

Your district Your future

20 questions that will help to shape
the future of Stroud District

In 2026 what will the district look like? And how will it function? • More jobs • More homes **Where should they go?** • Young people • Ageing population **How do we provide for their needs?** • Rising CO₂ emissions • Beautiful countryside • Rare wildlife **How do we protect the environment for future generations?**

These and many other questions will be considered over the coming year as the Council prepares its Core Strategy. **What do you think?** Are there other issues we should be looking into? What are the most important matters to focus on?

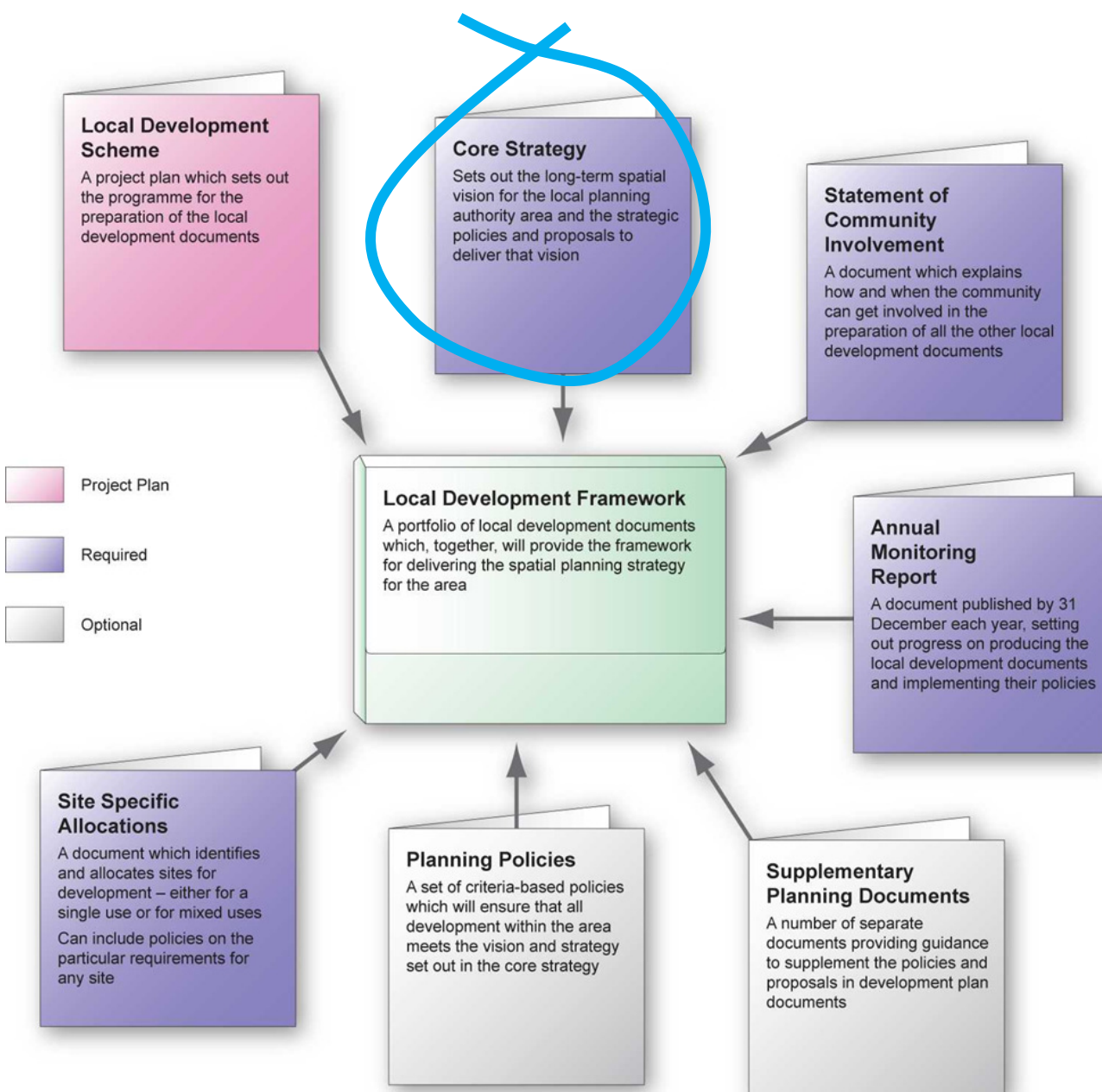


Have
your say

What is the Core Strategy?

Stroud District Council is in the early stages of drafting an important new planning framework for the District. Known as the Local Development Framework (LDF), this will eventually supersede the current Local Plan – but unlike the Local Plan, the Local Development Framework is made up of a portfolio of separate planning policy documents, which address different policy topics.

At the centre of this will be the Core Strategy: this is a broad-brush policy document, which will provide an overview of the District and how it should evolve up to 2026. The Core Strategy forms the basis of planning policy decisions for the District, and it will set the context for other more detailed planning policy documents in the future.



What should be in the Core Strategy?

The Core Strategy won't be finally adopted until 2011. The Council is still in the very early stages of producing the plan, but it's likely that policies in the Core Strategy will be split into four broad topic areas:

A spatial strategy

This part will paint a broad-brush picture of how much new development should take place across the district over the next 20 years and beyond, and (in very general terms) what should go where.

Economy, employment and infrastructure

The Core Strategy should set out how the District's economy will be strengthened and supported. It will aid the delivery of required infrastructure and will encourage sustainable forms of transport. This part of the plan could deal with topics like employment land, town centres and retail, the rural economy and tourism, road and traffic management, public transport and alternatives such as walking and cycling.

Homes and sustainable communities

A key aim for the Core Strategy will be to create sustainable communities – making sure that enough housing and facilities can be provided to meet the community's needs, and that they are located in the right places. It will consider how existing facilities can be protected and promoted. Under this heading, the plan could cover themes such as housing (including appropriate densities, types, sizes and tenures), provision of affordable housing, provision and access to facilities and services, and how developer contributions could provide support.

Our environment and surroundings

The Core Strategy aims to protect and enhance the natural and built environment of the district. It will also consider more global issues, like how development can help to combat the causes and consequences of climate change. Here, the Core Strategy might look at topics like landscape, culture, built heritage, green space, design, energy provision and supply, flooding, waste management and recycling.

We'd like your input as residents, employers, land owners and investors in this District, to help us identify the major issues facing the District and our options for tackling them. We already have some ideas, but are we heading in the right direction?

We have published a **discussion paper**, which paints a picture of the district today and puts forward a selection of issues that we think are likely to be at the forefront of making it a thriving, sustainable and attractive place in the future. (Details of how you can get hold of this paper are given at the end of this questionnaire).

These issues raise a number of key questions, which we'll need to consider over the coming year, so that the Council put together effective and relevant planning policies in the Core Strategy and the rest of the Local Development Framework.

So, what do you think?

Please try answering the 20 questions that follow, so that we can build up a picture of what people in the district see as priorities for the future.

A bit of background...

Stroud District today... what are we like?

- A rural district with several market towns, each with their own distinct characteristics, assets and issues
- We have a high quality environment; this is a desirable place to live and work
- Our population is ageing; the population is generally affluent, but there are pockets of deprivation
- We have low levels of unemployment, but too few jobs available within the District itself – leading to high levels of out-commuting
- We have a significant shortage of affordable housing
- We have generally good educational standards and a well qualified resident workforce
- There are low levels of crime, but a disproportionate fear of crime
- Our CO2 emissions are rising
- Public transport is limited across the District
- There is poor accessibility east to west through the District
- Significant growth is occurring along the M5 corridor (focused on Gloucester, Cheltenham and Bristol) – which impacts on Stroud District now and in the future

Want to find out more about the issues facing Stroud District today and in the future? At the end of this questionnaire, you'll find details about our background information and the discussion paper that accompanies this public consultation.



Your input – your future...

20 questions that will help to shape the future of Stroud District

What will be in the Core Strategy? How do we make sure it really meets the needs of the Stroud district and makes the most of the assets we have? Here are a few of the key questions we will be considering over the coming year. What do you think? Are there other issues we should be looking into? What are the most important matters for the Core Strategy to focus on?

The following 20 questions will help us to decide what the Core Strategy will say about

- What gets built (and what is unlikely to get built)
- Where things should be built and how land should be used
- How new development should look and how it should function

* Most of the questions will ask you to rate the desirability and importance of each option, from 1 to 5:

- 1 = Very undesirable / to be discouraged
- 2 = Not important / undesirable
- 3 = Neither desirable nor undesirable
- 4 = Very important / desirable
- 5 = Essential

* You **can give the same score to several options** in each question if you wish – you do not have to rank them or put them in order of preference.

* Please try to complete every question, so that we can build up a meaningful picture of what people think.

* There is space for you to add your own thoughts, but you don't have to. Please try to be brief and to-the-point. There will be other opportunities for more detailed comments in the future.

[Details for returning your completed questionnaire can be found at the end. The closing date for responses is **Friday 1st May**. If you have access to the internet, you can complete this online www.stroud.gov.uk/core - which will help us to save paper and save time]

Tomorrow's Stroud District... a vision for the future

What do we want tomorrow's Stroud District to be like? It is important to have a vision of the kind of place we want to be living in, working in, or visiting in the future, so that clear objectives can be set for the policies and proposals that will help to shape that place. Imagine Stroud District in 2026:

A Vision of Stroud District in 2026

Stroud District is located on the edge of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which overlooks the Severn Vale. We have a Vision that draws upon our special environmental, social and economic qualities.

Our District is living, modern and innovative. We have responded to climate change, reducing our CO₂ emissions and adapting our lifestyles to live within our environmental limits.

Our District supports a network of market towns, well connected to their rural hinterlands. Each contributes to our sustainable and thriving local economy. We capitalise on our heritage, skills, and knowledge. We are adaptable and able to respond to changing needs and modern lifestyles.

We enjoy a high quality of life within our vibrant local communities. Our diverse communities have a strong sense of identity and local distinctiveness – from Wotton-under-Edge in the south, to Stroud Town in the centre and Upton St. Leonards in the north. They are all safe and secure places, where vulnerable people are supported.

Every day we see the richness, diversity and beauty of our District. We nurture our historic and cultural heritage, from our arts and crafts, through to the Cotswold Canals and our wool and cloth mills.

We would welcome you to live, work or visit us here. You can then understand and enjoy our District's strengths and qualities.



What do you think of this vision? Does it reflect the kind of place you would like Stroud District to be in 2026 and beyond?

You don't have to comment, but please use this space to give us your thoughts if you would like to.

Over the following pages, we've set out a series of 19 broad issues. In various ways, they all relate to this vision. We have also set out a variety of possible options for addressing each issue.

- * Please let us know how you rate each option; and at the end of the questionnaire, tell us which of the 19 issues you consider to be most important.
- * If you would like some background information on each of the 19, to help you make your decision, you can have a look at our **Core Strategy issues discussion paper** [see page 33 for more info].

1. Improving the image of the District and its towns

Stroud District is a rural district with several market towns – each of which has its own distinct characteristics, assets and issues. The district is diverse and varied, but perhaps lacks either cohesiveness or an overall dominant focus. For visitors, people who don't know the district, and even for some residents, some of our towns have an image problem. Some places are perceived as 'a bit grotty', or 'whacky'. Some of the best bits are hidden away or scattered about and difficult to get at. These perceptions can be damaging – regardless of what the district and its towns actually have to offer. Improving the district's image, helping everyone to see what huge potential we have here, could attract investment, encourage high quality development and make the area even more competitive in business and tourism.

What kinds of things (good or bad) have you heard people say about our area? What kind of image do we actually want Stroud District (and its individual towns) to project? And how can new development help to reinforce this?

Q1a. The district has a range of strengths and problems. Which of these perceptions needs to be addressed in order to project the right kind of image?				
Please tick the relevant boxes to show whether you agree, disagree or have a neutral feeling about each of the following:		Agree ▽	Neutral ▽	Disagree ▽
a	Our bit of the Cotswolds is undervalued. It's the "undiscovered" part. More should be made of the district's Cotswold character			
b	The district's vibrant arts and creative scene is a unique asset. We should be using this to make the area a focus for creative industries			
c	Stroud district's "green" eco-culture is really important to its distinctiveness. We need to make sure we don't rest on our laurels and should make this an important part of our local identity			
d	Although Stroud is supposedly the district's principal town, it isn't really an important focus for me. I get everything I need from elsewhere			

e	People never see the nice bits of Stroud town and there's nothing to draw them in: the main roads all skirt around the centre, where there's nothing very characterful or attractive. This really needs to be put right			
f	The canals corridor is going to be an important public 'face' for the whole district, and its essential that we get our image right here			
g	The image of our district is spoilt a bit by the impression that there are quite a lot of grotty run-down old industrial areas			

Q1b. How should we improve the image of the District and its towns?

Please score the following 1 to 5 (where 5 = Essential; 4 = Very important / desirable; 3 = Neither desirable nor undesirable; 2 = Not important / undesirable; 1 = Very undesirable / to be discouraged)

Your score
▼

a	Create exciting new buildings and landmarks in the District's key town centres	
b	Create eye catching developments / landmarks wherever people enter the District by road, rail, canal etc	
c	Identify key sites where development of architecturally exciting buildings are given priority	
d	Bring innovation and design excellence to local neighbourhoods	
e	Protect and enhance high quality environments along the canals, estuary and countryside	
f	Emphasis on traditional, locally distinctive design and local materials, rather than standard 'anywhere' design	
g	Emphasis on contemporary, innovative, 'green' design rather than standard 'anywhere' design	

Do you have any further ideas? Please tell us here or use the space before Question 20 at the end of this questionnaire...

2. Providing for job opportunities across the District

Although Stroud District has relatively low levels of unemployment, there are too few jobs within the district itself to meet the needs of the resident workforce. There are high levels of commuting into and out of the district, but overall there is a significant net outflow of workers. Building and diversifying our employment base would boost our local economy and create more sustainable communities; reducing the need to commute by car would also affect our CO₂ emissions. So where should we be building new premises for businesses, what should our existing employment land be used for, and what kinds of jobs should we be aiming to encourage?

Q2. How should we provide for job opportunities across the District?		Your score ▼
Please score the following 1 to 5 (where 5 = Essential; 4 = Very important / desirable; 3 = Neither desirable nor undesirable; 2 = Not important / undesirable; 1 = Very undesirable / to be discouraged)		
a	Protect and redevelop existing industrial areas to provide more office and small workshop based job opportunities	
b	Promote greenfield land near the motorway junctions for industrial development	
c	Promote land for an environmental technology park, to assist development of 'green' technologies	
d	Promote use of employment land at Sharpness for transfer of freight between different forms of transport (principally non-road: water, rail etc)	
e	Promote health, leisure and tourism related developments across the district	
f	Allocate land at all our main towns and larger villages for a wide range of employment uses	
Do you have any further ideas? Please tell us here or use the space before Question 20 at the end of this questionnaire...		

Want to know more? Turn to the back of this questionnaire to see where you can **find out about jobs and businesses** and what we think the key issues are likely to be...

3. Achieving a better transport system to help reduce CO₂ emissions

Stroud District needs to improve its public transport system and develop other alternatives, to enable people to use their cars less. The high level of car ownership and car-reliance in the District has implications for carbon reduction; it also puts pressure on our existing roads and car parks and puts those that do not own or have access to a car at a disadvantage. Accessibility to jobs and services can be difficult in rural areas, leading to pockets of rural deprivation. Children’s engagement in physical activity – including walking or cycling to school – is relatively low in our district. Meanwhile, the average age of the district’s population is rising, and the transport needs of older people must be met.

Q3. How can we achieve a better transport system to help reduce CO₂ emissions?	
Please score the following 1 to 5 (where 5 = Essential; 4 = Very important / desirable; 3 = Neither desirable nor undesirable; 2 = Not important / undesirable; 1 = Very undesirable / to be discouraged)	
	Your score ▼
a	Increase car parking charges to help pay for green transport initiatives
b	Give more road space to buses, cyclists and pedestrians
c	Create new multi-use paths, to encourage cycling and walking as a form of commuting (schools/work)
d	Support the re-opening of railway halts/stations
e	Promote car-share schemes and provide priority parking spaces for them at key locations (e.g. town centres and in new housing developments)
Do you have any further ideas? Please tell us here or use the space before Question 20 at the end of this questionnaire...	

Want to know more? Turn to the back of this questionnaire to see where you can **find out about transport in this district** and what we think the key issues are likely to be...

4. Improving the vitality and viability of our town centres

Stroud District is a rural district with several market towns – each of which has its own distinct characteristics, assets and issues. Stroud, the district’s largest town, acts as a focus for the northern half of the district, while Dursley serves the south. The market towns of Nailsworth, Stonehouse, Wotton-under-Edge and Berkeley provide additional facilities, while Painswick, Minchinhampton and Cam also have some retail floorspace. Our town centres serve a predominantly local catchment and there is strong competition from centres outside the district for shopping, cultural and leisure activities. There is a very limited night time economy. Town centre vitality and viability is also affected by changing lifestyles and behaviours.

Q4. How can we improve the vitality and viability of our town centres?		Your score ▽
Please score the following 1 to 5 (where 5 = Essential; 4 = Very important / desirable; 3 = Neither desirable nor undesirable; 2 = Not important / undesirable; 1 = Very undesirable / to be discouraged)		
a	Introduce more homes into town centres	
b	Accept that we can't compete with major retail centres like Cheltenham, Gloucester or Cribbs Causeway, and concentrate on improving our towns' basic local service provision	
c	Nurture individuality, niche shopping and café culture, to create 'destination' towns	
d	Make Stroud more competitive and attractive to local customers by encouraging a big non-food retail outlet to the town centre, such as a department store	
e	Stimulate growth and competitiveness in both Stroud and Dursley, for example by identifying areas for new retail development	
f	Improve vehicular access and increase numbers of car-parking spaces within towns centres	
g	Limit vehicular access and numbers of car-parking places along principal streets in town centres and create pedestrian-friendly multi-use public spaces	

<p>h Limit numbers of non-retail uses (food/drink outlets, offices and estate agents etc) along principal shopping streets; Encourage more varied uses (commercial, leisure and residential) along secondary streets and above shop units</p>	
<p>i Capitalise on our town centres' character, tradition and high quality historic buildings, by improving the design of shopfronts and advertisements and investing in the public realm (ground surfaces, signage, street furniture, trees etc)</p>	

Do you have any further ideas? Please tell us here or use the space before Question 20 at the end of this questionnaire...

Want to know more? Turn to the back of this questionnaire to see where you can **find out about our town centres** and what we think the key issues are likely to be...

5. Developing the tourism potential of the District

The Stroud district is fortunate enough to host several internationally known attractions such as the Rococo Gardens, Slimbridge Wetlands, and Berkeley Castle. The district is well placed for visitors in terms of its proximity to airports and motorways. This, coupled with the quintessential Cotswold landscape, and a vibrant schedule of artistic festivals and events within the district and surrounds, draws people to the area. We know we have some very good accommodation businesses, but are there enough and are they of consistent quality? Do we have the right mix of attractions and activities for all ages? Do we need to expand to cover a plethora of markets or else choose a ‘specialism’? Is the customer service and skills of the local community supportive of the tourism and leisure industry, and does the district portray a strong image as a destination?

Q5. How can we develop the tourist potential of the district?	
Please score the following 1 to 5 (where 5 = Essential; 4 = Very important / desirable; 3 = Neither desirable nor undesirable; 2 = Not important / undesirable; 1 = Very undesirable / to be discouraged)	Your score ▼
a Make the most of our tourism assets by increasing quality and access to them	
b Extend the range of attractions and accommodation and make sure they are in accessible locations	
c Position Stroud District to lead at the forefront of sustainable- or “eco-tourism” (using the district’s natural and heritage assets as a basis for tourism development that avoids damage to the environment, economy and culture of the location in which it takes place)	
d Focus on what we traditionally do best, which is arts and culture	
Do you have any further ideas? Please tell us here or use the space before Question 20 at the end of this questionnaire...	

Want to know more? Turn to the back of this questionnaire to see where you can **find out about tourism in the district** and what we think the key issues are likely to be...

6. Supporting and capitalising on the District's artistic and cultural assets

Arts and crafts are alive and thriving here – and not just confined to museums. Stroud and the wider district has attracted and inspired artists, craftspeople and writers for over a century, and today we have an exciting visual and performance arts scene. Additionally, Stroud's strong 'Green Scene' gave us Britain's first organic café and first Green mayor; our farmers markets are flourishing – including the multi-award-winning one in Stroud; and several high profile locally-based businesses have specialised in green technology.

These ingredients have combined to give us a unique cultural environment, which is one of the most distinctive qualities we have. Our assets are an open secret: the famous designer Jasper Conran has described Stroud as “the Covent Garden of the Cotswolds”. But how can we really maximise the potential of our artistic and cultural assets for the future? How do we continue to stand out from the crowd, as the rest of the country catches on and catches up with us?

Q6. How can we best support and capitalise on the district's artistic and cultural assets?		Your score ▼
Please score the following 1 to 5 (where 5 = Essential; 4 = Very important / desirable; 3 = Neither desirable nor undesirable; 2 = Not important / undesirable; 1 = Very undesirable / to be discouraged)		
a	Secure the provision of public art, public realm improvements (streets and public spaces) or cultural facilities through contributions from new development and support for local community initiatives	
b	Encourage innovative, responsive high quality design solutions, which acknowledge the district's heritage.	
c	Encourage greater public access and understanding of the artistic and cultural assets that contribute to the District's vitality and sense of place.	
d	Help facilitate business premises and facilities that accommodate green technologies and creative industries	
Do you have any further ideas? Please tell us here or use the space before Question 20 at the end of this questionnaire...		

Want to know more? Turn to the back of this questionnaire to see where you can **find out about the district's artistic and cultural assets** and what we think the key issues are likely to be...

7. Meeting the District's identified future housing needs

Stroud District has a growing population and an obligation to provide 9100 new homes between 2006 and 2026, and to accommodate gypsy and traveller communities. We need to consider the quantity of new housing that needs to be provided and where it should go. But we also need to consider the types of homes that are built, and how the district's existing housing stock is likely to be affected by future trends: how should we respond to pressure to extend or subdivide existing houses, or to build in large gardens? How can new or existing homes contribute to the reduction of CO₂ emissions? These themes run through most of the 'homes and sustainable communities' topics (7-12), but first let's consider *where* new homes should be focussed: even if previously developed or 'brownfield' land is targeted first, there is only a limited supply of such land in the district and so some 'greenfield' sites are probably inevitable.

Q7. Where should new homes be built to meet our future needs?	
Please score the following 1 to 5 (where 5 = Essential; 4 = Very important / desirable; 3 = Neither desirable nor undesirable; 2 = Not important / undesirable; 1 = Very undesirable / to be discouraged)	Your score ▼
a Focus new housing on greenfield extensions to the south of Gloucester	
b Focus new housing within the Stroud Urban Area (Stonehouse-Brimscombe-Nailsworth)	
c Focus new housing at Cam/Dursley as a Greenfield urban extension	
d Spread housing around the main towns – Stroud, Cam, Dursley, Stonehouse, Nailsworth, Wotton-under-Edge	
e Disperse new housing around a number of our smaller settlements	
Do you have any further ideas? Please tell us here or use the space before Question 20 at the end of this questionnaire...	

Want to know more? Turn to the back of this questionnaire to see where you can **find out about the district's housing needs** and what we think the key issues are likely to be...

8. Maintaining and improving the sustainability of our villages

Villages are no longer the self-contained settlements they once were. The last twenty years have seen an acceleration of changing lifestyles in villages, based on greater use of the car and decline of rural public transport, growth of supermarkets and regional shopping centres, the loss of local employment opportunities and displacement of indigenous people by socially mobile newcomers. Government policy has been largely urban focused: seeking development at major towns and market towns, to act as hubs to wider areas and to adapt to global economics. An impact of this has been the loss of local services and facilities, with young and old people being more adversely affected due to their reliance on others for transport. Poor accessibility to jobs and services leads to pockets of rural deprivation. Meanwhile, the quantity, siting and design of any new development has the potential to affect village character and local distinctiveness – either enhancing it or harming it.

Q8. How should we maintain and improve the sustainability of our villages?		Your score ▼
Please score the following 1 to 5 (where 5 = Essential; 4 = Very important / desirable; 3 = Neither desirable nor undesirable; 2 = Not important / undesirable; 1 = Very undesirable / to be discouraged)		
a	Protect facilities that house local services and community uses	
b	Promote better public transport between villages and larger towns/centres	
c	Identify land which would be used to bring more jobs into the villages	
d	Allow more homes to be built in the villages	
e	Promote provision of new services and facilities within larger settlements, to serve wider rural areas	
Do you have any further ideas? Please tell us here or use the space before Question 20 at the end of this questionnaire...		

Want to know more? Turn to the back of this questionnaire to see where you can **find out about villages and rural areas in the district** and what we think the key issues are likely to be...

9. Improving provision of facilities for young people

Stroud District has an ageing population; numbers of children and young people under 20 are expected to rise only slightly between now and 2026. But we need to improve the provision of facilities for young children, teenagers and young adults in the district. In rural areas, isolation and boredom can be an issue; facilities can be more difficult to access and declining numbers of children and young adults in the district's rural settlements means fewer service users. Right across the district, children's engagement in sport and physical activity (including walking or cycling to school) is relatively low.

Q9. What can we do to improve provision of facilities for young people?	
Please score the following 1 to 5 (where 5 = Essential; 4 = Very important / desirable; 3 = Neither desirable nor undesirable; 2 = Not important / undesirable; 1 = Very undesirable / to be discouraged)	Your score ▼
a Provide facilities for recreation and activity	
b Provide meeting places focussed on young people's needs	
c Provide facilities and premises to meet the training needs of young people	
d Promote safe and accessible means of transport round the district and to nearby towns/cities	
e Encourage provision of multi-use facilities in accessible locations	
Do you have any further ideas? Please tell us here or use the space before Question 20 at the end of this questionnaire...	

Want to know more? Turn to the back of this questionnaire to see where you can **find out about meeting the needs of young people** and what we think the key issues are likely to be...

10. Meeting the needs of an increasingly elderly population

Although Stroud district’s population as a whole is growing, the number of people aged over 65 is rising fastest: between 2007 and 2026, the 65+ population is expected to increase by nearly 60% while the number of people aged 30-50 is actually predicted to fall. That means that almost a third of the adult population in 2026 is likely to be over 65 and our district will have an increasingly dependent population, with differing needs to be met. This will present a long-term challenge for the district, including local service providers – in particular in fields of primary health and social care, housing, public transport infrastructure and community safety. It also means we’ll have to think differently about how we design our buildings and spaces.

Q10. How can we meet the needs of an increasingly elderly population?	
Please score the following 1 to 5 (where 5 = Essential; 4 = Very important / desirable; 3 = Neither desirable nor undesirable; 2 = Not important / undesirable; 1 = Very undesirable / to be discouraged)	Your score ▼
a Encourage accessible, flexibly designed “lifetime homes” throughout the district: homes that will adapt easily to occupiers’ changing needs and circumstances, whatever their age	
b Increase planning policy flexibility about the creation of residential annexes for dependent relatives (so-called “granny flats”)	
c Enable the provision of ‘decent’ and energy efficient homes for all elderly people	
d Enable the provision of good public transport across the district	
e Promote the provision of care facilities for those unable to look after themselves	
f Provide public spaces and meeting areas with adequate rest facilities	
Do you have any further ideas? Please tell us here or use the space before Question 20 at the end of this questionnaire...	

11. Meeting the district's need for sports facilities

We need to ensure that there is adequate provision for the needs of the district's population. As well as conventional sports, this may include adapting to so-called 'adrenaline sports' and activities. The low levels of participation in sports and physical activity in this district is pretty typical of the rest of the country, but among the district's children and young people, physical activity is below average. We need to provide opportunities for development that will enable all kinds of people, with all kinds of needs and abilities, to take advantage of accessible, good quality sports facilities.

Q11. How can we ensure we have sports facilities that meet the district's needs?	
Please score the following 1 to 5 (where 5 = Essential; 4 = Very important / desirable; 3 = Neither desirable nor undesirable; 2 = Not important / undesirable; 1 = Very undesirable / to be discouraged)	Your score ▽
a Do nothing other than maintain pitches and associated facilities	
b Improve standards of provision and quality of playing surfaces and maximise access for all sectors in the community	
c Promote non-traditional facilities, such as skateboard parks, outdoor climbing walls or mountain biking routes	
d Broaden access and encourage multi-use of existing facilities (schools/community)	
e Promote professional or supervised training for different sports uses, to facilitate use and broaden access for all	
Do you have any further ideas? Please tell us here or use the space before Question 20 at the end of this questionnaire...	

Want to know more? Turn to the back of this questionnaire to see where you can **find out about open spaces and sports facilities in this district** and what we think the key issues are likely to be...

12. Achieving social inclusion and active communities, where community initiatives are the norm

Many people are excluded from activities and opportunities that are open to mainstream society. Whilst the district does not suffer widely from deprivation, there are pockets in our main towns and in rural areas where some people face poor accessibility to jobs, training, services and facilities. The Core Strategy can help by providing some of the tools to build communities where everyone feels empowered, with a sense of belonging to where they live. Sustainable communities offer a sense of identity, tolerance, respect and engagement with people from different cultures, background and beliefs.

Q12. How can we achieve social inclusion and stimulate community activity and community initiatives?		Your score ▽
Please score the following 1 to 5 (where 5 = Essential; 4 = Very important / desirable; 3 = Neither desirable nor undesirable; 2 = Not important / undesirable; 1 = Very undesirable / to be discouraged)		
a	Group services together, to make them more accessible and effective (e.g. grouping health and other community services)	
b	Target provision to the most deprived neighbourhoods within rural and urban areas	
c	Identify and build on the strengths of established facilities within local communities	
d	Ensure that community infrastructure and facilities are suitable for multiple-uses, giving opportunities for everyone (young, old, affluent or low income) to access and enjoy them	
e	Involve communities so that they have a sense of 'ownership' for projects and developments, and encourage and support community initiatives	
Do you have any further ideas? Please tell us here or use the space before Question 20 at the end of this questionnaire...		

Want to know more? Turn to the back of this questionnaire to see where you can **find out about communities and social cohesion** and what we think the key issues are likely to be...

13. Conserving and enhancing Stroud District's countryside and biodiversity

The quality of Stroud District's landscape is exceptionally high, and its character is varied. Half the district falls within the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which is recognised as a nationally important landscape, while the Severn estuary and its foreshore is an internationally protected wildlife habitat. We have several other nationally and internationally important wildlife sites, as well as local nature reserves. The high quality environment is a great asset for the district, making it a very attractive place to live, work or visit. But it also places constraints on all kinds of development: where it should go, what it should look like, and how it impacts on the surroundings.

Q13. How should we conserve and enhance the district's countryside and biodiversity?	
Please score the following 1 to 5 (where 5 = Essential; 4 = Very important / desirable; 3 = Neither desirable nor undesirable; 2 = Not important / undesirable; 1 = Very undesirable / to be discouraged)	Your score ▼
a Resist development at internationally and nationally designated sites	
b Resist development at locally important sites	
c Improve accessibility to less popular sites and provide signage and interpretation material to promote better understanding of the assets	
d Seek contributions towards landscape and wildlife habitat enhancement from relevant developments	
Do you have any further ideas? Please tell us here or use the space before Question 20 at the end of this questionnaire...	

Want to know more? Turn to the back of this questionnaire to see where you can **find out about our district's countryside and natural environment** and what we think the key issues are likely to be...

14. Protecting and enhancing our historic environment

Stroud District’s built heritage is a huge part of its character, identity and interest. We have nearly 5000 individual listed buildings or structures (many of which are homes and business premises), 41 conservation areas, 14 historic parks or gardens and many sites of archaeological interest. The high quality environment is a great asset for the district, making it a very attractive place to live, work or visit. But it also places constraints on all kinds of development: where it should go, what it should look like and how it impacts on the surroundings. Often the land most under pressure for development is at the very heart of our historic environment.

Q14. How can we protect and enhance historic buildings and areas in the district?	
Please score the following 1 to 5 (where 5 = Essential; 4 = Very important / desirable; 3 = Neither desirable nor undesirable; 2 = Not important / undesirable; 1 = Very undesirable / to be discouraged)	Your score ▼
a Enable vacant or under-used historic buildings to be brought back into use by allowing their creative and architecturally interesting adaptation and/or “enabling development” (development located around the key historic building, which can help to raise the money needed for restoration)	
b Use Council powers to buy, repair and sell-on historic buildings at highest risk of damage and decay	
c Designate more Conservation Areas and extend current conservation area boundaries where necessary	
d Produce Conservation Area Statements to aid protection for these areas by improving understanding of their character and special architectural / historic features	
e Increase planning controls over householder alterations in conservation areas, to ensure that things like porches, extensions and window replacements are done sensitively	
Do you have any further ideas? Please tell us here or use the space before Question 20 at the end of this questionnaire...	

Want to know more? Turn to the back of this questionnaire to see where you can **find out about our district’s built heritage** and what we think the key issues are likely to be...

15. Contributing to the provision of renewable and low-carbon energy generation in the District

The Government has set a target to reduce the UK's CO₂ emissions by 80% by 2050. The district's ability to exploit renewable and low-carbon energy sources is a key part of this. Improving renewable energy generation (for both electricity and heat), together with improvements in the energy efficiency of our buildings, will also help the district to become more resilient to the impacts of future fuel costs and fuel scarcity (e.g. arising from 'Peak Oil' scenarios). The pressure is on and mounting for our economy and communities to adapt to a low-carbon future. So, what kinds of opportunities could we accommodate? And where should associated development go?

Q15. How can we contribute to provide renewable and low-carbon energy generation in the district?		Your score ▼
Please score the following 1 to 5 (where 5 = Essential; 4 = Very important / desirable; 3 = Neither desirable nor undesirable; 2 = Not important / undesirable; 1 = Very undesirable / to be discouraged)		
a	Maximise the contribution to renewable and low-carbon energy generation through inclusion of on-site and near-site technologies where new development happens (e.g. wind, solar, combined heat and power, energy from waste)	
b	Allocate land for specific renewable energy generation installations	
c	Encourage the harnessing of hydro power through adaptation of some of the district's rivers and streams	
d	Support the harnessing of tidal power in the Severn Estuary, if an option that minimises harmful habitat impacts can be developed	
Do you have any further ideas? Please tell us here or use the space before Question 20 at the end of this questionnaire...		

Want to know more? Turn to the back of this questionnaire to see where you can **find out about renewable energy generation in our district** and what we think the key issues are likely to be...

16. Minimising waste generation and increasing recycling

As a society we generate huge amounts of unnecessary waste. The Council already works in partnership with the County Council and other districts in the county to deliver a waste management strategy. This addresses the principals of **Reduce - Re-use – Recycle**. The Council’s waste recycling performance continues to steadily improve year on year; current recycling achievements are due to a combination of a well used ‘Kerbside’ recycling service and the existence of a supporting ‘Bring’ bank recycling scheme. So we are making progress. But how can the way development is planned and built help us to improve on this?

Q16. How can we minimise the generation of waste and increase recycling?		Your score ▽
Please score the following 1 to 5 (where 5 = Essential; 4 = Very important / desirable; 3 = Neither desirable nor undesirable; 2 = Not important / undesirable; 1 = Very undesirable / to be discouraged)		
a	Include neighbourhood recycling and composting facilities as part of all major housing and mixed-use development schemes	
b	Enhance the design and capacity of existing neighbourhood recycling facilities	
c	Provide land for developing waste reclamation, recycling and energy-from-waste industries	
d	Adapt and re-use buildings and design flexible, adaptable, well-built new buildings, so that we are not left with a legacy of having to demolish and rebuild them	
e	Encourage the re-use of building materials on site (either incorporated into buildings/structures or as hardcore)	
Do you have any further ideas? Please tell us here or use the space before Question 20 at the end of this questionnaire...		

Want to know more? Turn to the back of this questionnaire to see where you can **find out about waste and recycling in the district** and what we think the key issues are likely to be...

17. Ensuring that the Cotswold Canals restoration plays a positive role in the District

The Council is committed to the restoration of the historic Stroudwater Navigation and the Thames & Severn Canal, collectively known as the ‘Cotswold Canals’. The line of the Cotswold Canals passes right across the district, from Saul in the west to Sapperton in the east. Stroud town and Brimscombe Port are crucial ‘staging posts’ along the route and the canals corridor includes some of the district’s key employment land. Parts of the corridor are under intense development pressures, yet the canals have exceptional built heritage, landscape character and biodiversity value. How can we ensure that we make the most of the canal restoration and its regeneration potential, without ‘slaying the goose that laid the golden egg’?

Q17. What role can the Cotswold Canals restoration play in the district?	
Please score the following 1 to 5 (where 5 = Essential; 4 = Very important / desirable; 3 = Neither desirable nor undesirable; 2 = Not important / undesirable; 1 = Very undesirable / to be discouraged)	Your score ▼
a Catalyst for new employment provision in a distinctive and high quality environment	
b Opportunity for new housing provision in a distinctive and high quality environment	
c Opportunity to improve accessibility through the Stroud Valleys for non-car traffic	
d Provide new leisure, recreation and tourism opportunities	
e Opportunity to enhance natural habitats and bolster wildlife corridors	
f Complement the high quality natural and built environment by insisting on high quality design for all new development	
g Ensure that regeneration is focussed on sensitive re-use and integration of historic buildings	
Do you have any further ideas? Please tell us here or use the space before Question 20 at the end of this questionnaire...	

Want to know more? Turn to the back of this questionnaire to see where you can **find out about the potential of the Cotswold Canals restoration** and what we think the key issues are likely to be...

18. Providing resilience to flood risk

The Core Strategy will need to consider the levels of current and future flood risk, including the consequences of climate change. Specifically, rising sea levels, wetter winters and an increase in the number of severe weather events are likely to impact on our existing and future communities. We will need to consider where new development should go in order to minimise flood risk, and whether there is an acceptable level of risk for some types of development. Although rising sea-levels are difficult to predict, should we start planning what we'd do in the event that land currently occupied by homes and businesses had to move because of high flood risk?

Q18. What do we need to do to provide resilience to flood risk?		Your score ▼
Please score the following 1 to 5 (where 5 = Essential; 4 = Very important / desirable; 3 = Neither desirable nor undesirable; 2 = Not important / undesirable; 1 = Very undesirable / to be discouraged)		
a	Improve flood defences to reduce risk to highly vulnerable property, where economically viable	
b	Adapt existing property, to minimise impacts of flood damage	
c	Create floodwater storage areas, where water is able to accumulate and drain away during floods, to minimise the risk of flooding in more built-up areas	
d	Ensure integrated drainage and sustainable urban drainage systems are implemented in new developments, wherever possible	
e	Ensure that land at risk of flooding is only developed if buildings and spaces can be designed to minimise impacts of flood damage and maximise potential floodwater storage areas	
Do you have any further ideas? Please tell us here or use the space before Question 20 at the end of this questionnaire...		

Want to know more? Turn to the back of this questionnaire to see where you can **find out about flooding and flood risk** and what we think the key issues are likely to be...

19. Meeting the district's need for open and green space

Open spaces are important to our well-being and quality of life; they contribute to the character and appearance of places, they enable us to get out and about and they can help to form or maintain a sense of community. Green open spaces can also be important natural habitats. We need to ensure that there is enough open and green space in our district's towns and villages, that it is of good quality and that it is accessible and useable for everyone.

Q19. How can we improve open space provision in our towns and villages?	
Please score the following 1 to 5 (where 5 = Essential; 4 = Very important / desirable; 3 = Neither desirable nor undesirable; 2 = Not important / undesirable; 1 = Very undesirable / to be discouraged)	Your score ▼
a Improve accessibility of facilities and improve the quality of the features in our open spaces	
b In areas of high provision, retain and maintain all current provision	
c In areas of low provision, improve provision by re-cycling emerging 'brownfield' sites	
d In areas of low provision, increase provision gradually as sites naturally come forward for redevelopment, using planning powers where appropriate	
e Manage our open space more effectively to meet a range of demands – such as exercise, biodiversity, “space to breathe”, enhancing character and appearance of places	
f Assess how open space is used, by whom, why, and how frequently. Target any resources to well-used or over-used areas, to enhance capacity and opportunities for use	
Do you have any further ideas? Please tell us here or use the space before Question 20 at the end of this questionnaire...	

Want to know more? Turn to the back of this questionnaire to see where you can **find out about open spaces and sports facilities in this district** and what we think the key issues are likely to be...

An overflow space for your comments...
Please be clear and brief and refer back to the relevant
Question number (1 - 19). Thank you.

20. So which are the most important issues for the Core Strategy to focus on?

Having read through the preceding 19 topics, please let us know which of them you think should be priorities for the Core Strategy. Please select your top 5 priorities from the list below, **and** the 5 that you think are least important.

Q20. Which of these do you think are the biggest priorities for the Core Strategy?			
	Please choose from the following 19 key issues and put a tick against your top five and a cross against your bottom five	Your Top 5 ✓	Your Bottom 5 ✗
1	Improving the image of the District and its towns		
2	Providing for job opportunities across the District		
3	Achieving a better transport system to help reduce CO ₂ emissions		
4	Improving the vitality and viability of our town centres		
5	Developing the tourism potential of the District		
6	Supporting and capitalising on the District's artistic and cultural assets		
7	Meeting the District's identified future housing needs		
8	Maintaining and improving the sustainability of our villages		
9	Improving provision of facilities for young people		
10	Meeting the needs of an increasingly elderly population		
11	Meeting the District's need for sports facilities		
12	Achieving social inclusion and active communities, where community initiatives are the norm		

13	Conserving and enhancing Stroud District's countryside and biodiversity		
14	Protecting and enhancing our historic environment		
15	Contributing to the provision of renewable and low-carbon energy generation in the District		
16	Minimising waste generation and increasing recycling		
17	Ensuring that the Cotswold canals restoration plays a positive role in the District's future		
18	Providing resilience to flood risk		
19	Meeting the District's need for green and open space		

And finally... is there a number 20?

20	Have we missed something? Please tell us your priority for the future development of the district:

Your details

Thank you for completing this survey. Please fill out this page with your personal information. Your details won't be used for any purpose other than this consultation, and to help us keep you up to date with progress if you want us to.

<p>Would you like to be kept informed and notified about any future stages of consultation?</p> <p>[Please tick one of the boxes below. You can contact us and get yourself added or removed from our contact list at any point if you change your mind]</p>	Yes please ➤	
	No thank you ➤	

Your name	
Title	name
Company name or organisation (if relevant):	
Your address [this information will not be made public]	
Postcode	
Please help us to save paper and save time. We would like to be able to keep in touch via email wherever possible.	
Your email address	
Your phone number	

About you [this information will not be made public]		Ethnic group	
This information will help us to identify particular issues or options that most concern people in different parts of the district, or particular groups or individuals.		Do you consider yourself to be...	
<p>Do you live or work in Stroud District? Please have a look at the map on the last page of this booklet. Which of the parish clusters do you live (or work) in?</p> <input type="text"/>		White British	
		White other	
		Black or Black British	
		Asian or Asian British	
		Mixed ethnicity	
		Romany Gypsy	
		Other	
Are you male ➤		female ➤	
Aged under 18 ➤		18 – 29 ➤	
30 – 49 ➤		50 – 65 ➤	
Over 65 ➤		[Tick the relevant boxes]	
For office use		Disability	
Consultee ref:		I consider myself to be disabled	
Date rec:		Yes ➤	
Comment ref:		No ➤	
Date input:			

Producing the Core Strategy – what happens next?

The Core Strategy won't be finally adopted until 2011. The Council is still in the very early stages of producing the plan. Between now and April next year, there will be ongoing contact with the District's residents and businesses, as well as key stakeholders and interest groups, as we refine the various options, look at alternatives and develop a draft document, known as the "preferred strategy". The draft document will then be published to allow everyone to comment and, if necessary, suggest changes.

- In May next year (2010), we will publish a draft document (the "*preferred strategy*") and there will be 6 weeks of public consultation on it.
- In November 2010, the finalised draft will be submitted to the Secretary of State and there will be another 6 weeks of public consultation.
- There will be a Public Examination of the document in June 2011

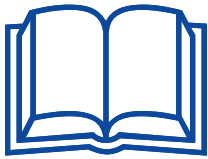
So how can you get involved right now?

- Complete this questionnaire and send it back to us by **Friday 1st May** – or do it online at www.stroud.gov.uk/core
- There's lots more information on our website too. And you can see our discussion paper on issues that we think are key to the district's future. You might find this useful background information, to help you fill in the questionnaire – but its not essential.
- Register your interest in the Core Strategy: contact us and give us your details, or make sure you have ticked the 'yes please' box at the end of the questionnaire
- Come along to one of our roadshows. We are holding drop-in sessions and exhibitions around the district during late March and early April. You'll be able to chat to officers working on the Core Strategy and find out more about the issues affecting the district. Copies of all the documents we have published in connection with this consultation will be available to view or take away. See the end of this booklet for dates and venues.

Want to know more?

Get some background info on these 19 topics...
And see if you agree with us about the key issues facing the district

You don't have to trawl through masses of information in order to fill in this questionnaire. If you just want to give us your gut feelings, that's fine. But there is plenty available if you want to dig a bit deeper.



We have published a discussion paper, which looks at each of the 19 issues in a bit more detail. The **Core Strategy Issues Discussion Paper** paints a picture of the district today and puts forward a selection of the issues that we think are likely to be at the forefront of making it a thriving, sustainable and attractive place in the future.



You can see this online at www.stroud.gov.uk/core and at the following locations during their normal opening hours:

- Town and parish council offices that open to the public: Berkeley, Gainscross, Cam, Chalford, Dursley, Minchinhampton, Nailsworth, Painswick, Rodborough, Stonehouse, Stroud, Wotton-under-Edge
- Public libraries at Berkeley, Brockworth, Dursley, Minchinhampton, Nailsworth, Painswick, Quedgeley, Stonehouse, Stroud, Wotton-under-Edge
- The customer service centre at Stroud District Council offices, Ebley Mill. There are computers for public internet access here as well.
- The Tourist Information Centre at the Subscription Rooms, Stroud



If you want to know how we came up with these issues, there is information on our website about the Core Strategy's **evidence base**.

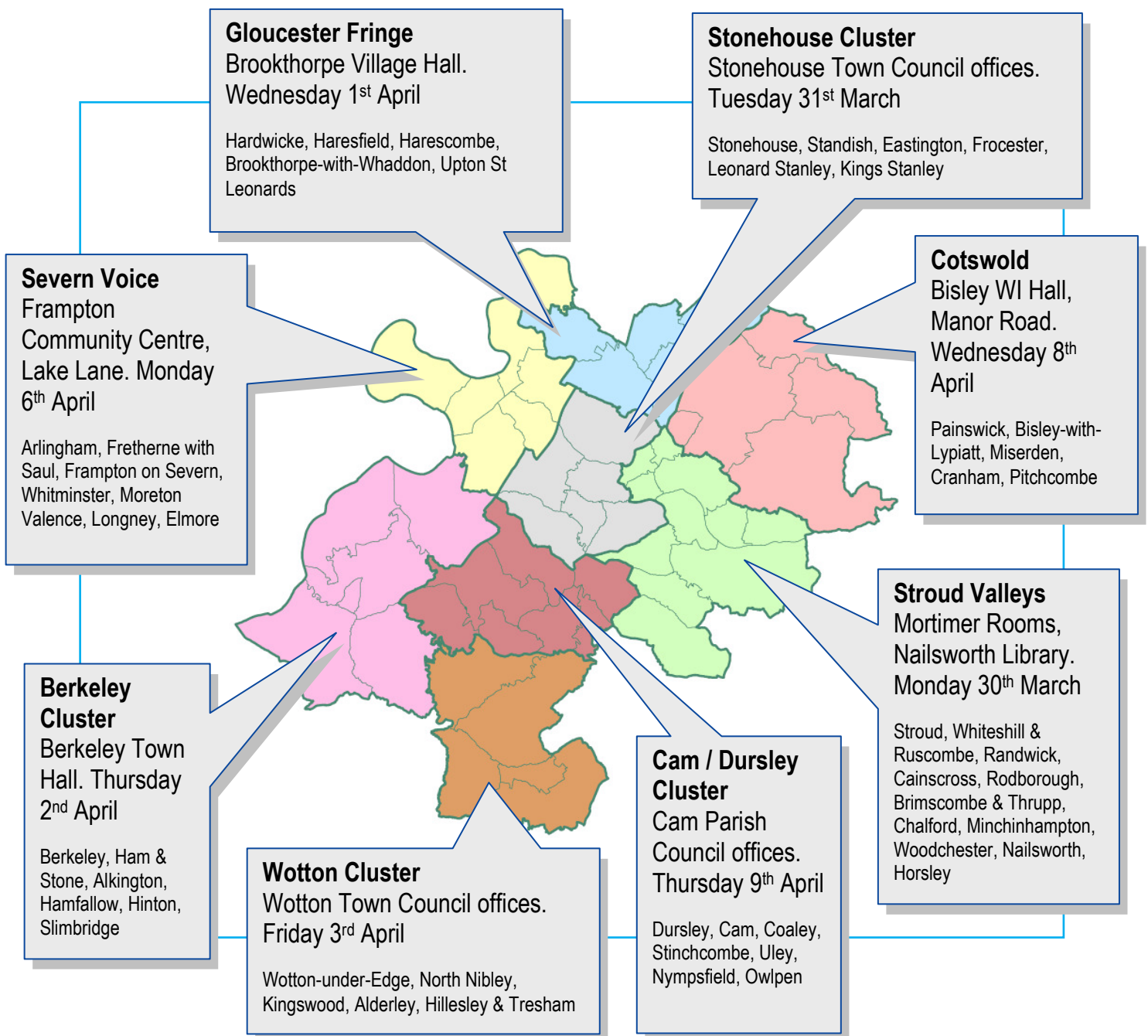
We have been collecting facts and figures and gathering opinions over a long period of time, and we will continue to do so over the next year. This is what is known as the "evidence base": its what helps us to identify the district's current and future needs, as well as obligations (like having to provide a certain number of new homes over a particular period).

Come along to our roadshow

We are holding drop-in sessions and exhibitions around the district during late March and early April. You'll be able to chat to officers working on the Core Strategy and find out more about the issues affecting the district. Copies of all the documents we have published in connection with this consultation will be available to view or take away.

There will be an event in each of these parish clusters. You can come along to any one of these, but we are hoping that this grouping will help to build up a picture of the particular issues and options that most concern different parts of the district.

You can drop in at any time between 1.30pm and 7.30pm. Doors shut at 8pm!



How to complete and return this questionnaire

Please ensure we have your completed responses to this survey by **Friday 1st May 2009**.

Fill in questions 1 - 20 at the centre of this booklet. You can then detach the outer pages to keep if you want, and send the core questionnaire (pages 4 - 31, including the page with 'your details') back to us in the envelope provided.

If you have internet access, you can fill this out online – which will help us to save paper and save time [go to www.stroud.gov.uk/core and follow the links to our consultation portal]. If you use this facility, you can 'pause' part way through and come back to it if you don't want to do it all in one sitting.

R.S.V.P

Contact us



Core Strategy

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Glos.
GL5 4UB

Find more information and
an online version of this
questionnaire at
www.stroud.gov.uk/core

email core@stroud.gov.uk

phone 01453 754092 for additional copies of this document
01453 754143 for other core strategy queries or large
print, foreign language or Braille versions of this
questionnaire