

1st December 2017.

Dear Sir/Madam,

R.E South Gloucestershire Council response to Stroud District Council Local Plan Issues and Options consultation.

South Gloucestershire Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Stroud District Local Plan Review, Issues and Options document. Please note that this is an Officer response.

It is noted that Stroud District Council is at an early stage of plan making, and as such, the consultation document sets out a range of potential approaches to future development. South Gloucestershire Council is broadly supportive of the key issues that underpin the document. In particular, Key Issue 34 acknowledges the importance of working with neighbouring authorities to meet the housing, economic and infrastructure needs of the wider market area.

South Gloucestershire Council has been working with its neighbouring West of England authorities in order to prepare a Joint Spatial Plan (JSP). The JSP has reached Regulation 19 Publication stage, with public engagement taking place from 22nd November until 10th January. The emerging document proposes strategic scale development at a number of locations within South Gloucestershire. Of particular relevance to Stroud District Council is the intention to direct development to the north of the district at Thornbury, Charfield and Buckover Garden Village. This is clearly shown on the supporting map for the south of Stroud District along with recognition of the strategic transport improvements being promoted.

It is also noted that the Issues and Options document identifies that there is potential for some development to be located in the southern part of the district, including at Wotton-under-Edge

The Council is keen to work closely with Stroud District Council, under the auspices of the Duty to Co-operate, in order to consider the way in which growth in the northern part of South Gloucestershire can complement any planned development within Stroud District, taking account of proposed infrastructure delivery, including the possible re-opening of Charfield railway station and improvements to Junction 14 of the M5. The highlighting of the cross boundary strategic issues within the Stroud Issues and Options document is therefore welcomed.

The Council looks forward to continuing effective cross boundary working with Stroud District Council throughout the respective plan making processes.

Kind regards,

██████████

██████████████████

South Gloucestershire Council