Gloucestershire have many contrasts, ranging from the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (which covers 11,828 hectares or 22% of the land area in South Gloucestershire), to the urban landscape within the edge of Bristol. Here the landscape is undergoing significant change, with large areas of new residential and commercial development, such as Cribbs/Patchway, Harry Stoke, and Emersons

Green, as well as the large retail and commercial development at Cribbs Causeway.

- 3.65 The Council published the South Gloucestershire Landscape Character Area Supplementary Planning Document in 2005. This provides a statement of the existing character of the landscapes of the district and their distinctive attributes and features, subdividing the district into 8 character types and 21 landscape areas. It also contains an assessment of the present condition of the landscape, recent and potential future changes including land use/management and built development and the sensitivity of the landscape to future change. This SPD was refreshed in 2013.

Air Quality and Flooding

- 3.66 The Council has a duty to monitor and manage air quality within the district, the main pollutant of concern locally is nitrogen dioxide, which originates primarily from road traffic emissions. Data from the automatic monitoring sites operating in Yate and Filton for 2012 shows the levels of nitrogen dioxide remain well below the national annual mean objective. Following other non-automatic monitoring at other sites across the district Air Quality Management Areas were declared at: Broad Street, Soundwell Road, Victoria Road crossroads Staple Hill; Regent Street, Kingswood; and M5 junction 17 Cribbs Causeway. An Air Quality Action Plan is now in place aimed at improving air quality in these locations.
- 3.67 South Gloucestershire is concerned to ensure that water resources are not unacceptably affected by development and that development within flood risk areas incorporate appropriate mitigation measures. The Environment Agency Flood Maps provide details of these areas.

Renewable Energy and Climate Change

- 3.68 It is predicted that in South Gloucestershire, as in the rest of the UK, climate change will lead to an increase in average temperatures with greater seasonal variations and an increased risk of flooding and droughts. There will be some positive effects but overall more negative effects. The key impacts in South Gloucestershire are likely to be an increased likelihood of coastal flooding, more heat related deaths in the summer, increased problems relating to ozone in urban areas in summer and, in the short term, an increase in fuel prices which could lead to fuel poverty and the health risks associated with poorly heated homes. It is important to have in place an energy strategy that reduces dependence on fossil fuels by replacing with cleaner and renewable forms of energy generation in order to ensure that there is no shortage of energy in the future.

3.69 Fossil fuels (coal, gas and oil) are our main source of energy. They are a non-renewable source of energy and when combusted to release energy they release carbon dioxide (CO₂), a major greenhouse gas, as well as other pollutants that are harmful to the environment and to human health. Alternative cleaner, “renewable” or “green” energy sources are available (e.g. solar, wind, tide, geothermal and biomass – energy crops), as well as more efficient technologies (e.g. Combined Heat and Power – CHP). The Climate Change Act 2008 was the UK Government’s response to the United Nations Framework Convention agreement to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. Furthermore, the UK has signed up to achieve a legally binding EU target that 15% of total energy consumed will come from renewable sources by 2020.

3.70 The South Gloucestershire Council Climate Change Strategy 2013-2015 outlines local climate change targets for the next 30 years as follows:

- By 2015 reduce CO₂ emissions in South Gloucestershire by 29% of the 1990 baseline.
- By 2020 reduce CO₂ emissions in South Gloucestershire by 35% of the 1990 baseline.
- By 2025 reduce CO₂ emissions in South Gloucestershire by 50% of the 1990 baseline.
- By 2050 reduce CO₂ emissions in South Gloucestershire by 80% of the 1990 baseline.

Waste and Recycling

- 3.71 South Gloucestershire Council has responsibility for providing waste and recycling services to 107,000 households.
- 3.72 The four West of England unitary authorities (South Gloucestershire, Bristol City, Bath & North East Somerset and North Somerset Councils) adopted the Joint Waste Core Strategy in March 2011. This sits alongside the Core Strategy adopted in December 2013.
- 3.73 The 2008-2014 Local Waste Strategy sets a household waste recycling target of 50% by 2020. This has been achieved nine years early with over 52% of household waste having been recycled in 2012/13.

Minerals

- 3.74 Mineral working in South Gloucestershire is predominantly Carboniferous Limestone for the aggregates industry. Production in recent years has fallen, due to the economic downturn, to less than 2 million tonnes per annum, from four quarry units in the district - Chipping Sodbury, Tytherington, Wickwar and Wick. However, Wick Quarry has now closed and been sold. Chipping Sodbury and Tytherington Quarries are operated by Hanson and Wickwar by Cemex. Each of these quarries have extensive processing plant where the aggregate stone is crushed and screened before leaving the site and, particularly in the case of the Cemex unit, this stone is also the main supply for the on-site concrete block making and asphalt plants. There is also a quarry between Cromhall and Charfield, which although inactive since the early 1990s, contains significant reserves.
- 3.75 Ibstock's Cattybrook Brickworks near Almondsbury produces about 50 million bricks per annum. The clay for this brickworks comes from the adjacent claypit, a clay stockpile beside the former claypit at Shortwood, and from selected imported clays. These clays are blended in varying proportions to produce a range of heritage bricks. Although not a major brick manufacturer, the Brickworks is an important local employer both directly (over 100 employees on site) and indirectly.

4 Task A3 - Key Sustainability issues and the Local Plan

- 4.1 Through analysis of the baseline data set out in the previous chapter, a number of key sustainability issues affecting South Gloucestershire have been identified.
- 4.2 Where possible, the following table (Table 1) sets out the role of the Policies, Sites and Places Plan in tackling these identified issues. Also considered, as required by the SEA Directive, is the likely evolution of each issue without the implementation of this Plan. Such scenarios will be considered in more detail in later SA stages, when predictions are made about the effects of individual plans and policies.

Table 1 – Current and likely future Sustainability Issues in South Gloucestershire and the role of the Policies, Sites and Places Plan

Key Issue (and comments)	Potential Influence of the Local Plan (and likelihood of issues without the new Local Plan)	Possible Role of Policies, Sites and Places Plan
<i>Environmental</i>		
<p>Large area of the district at Severnside subject to flood risk Conflict between flooding, employment growth and biodiversity at Severnside.</p>	<p>Moderate/Major</p> <p>Continuation of the current trend, although the extent to which new development is at risk is reduced by the NPPF elevating the issue of flood risk through planning policy and development management processes.</p> <p>In respect of biodiversity, influence on the international designations in the Severn Estuary</p>	<p>The Plan can ensure that development in areas of flood risk is restricted through development management policies on flood risk management, including Sustainable Drainage Systems and rainwater harvesting to help reduce runoff into the District's watercourses and reduce the risk of flooding. The promotion of flood storage areas, balancing ponds, etc related to new development could also be promoted. Strategic interventions being developed through the new Enterprise Area status will also assist in mitigating the impact of development.</p> <p>The Plan can mitigate the impact of development on the qualifying features of the international designations in the Severn Estuary</p>
<p>The District has significant historical cultural assets that could be threatened by development and land allocations. As identified in the baseline</p>	<p>Major</p> <p>Continuation of current trend.</p>	<p>Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Scheduled Ancient Monuments and their immediate surroundings can all be protected through development management policies. In</p>

assessment, the District has a large number of listed buildings, archaeological sites and conservation areas.		addition, further policies relating to the economic re-use of rural buildings not listed or within conservation areas could be included within the Policies, Sites and Places Plan.
The District has important biodiversity and landscape assets, which could be threatened by development and other human activity. There are significant areas of both statutory and non-statutory nature conservation sites across the District. There is scope for the improvement of some of these areas.	Moderate Continuation of current trend, although other strategies and initiatives (for example, local Biodiversity Action Plan) will also have a critical influence on future patterns.	The Plan should ensure that biodiversity and landscape assets are protected and enhanced in new development. The scope of influence of the Plan is restricted to managing development requiring planning permission. Changes to both landscapes and natural habitats arising from changing agricultural or management practices cannot be addressed through the Local Plan.
Action to reduce South Gloucestershire's contribution to climate change and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Planning has a central role to play in both slowing/preventing climate change and reducing the impacts of it. With large areas of S. Glos at Severnside being susceptible to flooding it is important that the effects of climate change are taken into account when planning here.	Moderate Continuation of current trend, although other strategies and initiatives also have a strong influence on patterns.	The scope of influence of the Plan is restricted to managing development requiring planning permission through elaborating on the policies in the Core Strategy relating to energy efficiency, renewable energy, flood risk, Green Infrastructure, sustainable construction and SuDs.
Protection and improvement of environmental quality (air, land, water, noise) Planning has an important role to play in ensuring that new development does not lead to lessening of environmental quality and to also ensure that development is not introduced into areas of existing poor environmental quality.	Moderate Continuation of current trend, although other strategies and initiatives may well impact on this trend.	The Plan can seek to not allow development in areas where any facet of environmental quality is poor. The Plan can require mitigation measures for developments for certain types of problem, e.g. noise.
Protection of mineral resources Planning has a role to play in ensuring that there is a steady and adequate supply of minerals to support development activity	Moderate Continuation of current trend	The Plan can ensure that sufficient reserves are released to meet demand, and in a timely manner to prevent squandering of this finite resource, as well as ensuring that the resource is protected from development that would prevent its use in the future.

Social		
<p>There are concentrations of deprivation in some parts of the District where access to housing and local job opportunities are below that of the majority of residents of South Gloucestershire. This has created the situation that for certain sectors of the community, located principally in the older 'urban' parts of the District, there is a widening inequality between their quality of life and that for the majority of the District.</p>	<p>Moderate/Major</p> <p>Continuation of current trend, although other strategies and initiatives may well impact on this trend.</p>	<p>New employment land provision, housing and associated community facilities could help reduce deprivation within the most disadvantaged parts of the District.</p> <p>The plan will also sit alongside the complementary education, health, economic development plans and programmes.</p>
<p>Declining school rolls in Yate, Thornbury and villages, but increasing demand for new facilities as a result of development identified through the Local Plan.</p>	<p>Moderate</p> <p>Continuation of current trend, although other strategies and initiatives may well impact on this trend.</p>	<p>Debate needed over levels of housing growth required to support schools in these areas and whether there should be significant growth in order to protect existing character of these places. The Plan will encourage community led/bottom up planning in accordance with Core Strategy Policy CS5, this plan will identify any land bought forward in this way.</p>
<p>Need for new health and community facilities other than to meet future housing growth</p>	<p>Moderate</p> <p>Continuation of current trend, although other strategies and initiatives may well impact on this trend.</p>	<p>To ensure that need created through new development is catered for, and does not add to existing problems in provision.</p>
<p>Need to improve health and well being</p>	<p>Moderate</p> <p>Continuation of current trend, although other strategies and initiatives may well impact on this trend</p>	<p>The Plan can ensure that the location, masterplanning and design of new development promotes improved health and well-being through: facilitating increased physical activity, access to fresh food, reducing the fear of crime, considering the needs of the elderly, air quality and access to good quality open space, services and facilities.</p>
<p>Protection and Provision of Open Space, Sport and Recreation facilities. Planning has an important role to play in the protection</p>	<p>Major</p> <p>Continuation of the current use of nationally derived standards for</p>	<p>As part of the evidence base for the Local Plan, a comprehensive review of the quantity and quality of open space, sport and recreation facilities in the District</p>

of valued open space, sport and recreation facilities, and the provision of new facilities, primarily through new development.	open space, sport and recreation provision and negotiation on a site-by-site basis.	has been carried out. This will support open space, sport and recreation policy in the Local Plan.
Economic		
Existing town centres in variable states of success	Major Continuation of current trend, although other strategies and initiatives may well impact on this trend	The Local Plan can review the 2006 Local Plan strategy and develop a revised strategy to address current imbalances, work towards achieving vital and viable town centres. Whilst it is important to continue to support our town centres, we cannot ignore the shift in shopping behaviours in recent years towards out of town locations which must also be considered.
To meet the future needs of businesses for additional land and premises. Planning has an important role to play to maintain a ready supply of sites and premises to meet local requirements for business expansion and inward investment.	Major The achievement of the right balance between the distribution of housing and employment across all settlements in South Gloucestershire during this plan period.	This will be important to enable the Council to take the pro-active steps required in South Gloucestershire towards restoring a closer balance between employment and housing in a manner that would not conflict with the longer term objectives of the District, having regard to the sustainability objectives of reducing travel distances and safeguarding scarce land resources. This policy expression is demonstrated through the allocation of new Enterprise Areas.
Continuing pressure for out of centre retail floorspace.	Major Continuation of current trend.	The Plan can review the role of out of centre retail parks and develop a strategy that addresses the current imbalance in floorspace provision whilst considering any possible adverse impacts this may have on traditional town centres.
Spatial		
Utilising vacant previously developed sites	Major The extent of such sites is, to an extent, likely to diminish irrespective of the new Local Plan because the NPPF, and previous national guidance, already promote the reuse of	The Local Plan will need to put in place policies and proposals that appropriately reuse vacant previously developed land. However, there will be other factors to take into consideration in deciding a site's suitability for redevelopment; the existence of previously developed land is not a reason alone to allow

	previously developed land ahead of greenfield sites).	development.
<p>The District has higher than average car usage and poor public transport use and congestion problems in specific areas of the authority.</p> <p>Particularly relevant to the large amount of employment in the North Fringe, where car parking is plentiful and free and the numbers of jobs in the area far outnumber homes within walking/cycling distance.</p> <p>Large parts of the district are rural in nature where public transport is usually sparser.</p>	<p>Moderate</p> <p>Continuation of current trends leading to congestion and air quality issues, although Joint Local Transport Plan also addresses this issue.</p>	<p>The Plan can require that the design of new development provides for and encourages walking and cycling and requires the early implementation of infrastructure and facilities to facilitate walking and cycling right from the early stages of occupation.</p> <p>The Plan can ensure that new development makes a sufficient contribution to transport infrastructure and, where appropriate, services to meet the extra demand it creates and that demand management measures are also incorporated into any development proposals. For example the use of travel plans, car pools, home working etc.</p> <p>The land use aspects of the Local Transport Plan should be safeguarded in Local Plan documents. For example Showcase Bus Routes, rapid transit routes park and ride sites. Thereby encouraging walking, cycling and public transport.</p> <p>The Plan can consider the possibility of additional development in key villages/towns to help them become more sustainable and reduce the need and length of travel by car.</p>
<p>What priority should be given to maximising residential densities?</p>	<p>Major</p> <p>Continuation of current trends.</p>	<p>This has been addressed in the Core Strategy</p>
<p>Communities/new developments lack a 'sense of place'</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>The Plan can incorporate this issue in the Places section. The questions in the templates prepared for early engagement should provide responses to inform the issue.</p>

5 Task A4 – The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Introduction

- 5.1 The Government’s methodology for Sustainability Appraisal (SA) recommends the development of objectives and indicators with which to appraise Local Plans and plan options and to enable subsequent monitoring; together they form the Sustainability Appraisal Framework. Where possible, the objectives should be linked to measures, the achievement of which should inform whether the plan is performing as required.
- 5.2 As a result of lessons learnt in the delivery of SA work since the publication of the Scoping Report for the LDF in 2008, the objectives and associated appraisal criteria have been amended.
- 5.3 Each SA objective is accompanied by one or more decision-making criteria that will be used in scrutinising and evaluating potential options for the Policies, Sites and Places Plan.
- 5.4 For each objective and set of decision-making criteria, a small number of indicators have been selected to allow the District’s performance on that issue to be gauged, now and in the future. The objectives and indicators, which form the proposed SA Framework for the Policies, Sites and Places Plan, are shown together in Table 2 on the following pages.

Internal compatibility of the Sustainability Objectives

- 5.5 The internal compatibility of the SA objectives is then tested for conflict. There may be tensions between objectives that cannot be resolved: the compatibility assessment should clarify these so that subsequent decisions are well based, and mitigation can be considered. The diagram following Table 2 assesses each of the sub-objectives (as numbered).
- 5.6 The diagram shows that uncertain compatibility exists between a number of the objectives. The ultimate effect of the objectives on one another is dependant on the way that they are implemented in South Gloucestershire.
- 5.7 It is considered that the uncertainties identified do not necessitate the SA objectives to be re-written. Some areas of potential conflict will always remain. The conflict between the provision of a buoyant and diverse economy and conserving biodiversity will always be difficult to reconcile, but are key elements of ensuring sustainable development. Potential negative impacts can, however, be avoided through the correct implementation

Table 2 – The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

SA Objective	Sub-objective	Detailed decision-making criteria (i.e. SA will look for...)	Indicator(s)	Relevant SEA Topic
1. Improve Health and Wellbeing	1.1 Improve health and support healthy lifestyles	Development that contributes to positive well-being, through pleasant surroundings and living conditions, freedom from noise and pollution, and enabling lifestyles free from stress, anxiety and exhaustion. Patterns of development that make walking and cycling easy and attractive methods of transport.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average life expectancy • Proportion of residents whose health is 'good' • Residents satisfaction with their area as a place to live 	Human health, population
	1.2 Reduce health inequalities	Development that avoids exposing poorer people to more pollution/noise and proactively addresses existing health inequalities by improving the provision of health care Services and improves opportunities for a healthy lifestyle.	Indicator to be identified	Human health, population
	1.3 Reduce crime and fear of crime	Development that 'designs out' crime, e.g. by providing passive surveillance and avoiding 'dead' spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual recorded crime rates 	Human health, population
2. Support communities that meet people's needs	2.1 Make suitable housing available and affordable for everyone	Development that delivers appropriate levels of affordable housing and Lifetime Homes. Development that delivers a well-integrated mix of homes of different types and tenures to support a range of household sizes, ages and incomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing completions per annum (net and gross and by type) • Affordable housing completions • Average house prices 	Population; human health
	2.2 Support the delivery of a full range of community facilities	Development that addresses identified deficiencies in the provision of community facilities (e.g. include shops, GP surgery, pub, bank, place of worship, community centres, leisure or cultural facilities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community facilities per annum 	Population; Cultural heritage
	2.3 Give everyone access to opportunities for learning, training, skills, knowledge and culture	Development that addresses identified deficiencies in the quality and/or accessibility of schools, colleges, libraries. Encouragement for a diversity of choice of employment, particularly in the more deprived areas..	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSE results • Number of adults achieving NVQ level 4 or higher • Proportion of 16-18 year olds not in education, training or employment 	Population

SA Objective	Sub-objective	Detailed decision-making criteria (i.e. SA will look for...)	Indicator(s)	Relevant SEA Topic
	2.4 Provide opportunities for people to work locally	A balance between the area's economically active population and numbers of jobs. This can help to promote community strength & identity and vibrancy and also reduce the need to travel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic activity rates 	Population
	2.5 Provide access to open space / space for formal and informal recreation	Patterns of development that support the provision of a range of publicly accessible open space / greenspace facilities within walking distance of the home. Improvements to open space / greenspace facilities within walking distance of the home.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amount of publicly accessible Green Infrastructure (GI) per 1,000 population 	Population
3. A diverse and thriving economy that meets people's needs	3.1 Give everyone in South Gloucestershire satisfying opportunities for work	A variety of jobs should be available that people enjoy doing and gain satisfaction from	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic activity rates Average earnings No. of jobs by sector and area % of working age residents claiming JSA 	Population
	3.2 Help everyone afford a comfortable standard of living by reducing poverty and income inequality.	Whether lower incomes are sufficient to buy a reasonable standard of living – taking account of housing and travel costs. Avoidance of types of economic development that raise housing costs or make people on lower incomes have to spend more on car travel or on services that used to be public. Reduce disadvantage caused by (e.g.) not being able to afford a car or pay for commercialised services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of residents income deprived No. of residents employment deprived Average earnings 	Material assets

SA Objective	Sub-objective	Detailed decision-making criteria (i.e. SA will look for...)	Indicator(s)	Relevant SEA Topic
4. Meet people's needs for access to places and services with least damage to communities and the environment	4.1 Increase % of journeys made by public transport, walking and cycling	Development patterns that reduce the need to travel, such as ensuring that people can live closer to their work and other services and facilities and increasing access to IT facilities to promote modern communication methods that reduce car dependency. Avoid developments that create further road traffic. Good provision of bus routes and stops, and safe, attractive and direct routes for walking and cycling. Policies that encourage more efficient use of car travel, e.g. car sharing. Live work units and design that facilitate home working.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of households within 500m of a food store selling basic food provisions. No. of bus passenger journeys per year No. of cycle trips per year Mode split for travel to school per year 	Air; climate
	4.2 Help everyone access basic services easily, safely and affordably	Distance to, and ease of accessing, schools, shops, places of work and recreation. Good quality of local services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of households within 500m of a food store selling basic food provisions Access to employment by public transport within 40 minutes 	Air; climate
5. Maintain and enhance environmental quality and assets	5.1 Protect and enhance biological and geological diversity	Protection not only of designated sites but of wildlife interest everywhere. Proposals that integrate biodiversity enhancements ie wildlife friendly landscaping & SUDs, green roofs. Encouragement of wildlife corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes in areas and populations of biodiversity importance Change in priority habitats and species Improved local biodiversity Change in number of designated sites 	Biodiversity; fauna; flora
	5.2 Protect and enhance local landscape and green space	Development that ensures recreation and access is appropriately managed to ensure landscape and biodiversity is not damaged. Pattern and form of development that is sensitive to the qualities and functions of existing green space assets. Development that supports the long term sustainable management of green space assets. Development that supports the delivery of Green Infrastructure and avoids impacts on the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total area of Cotswolds AONB (within S. Glos) Number of planning applications in the Cotswolds AONB permitted contrary to recommendation Provision of new green infrastructure Number of open spaces managed to Green Flag Award standard 	Landscape; biodiversity; fauna; flora

SA Objective	Sub-objective	Detailed decision-making criteria (i.e. SA will look for...)	Indicator(s)	Relevant SEA Topic
	5.3 Promote the conservation and wise use of land	Avoiding development that leads to the permanent loss of bio-productive soils, taking into account their contributions to sustainable food production, biodiversity, flood storage, groundwater recharge, etc. Encourage development of brownfield land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of dwellings built on brownfield land • Dwelling completions densities • Loss of Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land to development 	Soil
	5.4 Provide for highest possible standards of urban design	Location and design of development to respect and improve character and settlement setting. Proposals which seek to deliver high quality and inclusive design solutions which improve the quality of an area and the way it functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of development built to Buildings for Life 12 and Code for Sustainable Homes 	Landscape
	5.5 Maintain and enhance historical assets	Protection of historically significant assets and qualities. Not just designated sites and buildings, but also non-designated features such as locally valued landmarks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of and % of conservation areas at risk • No. of and % of listed buildings at risk • No. of and % of historic parks and gardens at risk • No. of and % of scheduled ancient monuments at risk • No. of up to date conservation area appraisals • No. of listed buildings repaired and brought back into use 	Cultural heritage
	5.6 Reduce vulnerability to flooding and sea level rise	<p>New development and infrastructure should not be built in areas at risk. Appropriate use of analysis from Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, measures to alleviate existing or potential surface water drainage problems, the incorporation of the principles of SUDs from early stage of design.</p> <p>Relocation and managed retreat where appropriate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of planning permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice re flooding or water quality 	Climate; material assets

SA Objective	Sub-objective	Detailed decision-making criteria (i.e. SA will look for...)	Indicator(s)	Relevant SEA Topic
6. Minimise consumption of natural resources	6.1 Reduce non-renewable energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions	Proposals that facilitate the incorporation of decentralised energy systems, that encourage energy efficiency and allow the use of renewable energy sources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of major development providing a renewable or low carbon heat generation network or CHP or connecting to an existing facility • Per capita CO₂ emissions per year • KW installed capacity of renewable energy in S.Glos 	Climate; material assets
	6.2 Reduce water consumption	Maximise use and opportunity for use of grey water recycling.	Indicator to be identified	Water; material assets
	6.3 Minimise consumption and extraction of minerals	Greatest possible reuse of old material in new construction; provision for reuse and recycling.	Indicator to be identified	Material assets
	6.4 Reduce waste	Development that encourages waste minimisation and the sustainable management of future waste streams e.g. community recycling or composting infrastructure. Reuse and recycling and demolition waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of municipal waste recycled and recovered 	Material assets
	6.5 Minimise land, water, air, light and noise pollution	Proactive measures to address localised air-quality issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of poor air quality days • No. of planning permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice re flooding or water quality 	Soil; water; air

Table showing compatibility of SA sub objectives

1.1																									
1.2	✓																								
1.3	✓	✓																							
2.1	-	✓	-																						
2.2	-	-	-	-																					
2.3	-	-	-	-	-																				
2.4	-	-	-	✓	-	✓																			
2.5	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-																		
3.1	-	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	-																
3.2	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓															
4.1	✓	✓	✓	?	-	✓	✓	-	?	?															
4.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	✓														
5.1	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	✓	-												
5.2	✓	-	-	?	-	-	-	✓	?	-	-	-	-	-											
5.3	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	✓	?	-	-	-	-	?	?										
5.4	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	?	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓										
5.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓									
5.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	✓	✓	-	-							
6.1	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	?	?	✓	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					
6.2	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
6.3	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	?	✓	-	?	-	-	-	-			
6.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	✓			
6.5	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-✓	✓	✓			
	1.1	1.2	1.3	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	3.1	3.2	4.1	4.2	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.6	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.5		

Key for Diagram

Effect uncertain: ?

Positive effect: ✓

No/negligible effect: -

Negative effect: x

6 Other Assessments to be Incorporated in the SA Process

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.1 Ensuring equality of opportunity for all members of the community is at the heart of sustainable development. South Gloucestershire Council works with all parts of every community and is committed to ensuring that its policies and plans provide equality of opportunity for all. The Council has an adopted Equalities and Diversity Policy in order to maintain this commitment.
- 6.2 In order to ensure that the plans, policies and strategies produced by the Council accord with the Equalities and Diversity Policy, a brief but concise Equalities Impact Assessment is undertaken for the South Gloucestershire Local Plan as part of the SA process. The Equalities Impact Assessment framework is set out in Appendix B.

Appropriate Assessment of the SA under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (Habitats Regulations).

- 6.3 In recognition of its internationally important natural features and wildlife, the Severn Estuary is protected by a range of national and international nature conservation legislation.
- 6.4 As well as being notified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000, it is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) under EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds ('the Birds Directive'); and is a Ramsar site under the Ramsar Convention on the Conservation of Wetlands of Importance.
- 6.5 The Severn Estuary is also a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under European Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora ('the Habitats Directive 1992'), implemented in Britain by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (Habitats Regulations).
- 6.6 Regulation 48 of the Habitats Regulations (transposing Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive) requires that:

'A competent authority, before deciding to undertake, or give any consent, permission or other authorisation for, a plan or project which

(a) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site in Great Britain (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and

(b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site,

shall make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives'.

- 6.7 An appropriate assessment addresses the likely impact on those features of interest (e.g. waders or wildfowl) for which the site has been designated and has to be carried out regardless of whether those effects are direct or indirect, temporary or permanent, alone or in combination, negative or beneficial. The 'competent authority' can ask for sufficient information as is reasonable to enable that assessment to be carried out. Under European and national law, this has to be carried out before any planning permission can be granted.
- 6.8 The same legislative protection and constraints applies to habitat (e.g. coastal floodplain grassland) used by the European protected species, even if the land in question lies outside the SPA/Ramsar site.
- 6.9 The Habitats Directive applies the precautionary principle to protected areas; plans and projects can only be permitted having ascertained that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the site(s) in question. However, plans and projects may be permitted if there are no alternatives to them and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest as to why they should go ahead. In such cases, compensation will be necessary to ensure the overall integrity of the site network.
- 6.10 In order to ascertain whether or not site integrity will be affected, an appropriate assessment (AA) should be undertaken of the plan or project in question: The policies in the Policies, Sites and Places Plan that may impact upon any Natura 2000 sites in the district must therefore be subject to appropriate assessment. The SA process will incorporate the appropriate assessment.
- 6.11 The results of the AA process will be published in the SA Reports. Any policy relating to, or impacting in any way upon, the conservation objectives of the Severn Estuary SPA/Ramsar/SAC will be tested in strict accordance with the provisions of the Conservation (Natural Habitats & c.) Regulations 1994.

7.0 Next Stages and Methodology for the SA

What happens next?

7.1 This Scoping Report is the first stage of the SA process (Stage A). The stages that follow are:

- Developing and refining options (Stage B)
- Appraising the effects of the Plan (Stage C)
- Consulting on the Plan and the SA Report (Stage D)
- Monitoring the implementation of the Plan

Developing and refining options (Stage B)

7.2 During the preparation of the Policies, Sites and Places Plan, the Council will develop various policy options capable of meeting the spatial planning objectives of the Local Plan. Each reasonable policy option, including the 'do nothing' option, will be tested against the SA Framework to determine their performance in sustainability terms.

7.3 Initially the various policy options will be appraised against SA objectives, in order to identify whether their effects are positive, negative or uncertain; whether such effects will arise in the short, medium or long term; and whether they will be temporary or permanent.

Appraising the effects of the plan (Stage C)

7.4 The next stage of the SA process is to assess, in more detail, each preferred policy option in Local Development Documents, in order to determine whether it is likely to have a significant effect on the environment and sustainable development (see Table 3 below). The purpose of this stage is to predict and evaluate the effects of policies and proposals so that, where adverse effects are predicted, consideration will be given to what mitigation measures may be required. This stage will lead to the production of the final SA Report.

7.5 Each preferred policy option will be assessed and, where necessary, recommendations made for refining the policy option included in the process. At this stage, if there are limitations in the data that is available, it is expected that the predictions regarding the policy impacts may be broad based and qualitative rather than detailed and quantitative. Where possible, the potential effects will be quantified, but, where this is not possible, a subjective judgment will need to be made.

- 7.6 Completion of this process will make it possible to decide if any of the policies are likely to have any adverse impacts. Where adverse impacts are predicted, information will be presented on the measures proposed to prevent, reduce or offset these adverse effects. Where an adverse effect cannot be mitigated, the Council will consider deleting or modifying the policy. Even if a policy does not have any adverse impacts, the Council will where possible seek to enhance its positive and beneficial effects.
- 7.7 Where policies are proposed for alteration in light of the SA process, these will be highlighted in the final SA Report. The SA process will also provide a commentary on any sustainability issues that arise during the refinement of the preferred policy options. Conclusions on the overall sustainability effects of the preferred policy options will also be provided as part of the final SA Report.
- 7.8 Table 3 below sets out SEA regulation requirements for how significant effects on the environment should be determined. These criteria will be used throughout Stages B and C of the SA process but will also be applied to the determination of significant effects on social and economic circumstances, as well as the environment, so that the likely significant effects on broader sustainability may be determined.

**Table 3 SEA REGULATIONS CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT
(Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations 2004)**

1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to -
 - (a) the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;
 - (b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;
 - (c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;
 - (d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and
 - (e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).

2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to -
 - (a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;
 - (b) the cumulative nature of the effects;
 - (c) the transboundary nature of the effects;
 - (d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);
 - (e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);
 - (f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to -
 - (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;
 - (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or
 - (iii) intensive land-use; and
 - (g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

Consulting on the plan and sustainability appraisal (Stage D)

7.9 A final SA Report will be available for consultation at the same time as public participation on the Publication version of the Policies, Sites and Places Plan. If changes are made in light of the public participation stage, the final SA Report will need to be amended as necessary to reflect any changes.

7.10 The revised final SA report will be submitted to the Secretary of State alongside the submission of the Policies, Sites and Places Plan, which will be subject to independent examination by a Planning Inspector. The

independent examination will consider whether the SA process has been incorporated into the production of the submitted Plan and whether the requirements of the SEA Directive have been met.

Monitoring the implementation of the plan

7.11 It is a requirement of the SEA Directive that the significant environmental effects of the implementation of Plans must be monitored to identify any unforeseen adverse effects and to enable appropriate remedial action to be taken. SA monitoring will allow the Council to answer the following questions:

- Were the assessment's predictions of sustainability effects accurate?
- Is the plan contributing to the achievement of desired SA objectives and targets?
- Are mitigation measures performing as well as expected?
- Are there any adverse effects? Are these within acceptable limits, or is remedial action desirable

7.12 SA monitoring will be undertaken annually following adoption in line with the requirement to produce an annual Authority's Monitoring Report. Further information on monitoring will be set out in the final SA Report.

Appendix A

Review of Plans Programmes and Policies

Scope of the review of Plans and Programmes

European Directives and commitments established at the European level

The review refers to a number of the more important Directives, such as the *Directive on Conservation of Wild Birds (79/4098/EC)* and the Directive on the *Conservation of natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC)*.

National Strategies, Plans and Programmes

The review identifies a number of high level policy and strategy documents including the NPPF (2012) and NPPG (2014).

Regional Strategies, Plans and Programmes

A number of regional strategies exist. These have been listed in the following review and include the West of England Joint Local Transport Plan 3 2011 – 2026 (2011) and the West of England Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2013).

Local Strategies, Plans and Programmes

The review refers to the main strategies, etc of South Gloucestershire Council, such as the Core Strategy (December 2013) and the Affordable Housing SPD (2014).

General

- The World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, (September 2002). Commitments arising from Johannesburg Summit.
- United Nations Millennium Declaration (2000)
- DEFRA Securing the Future – UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy (2000)
- DCLG National Planning Policy Framework (2012) and National Planning Policy Guidance (2014) in full
- DEFRA Climate Change The UK Programme (2006)
- The Carbon Plan: Delivering our Low Carbon Future (2011)
- West of England Duty to Cooperate Schedule
- South Gloucestershire Local Plan Core Strategy 2006 - 2027

1: Improve health and wellbeing

- UK Fuel Poverty Strategy (2001)
- ODPM Sustainable Communities in the South West – Building for the Future (2003)
- Valuing People: A New Strategy for Learning Disability for the 21st Century (Government White Paper) (2001)
- SGC Sustainable Community Strategy (2012)

2: Support communities that meet people's needs

- The Barker Review (2004)
- DCLG Written Statement to Parliament Planning and Travellers July (2013)
- DCLG Planning Policy for Travellers Sites March (2012)
- NPPG Rural Housing (2014)
- DCLG Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England (2011)
- Homelessness Act (2002)
- West of England Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2013)
- SGC Housing Strategy for South Gloucestershire 2013 – 2018 (2013)
- South Gloucestershire Council Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document – 2014
- SGC Rural Affordable Housing Pledge (2013)

3: Develop the economy in ways that meet people's needs

- The Portas Review: An independent review into the future of our high streets. Mary Portas 2011
- NPPG Ensuring the vitality of town centres (2014)
- West of England Strategic Economic Plan 2015 – 2030 (2014)
- South Gloucestershire Council Economic Development Strategy 2012 – 2016 (2012)
- South Gloucestershire Local Economic Assessment (2011)

4: Provide access to meet people's needs with least damage to communities and the environment

- NPPG Travel plans, transport assessments and statements in decision-taking (2014)
- CLG Manual for Streets (2007)
- CLG Guidance on Transport Assessment (2007)
- West of England Joint Local Transport Plan 3 2011 – 2026 (2011)

5: Maintain and improve environmental quality and assets

- Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979).
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of international importance especially waterfowl habitat (1971).
- Bonn Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (1979).
- Directive on Conservation of Wild Birds (2009/147/EC)
- Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna & Flora (Directive 92/43/EC) (The Habitats Directive).
- NPPG Considering and enhancing the historic environment (2014)
- NPPG Climate Change (2014)
- NPPG Planning and Flood Risk (2014)
- NPPG Planning and Coastal Change (2014)
- NPPG Air Quality (2014)
- NPPG Land affected by contamination (2014)
- NPPG Land Stability (2014)

- NPPG Light Pollution (2014)
- NPPG Tree Preservation Orders in conservation areas (2014)
- NPPG: Natural Environment (2014)
- NPPG: Noise (2014)
- DEFRA Working with the grain of nature – A Biodiversity Strategy for England, 2002 (Reviewed 2011)
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) (2000)
- DETR Government Rural White Paper: Our Countryside – the Future – a Fair Deal for Rural England (2000)
- English Heritage A Strategy for the Historic Environment in the South West (2004)
- English Heritage Buildings at Risk Register
- South Gloucestershire Biodiversity Plan (2007)
- South Gloucestershire Conservation Area Appraisals (various)

6: Minimise consumption of natural resources

- Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992).
- Air Quality Framework Directive (Directive 96/62/EC).
- Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (1991)
- Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)
- Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC).
- Directive to Promote Electricity from Renewable Energy (2001/77/EC).
- Waste to Landfill Directive (99/31/EC).
- Energy White Paper: Our Energy Future – Creating a Low Carbon Economy (2003)
- NPPG Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (2014)
- NPPG Minerals (2014)
- South Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy 2013 - 2015

Title of Policy, plan and programme	Objectives	Implications for Plan
General		
<p>The World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, Commitments arising from Johannesburg Summit (September 2002)</p>	<p>A number of the sustainable development commitments originating from WSSD, are relevant to land use planning, and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate energy into country-led poverty reduction processes. • Remove market barriers and create a level playing field for renewable energy and energy efficiency. • Greater resource efficiency (incl. decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation). • Support business innovation and take-up of best practice in technology and management; work on waste and producer responsibility. <p>Targets There are a number of follow-up processes, but no specific targets.</p>	<p>Many of these commitments are followed up and elaborated in more in detail in UK guidance and strategies.</p> <p>Consider policies to support objectives.</p>
<p>United Nations Millennium Declaration (2000)</p>	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. • Achieve universal primary education • Promote gender equality and empower women. • Reduce child mortality. • Improve maternal health. • Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. • Ensure environmental sustainability. • Develop a global partnership for development. <p>Targets By 2015 all 191 UN Member states have pledged to meet these goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TARGET FOR 2015: Halve the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day and those who suffer from hunger. 	<p>The declaration and the goals have a key focus on developing countries and issues such as poverty, gender equality and education. However the declaration also contains commitments to address a broad range of issues some of which have relevance to identifying policy actions and priorities, particularly those relating to environmental sustainability.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TARGET FOR 2015: Ensure that all boys and girls complete primary school. • TARGETS FOR 2005 AND 2015: Eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and at all levels by 2015. • TARGET FOR 2015: Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five. • TARGET FOR 2015: Reduce by three quarters the ratio of women dying in childbirth. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TARGET FOR 2015: Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and the incidence of malaria and other major diseases. • Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources. • By 2015, reduce by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water. • By 2020, achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers. • Develop further an open trading and financial system that includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction — nationally and internationally. • Address the least developed countries’ special needs, and the special needs of landlocked and small island developing states. • Deal comprehensively with developing countries’ debt problems. • Develop decent and productive work for youth. • In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries. • In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies — especially information and communications technologies. 	
<p>DEFRA Securing the Future – UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)</p>	<p>Objectives</p> <p>The Strategy sets out five guiding principles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Living within environmental limits 2. Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society 3. Achieving a sustainable economy 4. Promoting good governance 5. Using sound science responsibly <p>Priorities for UK action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable production and consumption. • Climate change and energy. • Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable communities <p>Targets</p> <p>Does not contain any targets but does include the following key commitments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Producing an integrated policy approach for protecting and enhancing natural resources with stakeholders in 2005. • Researching environmental limits and environmental inequalities. • Taking account of natural systems as a whole, through the use of an ecosystems approach. • Bringing together all the UK Government's policy frameworks, targets and strategies for natural resources. • Modernising the delivery framework through the creation of new agencies to manage the marine and terrestrial environments. • Launching Environmental Stewardship to incentivise farmers to deliver environmental benefits. • Addressing problems of degraded resources and environmental inequalities by enhancing the role of the Environment Agency, the creation of the Integrated Agency, and by strategic partnership work nationally and locally between Defra and the Department of Health and their agencies. • Working with international partners to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss worldwide. • Encouraging partner countries globally to integrate principles of sustainable development into poverty reduction and development processes, assisting developing countries in negotiation and implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, and supporting multilateral institutions such as the UN Environment Programme. 	
<p>DCLG National Planning Policy Framework (2012)</p>	<p>In delivering sustainable development the key planning objectives should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building a strong, competitive economy. • Ensuring the vitality of town centres. • Supporting a prosperous rural economy. • Promoting sustainable transport. • Supporting high quality communications infrastructure. • Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes. • Promoting healthy communities. • Protecting greenbelt land. • Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change. • Conserving and enhancing the natural environment. • Conserving and enhancing the historic environment. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals. 	
DCLG National Planning Policy Guidance (2014)	The launch of National Planning Policy Guidance was announced in March 2014. The aim of the NPPG is to replace a large quantity of old guidance and make it a more simpler system for everyone to use. It is a web based tool split into 41 sections of which relevant categories are included below.	Consider policies which support this guidance.
DEFRA Climate Change UK Programme (2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve business' use of energy, stimulate investment and cut costs. Stimulate new, more efficient sources of power generation. Promote better energy efficiency in the domestic sector, saving householders money. Improve the energy efficiency requirement of the Building Regulations. Continue cutting emissions from agriculture. Ensure the public sector takes a leading role. 	
The Carbon Plan: Delivering our Low Carbon Future (2011)	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make existing homes and buildings more energy efficient. Deliver heating and electricity through renewable sources reducing the use of fossil fuels. Support people in making low carbon travel choices. Reduction in domestic transport emissions through low emission technologies. <p>Targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All homes and buildings to have emission footprints close to zero by 2050 	
West of England Duty to Cooperate schedule	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify the strategic planning issues affecting more than one unitary authority area in the West of England; To define the processes for taking these issues forward; and To document the outcomes delivered. <p>In order to deliver the objectives of this guidance the schedule demonstrates a table showing a key theme, issues and anticipated delivery outcome/benefits , the Local Authorities which are affected , any actions required and a proposed action date and by whom.</p> <p>There are no specific targets relating to this guidance.</p>	Ensures that cross boundary issues are consulted on at a strategic level

<p>South Gloucestershire Local Plan Core Strategy 2006 – 2027 (2013)</p>	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing and adapting to climate change. • Managing future development. • Managing economic prosperity. • Providing housing for all. • Improve existing communities. • Tackling congestion and improving accessibility. • Managing the environment and heritage. • Improving health and wellbeing. 	<p>Ensure that commitments identified in the Core Strategy are carried through, as well as ensuring that new policies are consistent with the Core Strategy</p>
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1. Improve Health and Well-being

1. Improve Health and Well-being		
UK Fuel Poverty Strategy, (2001)	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End fuel poverty for vulnerable households by 2010. 	
ODPM Sustainable Communities in the South West – Building for the Future (2003)	<p>Document does not contain any ‘objectives’ for the Region, but contains an ‘Action Plan’ which includes action such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will help empower people and public services in disadvantaged communities by investing in the skills and know-how they need to turn their communities around (total funding of £148,500 for 2002/03). We will continue to work with SWRDA to establish a ‘centre of excellence’, providing services to enable the sharing of best practice on regeneration and renewal. • We will plan in the main towns and cities for growth, and transport infrastructure and services that reduce the need for travel and support sustainable development as with the Greater Bristol Strategic Transport Study. • We will work with local authorities to develop and implement effective local transport plans to tackle the region’s transport needs at a local level and support the delivery of key schemes supporting sustainable growth such as the Poole Harbour Bridge, Gloucester South West by-pass and Barnstaple downstream bridge. • We will use the planning system and other strategies to ensure that communities develop in a way that reduces the need to travel, particularly by private car. • We will develop in rural areas an increasing range of transport opportunities that reduce dependence on the private car, supporting initiatives such as the Cornwall Centre of Excellence in rural transport and innovative schemes such as the Wiltshire Wiggly Bus and On Call buses in Plymouth and Caradon. <p>Does not contain any targets.</p>	Consider policies to achieve this Action Plan.
SGC Sustainable Community Strategy (2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure resources are used wisely, reduce carbon emissions, prevent pollution and waste, and conserve and enhance the environment for future generations. • Promote a greater understanding and mutual respect between different sectors and a selection of the community; empower all people to participate and become involved in decisions which affect the area. • Find simple and effective ways of working together that improve efficiency, make the most of the resources and ensure value for money. 	

2. Support communities that meet people's needs

<p>DCLG Written Statement to Parliament Planning and Travellers (July 2013)</p>	<p>This ministerial statement abolishes top down targets, increases projection of the green belt and aligned the planning system for traveller sites with that for settled housing. There is a call to revoke equality and diversity in planning as previous unauthorised developments have created tensions between travellers and the settled population, harming community cohesion.</p>	<p>The single issue for unmet demand is not sufficient evidence for providing traveller sites or conventional housing sites in the Green Belt.</p>
<p>DCLG Planning Policy for Travellers Sites March (2012)</p>	<p>Objective To ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional nomadic way of life for travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community.</p> <p>In order to deliver the objectives of this guidance, when preparing development plans and considering planning applications, local authorities should;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make their own assessment of need for the purpose of planning; • Ensure that local planning authorities, working collaboratively, develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites; • Encourage local planning authorities to plan for sites over a reasonable timescale; • Plan-making and decision-taking should protect the Green Belt from inappropriate development; • Promote a more private traveller site provision while recognising that there will always be those travellers who cannot provide their own sites; • Plan-making and decision-taking should aim to reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments and make enforcement more effective; • Ensure that Local Plans include fair, realistic, and inclusive policies; • Increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply; • Reduce tension between settled and traveller communities in plan-making and planning decisions; • Enable provision of suitable accommodation from which travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure; and • To have due regard for the protection of local amenity and local environment. 	

<p>NPPG Rural Housing (2014)</p>	<p>Objectives Understand the importance of providing housing to sustain other rural facilities such as schools, local shops, public houses, places of worship and local services.</p> <p>In order to deliver the objectives of this guidance, when preparing development plans and considering planning applications, local authorities should;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considering rural housing options at strategic, local and neighbourhood levels; • Avoid blanket policies which restrict development; and • Recognise that different sustainable transport policies and measures will be required in different communities and opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary from urban to rural areas. 	
<p>DCLG Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England (2011)</p>	<p>The Housing Strategy sets out a package of reforms to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get the housing market moving again; • Lay the foundations for a more responsive, effective and stable housing market in the future; • support choice and quality for tenants, and • improve environmental standards and design quality. 	<p>Consider policies to achieve this Strategy</p>
<p>DCLG Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England (2011)</p>	<p>The Housing Strategy sets out a package of reforms to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get the housing market moving again; • Lay the foundations for a more responsive, effective and stable housing market in the future; • support choice and quality for tenants, and • improve environmental standards and design quality. 	<p>Consider policies to achieve this Strategy</p>
<p>Homelessness Act (2002)</p>	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duty of local housing authority to formulate a homelessness strategy. 	
<p>West of England Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2013 (draft)</p>	<p>The West of England Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) has been undertaken by the six authorities which make up the West of England Housing Market Area. The SHMA intends to go beyond the traditional descriptive amount of housing needs and base projected growth on understanding of the housing market, the economy and planning decisions.</p>	<p>Consider policies to help deliver non-strategic housing growth in the district where there is community support</p>
<p>South Gloucestershire Council (2013) Housing Strategy for South Gloucestershire 2013 – 2018</p>	<p>The aim of the strategy is for everyone in South Gloucestershire to be able to live in a good quality home that meets their needs and that they can afford. The Council will work with partners to tackle the range of housing issues that affect residents to achieve the following ambitions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable, sustainable and investing in communities. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality, choice, right for you. • Friendly, safe communities we are proud of Well-planned places for a greener future. 	
South Gloucestershire Council Rural Affordable Housing Pledge (2013)	The aim of this document is encourage rural communities to consider their current and future housing needs and long term sustainability.	
South Gloucestershire Council Affordable Housing SPD (2014)	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm the revised policy context as national and local level affecting the provision of affordable housing. • Set out the means by which the new requirement for 35% affordable housing in new housing developments can be achieved on-site, taking account of viability considerations • Enable the delivery of an appropriate mix of affordable housing suitable in tenure, type, size and location to meet identified housing need, drawing on evidence from the most recent Strategic Market Housing Assessment. • Contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, economically, socially and environmentally; for example providing jobs and homes to local communities, enhancing social cohesion, improving living conditions for all households, and ensuring that developments respect the local environment. • Highlight the revised thresholds of sites on which a proportion of affordable housing will be sought and indicate how such sites will be defined. • Identify the role of Affordable Rent, as recently introduced tenure in affordable housing. • Outline the factors which may reduce the amount of affordable housing contribution and the appraisal mechanisms that will be used to determine this. • Set down ho more affordable housing might be provided in rural areas for local communities, with support of some market housing and define Extra Care housing and provide guidance for its provision, including when it would be appropriate to seek affordable housing as part of new provision. • Address the scope for self-build housing to provide “affordable housing” distinguishing self build from other low cost market housing which might fall outside the definition of affordable housing. 	

3. Develop the economy in ways that meet people's needs

The Portas Review: An independent review into the future of our high streets. Mary Portas 2011

Recommendations

- Put in place a “Town Team”: a visionary, strategic and strong operational management team for high streets.
- Empower successful Business Improvement Districts to take on more responsibilities and powers and become “Super-BIDs”.
- Legislate to allow landlords to become high street investors by contributing to their Business Improvement District.
- Establish a new “National Market Day” where budding shopkeepers can try their hand at operating a low-cost retail business.
- Make it easier for people to become market traders by removing unnecessary regulations so that anyone can trade on the high street unless there is a valid reason why not.
- Government should consider whether business rates can better support small businesses and independent retailers.
- Local authorities should use their new discretionary powers to give business rate concessions to new local businesses.
- Make business rates work for business by reviewing the use of the RPI with a view to changing the calculation to CPI.
- Local areas should implement free controlled parking schemes that work for their town centres and we should have a new parking league table.
- Town Teams should focus on making high streets accessible, attractive and safe.
- Government should include high street deregulation as part of their ongoing work on freeing up red tape.
- Address the restrictive aspects of the ‘Use Class’ system to make it easier to change the uses of key properties on the high street.
- Put betting shops into a separate ‘Use Class’ of their own.
- Make explicit a presumption in favour of town centre development in the wording of the National Planning Policy Framework.
- Introduce Secretary of State “exceptional sign off” for all new out-of-town developments and

	<p>require all large new developments to have an “affordable shops” quota.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large retailers should support and mentor local businesses and independent retailers. • Retailers should report on their support of local high streets in their annual report. • Encourage a contract of care between landlords and their commercial tenants by promoting the leasing code and supporting the use of lease structures other than upward only rent reviews, especially for small businesses. • Explore further disincentives to prevent landlords from leaving units vacant. • Banks who own empty property on the high street should either administer these assets well or be required to sell them. • Local authorities should make more proactive use of Compulsory Purchase Order powers to encourage the redevelopment of key high street retail space. • Empower local authorities to step in when landlords are negligent with new “Empty Shop Management Orders”. • Introduce a public register of high street landlords. • Run a high profile campaign to get people involved in Neighbourhood Plans. • Promote the inclusion of the High Street in Neighbourhood Plans. • Developers should make a financial contribution to ensure that the local community has a strong voice in the planning system. • Support imaginative community use of empty properties through Community Right to Buy, Meanwhile Use and a new “Community Right to Try”. • Run a number of High Street Pilots to test proof of concept. 	
<p>NPPG Ensuring the vitality of town centres (2014)</p>	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generate local employment. • Promote beneficial competition within and between town centres. • Create attractive and diverse places where people want to live, visit and work. <p>In order to deliver the objectives of this guidance, when preparing development plans and considering planning applications, local authorities should;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess and plan to meet the main town centre uses in full, adopting a town centre first approach; • Be mindful of the different rates of development in town centres compared with out of town centre; 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the quality of car parking in town centres; • Use both sequential and impact testing; • Work with the private sector, Portas Pilot organisations, town teams, neighbourhood planning groups, town centre management organisations and other relevant groups to produce a strategic vision for town centres. • Take full account of relevant market signals keeping allocations under regular review; and • Assess the health of a town centre using relevant indicators. 	
<p>West of England Strategic Economic Plan 2015 – 2030 (2014)</p>	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create the right conditions for business to thrive. Give confidence and certainty to our investors to attract and retain investment to stimulate and incentivise growth. • Ensure a resilient economy, which operate within the environmental limits. That is low carbon and resource efficient economy, increases natural capital and is proofed against future environmental, economic and social shocks. • Create places where people want to live and work, through delivery of cultural infrastructure, including broadband, transport and housing to unlock suitable locations for economic growth. • Shape the local workforce to provide people with skills that businesses need to succeed and that will provide them with job opportunities. • Ensure all our communities share in the prosperity, health and well-being and reduce the inequality gap. <p>Targets</p> <p>The West of England LEP aims to exceed the Oxford Economics baseline growth figure of 65,000 jobs and 2.6% GVA growth up to 2030.</p>	
<p>South Gloucestershire Council Economic Development Strategy 2012 – 2016 (2012)</p>	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve productivity and competitiveness, and safeguard and increase jobs in key sectors. • To increase the number, survival rates and growth rates of starter and small enterprises to maintain a diverse, vibrant, sustainable economy. • To raise aspirations and skill levels through our schools, colleges and universities and meet the skill and workforce needs of local employers. • Improve standards in our schools so young people realise their aspirations and are well prepared for the future. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that all parts of South Gloucestershire are all groups share the benefits of economic development, in particular priority neighbourhood areas, rural areas and disadvantaged groups including young people and families. • To meet the land, premises and infrastructure requirements of businesses where that is sustainable and consistent with strategic employment and regeneration objectives. • To sustain and improve the vibrancy and vitality of town and district centres. 	
<p>South Gloucestershire Local Economic Assessment (2011)</p>	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve productivity and competitiveness, and safeguard and increase jobs in key sectors. • To increase the number, survival rates of starter and small enterprises including social enterprises to maintain a diverse, vibrant, sustainable economy. • To raise aspirations and skill levels through our schools, colleges and universities and meet the skill and workforce needs of local employers. • Improve standards in our schools so young people realise their aspirations and are well prepared for the future. • To ensure that all parts of South Gloucestershire and all groups share the benefits of economic development, in particular priority neighbourhood areas, rural areas and disadvantaged groups including young people and families. • To meet the land, premises and infrastructure requirements of businesses where that is sustainable and consistent with strategic employment and regeneration objectives. • To sustain and improve the vibrancy and vitality of town and district centres. <p>There are no specific targets relating to this document.</p>	

4. Provide access to meet people's needs with least damage to communities and the environment

<p>NPPG Travel plans, transport assessments and statements in decision-taking (2014)</p>	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel plans, Transport Assessments and Statements are all ways of assessing and mitigating the negative impacts of a development. • Required for all developments which generate significant amounts of movements. • Travel Plans are long term management strategies for integrating proposals for sustainable travel into the planning process. They should where possible be considered in parallel to development proposals. • Travel Assessments are thorough assessments of a developments implication. • Travel statements are used to asses impacts in the instance where transport implications are thought to be less severe. • It is at the discretion of local planning authorities, developers, relevant transport authorities, and neighbourhood planning organisations as to what method should be used in what proposal. <p>There are no specific targets in relation to this document.</p>	<p>Transport Assessments can beneficially inform their Local Plans (for example, in order to facilitate the use of sustainable modes of transport).</p>
<p>CLG Manual for Streets (2007)</p>	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A more collaborative approach between design professionals and other stakeholders. • Include all modes of transport, pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users. • Apply a user hierarchy to the design process with pedestrians at the top. • Recognise the importance of streets as places for social interaction. • Promote an inclusive environment that recognises the needs of all people. • Transform the quality of our streets in order to deliver the following; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Help to build and strengthen the communities in which they serve; ○ Meet the needs of all users, by embodying the principles of inclusive design; ○ Form part of a well-connected network; ○ Are attractive and have their own identity; ○ Cost effective to construct and maintain; and ○ Safe. 	

<p>CLG Guidance on Transport Assessment (2007)</p>	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports National Planning Policy Guidance on Transport Assessments. • Assists stakeholders in determining whether an assessment may be required. Provides guidance on the content and preparation of TA's. <p>There are no specific targets in relation to this document.</p>	
<p>West of England Joint Local Transport Plan 3 2011 – 2026 (2011)</p>	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce greenhouse gases. • Promote walking, cycling and public transport. • Reduce the number of road casualties. • Implement Air Quality Management Areas. • Improve personal security on the transport network. • Improve access to health and employment. • Assist regeneration in deprived areas. • Improve access for rural residents. • Tackle congestion. • Support access to houses and jobs. • Increase capacity and reliability of transport networks. • Maintain, manage and make the best of transport assets. • Enhance the public realm. • Promote better access to leisure facilities. • Minimise the impact of the natural and historic environment. <p>Targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UK Climate Change Act has established legally binding targets requiring the Government to reduce the country's CO2 emissions by 34% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 from a 1990 baseline figure. Road transport must make a contribution to these targets. 	

5. Maintain and improve environmental quality and assets

<p>Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979)</p>	<p>Objectives The Convention aims to ensure conservation of wild flora and fauna species and their habitats. Special attention is given to endangered and vulnerable species, including endangered and vulnerable migratory species specified in appendices. The Parties undertake to take all appropriate measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild flora and fauna species. Such measures should be included in the Parties planning and development policies and pollution control, with particular attention to the conservation of wild flora and fauna. The Parties undertake to promote education and disseminate general information concerning the need to conserve species of wild flora and fauna and their habitats. The aims of the convention are threefold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to conserve wild flora and fauna and natural habitats; • to promote co-operation between States; and • to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species, including endangered and vulnerable migratory species <p>General obligation for each Contracting Party to take action individually, with respect to the conservation of wild flora and fauna and all natural habitats in general, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting national conservation policies; • having regard for conservation in regional planning policies and pollution abatement; and • promoting education and information. <p>Targets Does not contain any targets.</p>	<p>Consider policies to achieve these objectives</p>
<p>Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of international importance especially waterfowl habitat (1971)</p>	<p>Objectives The Convention makes the following commitments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 2: Signatories will designate wetland sites to be included in the list of wetlands of international importance and promote the conservation and wise use of these. • Article 3: Under the Convention there is a general obligation for the Contracting Parties to include wetland conservation considerations in their national land-use planning. They have undertaken to formulate and implement this planning so as to promote, as far as possible, “the wise use of wetlands in their territory”. • Article 4: Contracting Parties have also undertaken to establish nature reserves in wetlands, whether or not 	<p>Consider policies to achieve these objectives</p>

	<p>they are included in the Ramsar List, and they are also expected to promote training in the fields of wetland research, management and stewardship</p> <p>Targets Does not contain any targets.</p>	
Bonn Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (1979)	<p>Objectives The Convention was agreed based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition that wild animals in their innumerable forms are an irreplaceable part of the earth's natural system which must be conserved for the good of mankind. • Awareness that each generation of man holds the resources of the earth for future generations and has an obligation to ensure that this legacy is conserved and is used wisely. • Consciousness of the ever-growing value of wild animals from environmental, ecological, genetic, scientific, aesthetic, recreational, cultural, educational, social and economic points of view. • Concern particularly with those species of wild animals that migrate across or outside national jurisdictional boundaries. • Recognition that the States are and must be the protectors of the migratory species of wild animals that live within or pass through their national jurisdictional boundaries. • The conviction that conservation and effective management of migratory species of wild animals require the concerted action of all States within the national jurisdictional boundaries of which such species spend any part of their life cycle. <p>Targets Does not contain any targets.</p>	Consider policies to achieve these objectives
Directive on Conservation of Wild Birds (2009/147/EC)	<p>Objectives The main provisions of the Directive include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The maintenance of the favourable conservation status of all wild bird species across their distributional range (Article 2) with the encouragement of various activities to that end (Article 3). • The identification and classification of Special Protection Areas for rare or vulnerable species listed in Annex I (PDF 106KB) of the Directive, as well as for all regularly occurring migratory species, paying particular attention to the protection of wetlands of international importance (Article 4). (Together with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive, SPAs form a network of pan-European protected 	Consider policies to achieve these objectives

	<p>areas known as Natura 2000.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The establishment of a general scheme of protection for all wild birds (Article 5). • Restrictions on the sale and keeping of wild birds (Article 6). • Specification of the conditions under which hunting and falconry can be undertaken (Article 7). • (Huntable species are listed on Annex II.1 (PDF 29KB) and Annex II.2 (PDF 73KB) of the Directive). • Prohibition of large-scale non-selective means of bird killing (Article 8). • Procedures under which Member States may derogate from the provisions of Articles 5-8 (Article 9) — that is, the conditions under which permission may be given for otherwise prohibited activities. • Encouragement of certain forms of relevant research (Article 10). • Requirements to ensure that introduction of non-native birds do not threatened other biodiversity (Article 11). <p>Targets Does not contain any targets.</p>	
<p>Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna & Flora (Directive 92/43/EC) (The Habitats Directive).</p>	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The aim of this Directive shall be to contribute towards ensuring bio-diversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora in the European territory of the Member States to which the Treaty applies. • Measures taken pursuant to this Directive shall be designed to maintain or restore, at favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of Community interest. • Measures taken pursuant to this Directive shall take account of economic, social and cultural requirements and regional and local characteristics. <p>Targets Does not contain any targets.</p>	<p>Consider policies to achieve these objectives</p>
<p>NPPG Considering and enhancing the historic environment (2014)</p>	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect and enhance heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance; • Ensure heritage assets remain used and valued; and • Where a heritage asset is justifiably lost or partially lost steps are taken to interpret its contribution to the understanding of our past. 	

	<p>In order to deliver the objectives of this guidance, when preparing development plans and considering planning applications, local authorities should;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify specific opportunities within the area for the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets; • Consider the relationship and impact of other policies on the delivery of a strategy for conservation; and • Hold clear and up to date information on designated and non-designated heritage assets. • There are no specific targets relating to this document. 	
<p>NPPG Climate Change (2014)</p>	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the delivery of appropriately sited green energy; and • Reduce greenhouse gases through effective spatial planning. <p>In order to deliver the objectives of this guidance, when preparing development plans and considering planning applications, local authorities should;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the need to travel through provision of sustainable transport; • Provide opportunities for renewable and low energy technologies; • Provide opportunities for decentralised energy and heating; • Promote low carbon design approaches to reduce energy consumption in buildings; • Consider future climate risks such as flooding and availability of water; • Engage with appropriate partners; and • Advise developers on how to reduce energy consumption through materials and design. <p>There are no specific targets relating to this document.</p>	
<p>NPPG Planning and Flood Risk (2014)</p>	<p>Objective</p> <p>The NPPG section on Flood Risk contains strict guidance on how local authorities should act on flood risk assessments in the preparation of its local plan and the decision making process. It states that the tests as set out in the NPPF should be followed and where the tests are not met, new development on flood risk sites should not be allowed.</p> <p>In order to deliver the objectives of this guidance, when preparing development plans and considering</p>	

	<p>planning applications, local authorities should;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a flood risk assessment of the area which will inform the local plan; • For sites over 1 hectare developers should undertake a site specific flood risk assessment; • Apply a sequential test approach to site selection and decision taking; • Where development is located in areas at risk of flooding, it should be appropriately flood resilient, resistant and safe for the developments lifetime; and • Seek flood risk management opportunities to reduce the causes and effects of flooding. 	
NPPG Planning and Coastal Change (2014)	<p>Objective Reduce risk from coastal change by avoiding inappropriate development in vulnerable areas,</p> <p>In order to deliver the objectives of this guidance, when preparing development plans and considering planning applications, local authorities should;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate Coastal Zone Management to integrate terrestrial and marine planning regimes; • Identify Coastal Change Management Areas likely to be affected by physical change to the coast; • Clear what development will be appropriate in Coastal Management Areas; and • Make provision for development and infrastructure that needs to be relocated away from Coastal Management Areas. <p>There are no specific targets relating to this document.</p>	
NPPG Air Quality (2014)	<p>In order to deliver the objectives of this guidance, when preparing development plans and considering planning applications, local authorities should;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider what development is being proposed and where it is situated; • Encourage sustainable transport; • Take into account air quality management areas; • Take account of potential cumulative impact of a number of smaller developments on air quality as well as the effect of more substantial developments; • Consider the impact of point source pollution; and • Consider ways in which new development would be appropriate in locations where air quality is likely to be a concern and not give rise to unacceptable risks from pollution <p>Targets Refers to 2008 Ambient Air Quality Directive sets legally binding limits for concentrations in outdoor air of</p>	

	major air pollutants that impact public health.	
NPPG Land affected by contamination (2014)	<p>There are no specific objectives and targets relating to this guidance but when preparing development plans and considering planning applications, local authorities should;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider a strategic, phased approach to dealing with potential contamination if this is an issue over a wide area, and in doing so, recognise that dealing with land contamination can help contribute to achieving the objectives of EU directives such as the Water Framework Directive; • Use sustainability appraisal to shape an appropriate strategy, including through work on the 'baseline', appropriate objectives for the assessment of impact and proposed monitoring; • Allocate land which is known to be affected by contamination only for appropriate development – and be clear on the approach to remediation; • Have regard to the possible impact of land contamination on neighbouring areas (e.g. by polluting surface water or groundwater); and • Be clear on the role of developers and requirements for information and assessments. 	
NPPG Land Stability (2014)	<p>There are no specific objectives and targets relating to this guidance but when preparing development plans and considering planning applications, local authorities should;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying specific areas where particular consideration of landslides, mining hazards or subsidence will be needed; • Including policies that ensure unstable land is appropriately remediated, prohibit development in specific areas, or only allow specific types of development in those areas; • Circumstances where additional procedures or information, such as a land stability or slope stability risk assessment report, would be required to ensure that adequate and environmentally acceptable mitigation measures are in place; and • Removing permitted development rights in specific circumstances. 	

NPPG Light Pollution (2014)	There are no specific objectives and targets relating to this guidance but when preparing development plans and considering planning applications, local authorities should apply a test to a number of questions to access whether or not the artificial light being proposed would result in light pollution.	
NPPG Tree Preservation Orders in conservation areas (2014)	There are no specific objectives or targets in relation to this guidance. This guidance outlines the responsibility of the land owner and the responsibility of the council in question to inform relevant members of the public.	
NPPG Natural Environment (2014)	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Authorities should seek to make a significant contribution to the achievements of the commitments made by Government in its Biodiversity Strategy 2020; • Move away from a net loss of biodiversity to achieving net gains for nature; and • Conserve and enhance the natural environment and reduce pollution. <p>In order to deliver the objectives of this guidance, when preparing development plans and considering planning applications, local authorities should;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek opportunities to work collaboratively with other partners to deliver a strategic approach towards protecting and enhancing the natural environment; • Consider the opportunities that individual development proposals may provide to enhance biodiversity; • Assess the need for an ecological survey; and • Consider the effect of a development on habitats or species in the natural environment. <p>There are no specific targets relating to this document.</p>	
NPPG Noise (2014)	<p>There are no specific objectives and targets but when preparing development plans and considering planning applications, local authorities should consider the following in relation to noise;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether or not a significant adverse effect is occurring or likely to occur; • The time of day and frequency of the noise; • Local topology and topography; and • General character of the noise. 	
DEFRA Working with the grain of nature – A	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture: encouraging the management of farming and agricultural land so as to conserve and 	

<p>Biodiversity Strategy for England (2002 - Reviewed 2011)</p>	<p>enhance biodiversity as part of the Government’s Sustainable Food and Farming Strategy;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water: aiming for a whole catchment approach to the wise, sustainable use of water and wetlands; • Woodland: with the management and extension of woodland so as to promote enhanced biodiversity and quality of life; • Marine and coastal management: so as to achieve the sustainable use and management of our coasts and seas using natural processes and the ecosystem-based approach; and • Urban areas: where biodiversity needs to become a part of the development of policy on sustainable communities, urban green space and the built environment. 	
<p>Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) (2000)</p>	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasises the public’s right of access to open country and common land, and gives additional protection to Sites of Special Scientific Interest. 	
<p>DETR Government Rural White Paper: Our Countryside – the Future – a Fair Deal for Rural England (2000)</p>	<p>Objectives</p> <p>The Paper lists the Government’s rural policy objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective 1: To facilitate the development of dynamic, competitive and sustainable economies in the countryside, tackling poverty in rural areas. • Objective 2: To maintain and stimulate communities, and secure access to services that is equitable in all the circumstances, for those who live or work in the countryside. • Objective 3: To conserve and enhance rural landscapes and the diversity and abundance of wildlife (including the habitats on which it depends). • Objective 4: To increase opportunities for people to get enjoyment from the countryside. To open up public access to mountain, moor, heath and down and registered common land by the end of 2005. • Objective 5: To promote government responsiveness to rural communities through better working together between central departments, local government, and government agencies and better cooperation with non-government bodies. <p>These objectives will be taken forward in Departmental Public Service Agreement targets and their subsidiary Service Delivery agreements.</p> <p>Targets</p> <p>Contains Rural Services Standard, which set out minimum standards and targets covering access to and the delivery of public services in rural areas. Some of the more relevant standards and targets are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Government services to be available on line by 2005. • Presumption against closure of rural schools; • Formal requirement on the Post Office to maintain the rural network of post offices and to prevent any 	<p>Consider policies to achieve these objectives and targets</p>

	<p>avoidable closures of rural post offices.</p> <p>Targets set for the proportion of the rural population living within about 10 minutes' walk of an hourly or better bus service to increase from 37% to 50% by 2010, with an intermediate milestone of 42% by 2004.</p>	
<p>English Heritage A Strategy for the Historic Environment in the South West (2004)</p>	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional priorities include: • Continue to improve our knowledge and understanding of the South West's historic environment and reflect this in informed and positive conservation and enhancement of the historic environment. • Put conservation at the heart of urban renewal and regeneration strategies, initiatives and proposals right across the South West. • Encourage wider appreciation and conservation of the historic dimension of rural areas. Explore ways in which agri-environment and other funding initiatives could provide further support for the sustainable management of this part of the South West's historic resource. Agri-environment schemes should be more closely tailored to the characteristics and potential of the rural historic environment. • Increase our understanding of the South West's coastal and maritime historic environments and wetland landscapes as a matter of urgency. Work with those responsible for managing these environments and, where appropriate, seek adequate protection. • Promote the design of buildings and landscape that is sensitive to its location. Our aim should be to enhance the South West's historic environment and, ultimately, to add to it by championing appropriate and contemporary solutions to design problems. • Promote the use of traditional conservation and management skills wherever possible and ensure professionals have a good understanding of current best practice. Encourage opportunities for training across the South West. • Ensure the education sector in the South West takes full account of the value of the historic environment. Promote the widest understanding and appreciation of the historic environment at local, county and regional levels. • Remove physical, cultural and social barriers that inhibit access, understanding or enjoyment of the South West's historic environment. • Tackle the legacy created by poor management and maintenance of the historic environment across the South West. Encourage regular inspections and repairs, together with the positive re-use of redundant historic buildings. • Develop a co-ordinated research Strategy for the South West to fill key gaps in our understanding of the 	<p>Consider policies to achieve these objectives and targets</p>

	<p>historic environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve communication between the public, private and voluntary interests on historic environment issues in the South West. • Increase the historic environment’s contribution to the economic well being of the region by encouraging and supporting its sustainable use and sensitive reflection in new development. <p>Targets</p> <p>The strategy contains a number of actions, some of which will be directly relevant to planning authorities and the development of the RSS. These actions are linked to ‘goals and timescales’ and ‘outcomes’, For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action: Promote policies to support the positive and appropriate re-use of historic buildings • Goal and Timescale: Consider development of model policies by end of 2005 • Outcome: Fewer redundant buildings • Action: Encourage regeneration strategies, development plans, and development control decisions to reflect the positive economic potential of the historic environment • Goal and Timescale: All plans to contain positive policies encouraging the sustainable implementation of the HE’s economic potential <p>Outcome: Greater emphasis on reflecting the HE in development and regeneration proposals, thereby bringing economic, social and conservation benefits</p>	
English Heritage Buildings at Risk Register	Objective: To document the health of the nation’s built heritage through an annually updated list of sites most at risk of being lost through neglect, decay and inappropriate development	Source for monitoring indicators on built heritage at risk
South Gloucestershire Biodiversity Plan (2007)	Objectives Contribute towards safeguarding and benefitting the species and habitats making up the plan and to provide an identity and focus for nature conservation work throughout South Gloucestershire.	
South Gloucestershire Conservation Area Appraisals (various)	Objective: To set out the main features that contribute to the distinctive character and appearance of the conservation areas	

6. Minimise consumption of natural resources

<p>Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)</p>	<p>Objectives The ultimate objective of the Convention is “to achieve stabilization of atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases at levels that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human-induced) interference with the climate system...”. The Convention does not define what levels might be “dangerous”, although it does state that ecosystems should be allowed to adapt naturally, food supply should not be threatened, and economic development should be able to proceed in a sustainable manner. Defining what we mean by “dangerous” is a tough political question, involving social and economic considerations as well as scientific judgement.</p> <p>The Protocol set out a series of targets for specific greenhouse gases and established a framework of actions and requirements to meet these targets with the aim of achieving in a meaningful timeframe (up to 2012, with 1990 levels used as base) the objective of the UN Framework Convention. The two agreements are thus intrinsically linked with the Protocol essentially acting as a template for action to meet the commitments made in the Framework Convention.</p> <p>Targets Does not contain any targets.</p>	<p>The LDF should be aware of, and seek to meet the Kyoto’s commitments.</p>
<p>Air Quality Framework Directive (Directive 96/62/EC)</p>	<p>Objectives Objectives which may relate to regional planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain adequate information on ambient air quality and ensure that it is made available to the public, inter alia by means of alert thresholds, • Maintain ambient air quality where it is good and improve it in other cases. <p>Targets Targets and objectives from EU Directives must be adopted into UK legislation. This Directive covers the revision of previously existing legislation and the introduction of new air quality standards for previously unregulated air pollutants, setting the timetable for the development of daughter directives on a range of pollutants. The list of atmospheric pollutants to be considered includes sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, particulate</p>	<p>Consider policies to achieve these objectives and targets</p>

	matter, lead, ozone, benzene, carbon monoxide, poly-aromatic hydrocarbons, cadmium, arsenic, nickel and mercury.	
Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (1991)	<p>Objectives This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban wastewater and the treatment and discharge of wastewater from certain industrial sectors. The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of these wastewater discharges.</p> <p>Targets The directive lays down uniform emission standards, or percentage reductions in pollutant concentrations, for discharges from sewage treatment works serving a population equivalent of 2,000 or more.</p>	Consider policies to achieve these objectives and targets
Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)	<p>Objectives This Directive has the objective of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources; and • preventing further such pollution <p>Targets Does not contain any targets.</p>	Consider policies to achieve these objectives
Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC).	<p>Objectives This Directive aims to establish a framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevents further deterioration and protects and enhances the status of aquatic ecosystems and, with regard to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands directly depending on the aquatic ecosystems; • Promotes sustainable water use based on a long-term protection of available water resources; • Aims at enhanced protection and improvement of the aquatic environment, inter alia, through specific measures for the progressive reduction of discharges, emissions and losses of priority substances and the cessation or phasing-out of discharges, emissions and losses of the priority hazardous substances; 	Consider policies to achieve these objectives

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures the progressive reduction of pollution of groundwater and prevents its further pollution, • Contributes to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts <p>Targets Does not contain any targets.</p>	
Directive to Promote Electricity from Renewable Energy (2001/77/EC).	<p>Objectives The purpose of this Directive is to promote an increase in the contribution of renewable energy sources to electricity production in the internal market for electricity and to create a basis for a future Community framework thereof.</p> <p>Targets The UK target is for renewables to account for 10% of UK consumption by 2010.</p>	Consider policies to achieve these objectives and targets
Waste to Landfill Directive (99/31/EC).	<p>Objectives In addition to the general requirements that result from landfills being regulated under PPC, the Landfill Directive introduces others that are particular to landfills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites must be classified as hazardous, non hazardous or inert waste landfills • Waste acceptance procedures have to be in place at the landfill • Waste must be pre-treated before being landfilled • Certain waste types cannot be landfilled anymore e.g. clinical, liquid, certain hazardous waste, tyres etc. • Technical standards are set out in the Directive and its Annexes. • Introduces a specific closure procedure • Ongoing training and development of staff must be provided <p>Targets The directive also establishes guidelines and targets for the quantity of biodegradable waste being sent to landfill that are legally binding. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not later than 2006 biodegradable municipal waste going to landfills must be reduced to 75% of the total amount (by weight) of biodegradable municipal waste produced in 1995 or the latest year before 1995 for which standardised Eurostat data is available • By 2010 biodegradable municipal waste going to landfills must be reduced to 50% of the total amount (by weight) of biodegradable municipal waste produced in 1995 or the latest year before 1995 for which standardised Eurostat data is available; 	Consider policies to achieve these objectives and targets

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2015 biodegradable municipal waste going to landfills must be reduced to 35% of the total amount (by weight) of biodegradable municipal waste produced in 1995 or the latest year before 1995 for which standardised Eurostat data is available. 	
Energy White Paper Our Energy Future – Creating a Low Carbon Economy (2003)	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To put ourselves on a path to cut the UK’s carbon dioxide emissions – the main contributor to global warming – by some 60% by 2050, as recommended by the RCEP, with real progress by 2020; • To maintain the reliability of energy supplies; • To promote competitive markets in the UK and beyond, helping to raise the rate of sustainable economic growth and to improve our productivity; and • To ensure that every home is adequately and affordably heated. 	
NPPG Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (2014)	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the amount of energy from renewable and low carbon technologies in order to ensure a secure future energy supply, reduce greenhouse gases and slow down climate change; • Delivery of new renewable and low carbon energy infrastructure in locations where the local environmental impact is acceptable; and • Stimulate investment in new jobs and businesses. <p>In order to deliver the objectives of this guidance, when preparing development plans and considering planning applications, local authorities should;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the local potential for renewable and low carbon generation; • Consider the different technologies and their varying impacts; • Encourage development in the right locations; and • As with all other forms of development it is important that the planning concerns of local communities are heard. <p>Targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver renewable and low carbon energy development of 50 megawatts or less installed capacity; and • The UK has legal commitments to cut greenhouse gases and meet increased energy 	

	demand from renewable resources but there is no quota that the Local Plan must deliver.	
NPPG Minerals (2014)	<p>There are no objectives or targets relating to this guidance, but when preparing development plans, local authorities should take the following approach (In order of priority);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designating Specific Sites – where viable resources are known to exist, landowners are supportive of minerals development and the proposal is likely to be acceptable in planning terms. Such sites may also include essential operations associated with mineral extraction; • Designating Preferred Areas, which are areas of known resources where planning permission might reasonably be anticipated. Such areas may also include essential operations associated with mineral extraction; and/or • Designating Areas of Search – areas where knowledge of mineral resources may be less certain but within which planning permission may be granted, particularly if there is a potential shortfall in supply. 	
South Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy 2013 - 2015	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce carbon emissions across the council estate operations; • Reduce carbon emissions and energy consumption in our homes; • Reduce transport energy use and carbon emissions from transport; • Promote business resource efficiency and help low carbon and local businesses grow in South Gloucestershire; • Enable the development of secure supplies of renewable and low carbon energy; and • Support and promote neighbourhood energy planning and community action for low carbon living. <p>Targets</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce CO2 emissions in South Gloucestershire by 80% by 2050 on a 1990 baseline;• Reduce CO2 emissions in South Gloucestershire by 50% by 2025 on a 1990 baseline;• Reduce CO2 emissions in South Gloucestershire by 35% by 2020 on a 1990 baseline;• Reduce CO2 emissions in South Gloucestershire by 29% by 2015 on a 1990 baseline; and <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For the equivalent of 7.5% of South Gloucestershires total energy demand to be generated from renewables by 2020	
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**Appendix B
Equalities Impact Assessment Framework for Policies, Sites and Places Plan**

Equality Impact Assessment		
1	Name of strategy, project or policy:	
2	Officer completing assessment:	
3	Contact details:	
4	What is the main purpose of the strategy / project / policy	
5	List the main activities of the project / policy (for strategies list the main policy areas):	
6	Have you consulted on this policy?	
7	Have you explained your policy to people who might be affected by it directly or indirectly? Who are they and why are they affected? – give details	
You may find it useful to complete section 14 'Equality Target Groups' before completing section 8-14		
8	Who will be the main beneficiaries of the strategy / project / policy?	
9	What improvements to the	

	strategy, project or policy could mitigate adverse equalities impact?	
10	Have you set up equalities monitoring systems to carry out regular checks on the effects your policy has on: a) racial groups b) other equality target groups - Give details.	
11	Have you introduced changes you planned, with any necessary training? Does everyone involved in the policy know and understand what you have done? – Give details.	
12	How is the success of the policy and functions measured? – Give details of equality outcomes.	
13	What are your equality related performance indicators for this policy?	

14	Equality Target Group(s)	Positive Impact – it could benefit		Negative Impact – it could disadvantage		Reason
		High ✓	Low ✓	High ✓	Low ✓	
14.1	Gender					
	Women / Girls					
	Men / Boys					
14.2	Race					
	Asian or Asian British People					
	Black or Black British People					
	Chinese people					
	People of mixed heritage					
	White People (including Irish people)					
	Travellers (Gypsy/Roma/Irish heritage)					
	Any other ethnic background					
14.3	Disabled people					

14.4	Lesbians, gay men and bisexuals					
14.5	Transgender people					
14.6	Older people (60+)					
14.7	Children and Young people (0-19)					
14.8	Faith groups					