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**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 05 December 2017 16:33  
**To:** \_WEB\_Local Plan  
**Subject:** Stroud District Local Plan Review

Dear Sir or Madam

Thank you for consulting us on the Stroud District Local Plan Review, Issues and Options Paper. I can confirm that our comments made last year (attached) still stand with the additional comment below.

Sites for potential housing growth have been identified G1 – G4. Any development which would result in a material increase or significant change in the character of traffic using a rail crossing should be refused unless, in consultation with Network Rail, it can either be demonstrated that the safety will not be compromised, or where safety is compromised serious mitigation measures would be incorporated to prevent any increased safety risk as a requirement of any permission.

As Network Rail is a publicly funded organisation with a regulated remit it would not be reasonable to require Network Rail to fund rail improvements necessitated by commercial development. It is therefore appropriate to require developer contributions to fund such improvements. **With this in mind I would strongly urge that when the council undertakes its viability testing for any proposed allocated site it considers the impact the proposal may have on the railway infrastructure.** The cost of mitigating any impact may have a bearing on the viability and deliverability of any such proposed site.

Network Rail owns, operates, maintains and develops the main rail network. This includes the railway tracks, stations, signalling systems, bridges, tunnels, level crossings and viaducts. The preparation of development plan policy is important in relation to the protection and enhancement of Network Rail’s infrastructure.

We trust these comments will be considered in your preparation of the forthcoming Site Allocations Plan document.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted]  
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