



COMMENTS ON 'STROUD DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN: EMERGING STRATEGY 2018'

Consultation on the emerging strategy is open until 18 January. Comments can be submitted online (www.stroud.gov.uk/localplanreview), by e-mail (local.plan@stroud.gov.uk) or by post (The Planning Strategy Team, Stroud District Council, Ebley Mill, Stroud GL5 4UB).

Main comment

The emerging strategy should be subject to fundamental review and revision in the light of:

- The growing [scientific evidence](#) that we need to take emergency action in order to prevent global warming greater than 1.5°C.
- The pledge in Stroud District Council's 'Carbon Neutral 2030 Commitment' to do everything within the Council's power to make the district carbon neutral by 2030.
- The anticipated over-arching commitment in the forthcoming Gloucestershire Energy Strategy (GES) that all public sector policies, plans and funding programmes should be aligned with and embed strong carbon reduction ambitions, and contribute appropriately to their achievement.
- The "call to arms" and good practice guidance in the TCPA/RTPI report ['Rising to the Climate Crisis: A Guide for Local Authorities on Planning for Climate Change'](#)

Response to Specific Questions

Top Five Issues

Question 1.0a Have we identified the top 5 issues for you?

No. Climate change mitigation and adaptation should now be included as the top issue.

Question 1.0b Do you agree with the ways we intend to tackle these issues?

Climate change mitigation and adaptation should be tackled in ways that build on TCPA/RTPI good practice guidance. All other issues should be tackled in ways that align with and contribute to mitigation and adaptation.

Meeting Needs for the Local Economy and Jobs, Town Centres, Housing and Local Green Spaces

Questions 2.1-2.4

The ways in which the Emerging Strategy proposes to approach these needs should be reviewed and revised in the light of the scientific evidence, the Council's 2030 pledge, the anticipated GES over-arching commitment, and TCPA/RTPI guidance referred to above. The approach must be aligned

with the Council's carbon reduction targets, contribute to their achievement, and address necessary adaptation to the effects of climate change.

Vision for the Future

Questions 3.1

The second paragraph in the Vision to 2040 needs strengthening and aligning with the Carbon Neutral 2030 Commitment. By 2040, carbon emissions in the District should be at an extremely low level, consistent with the Carbon Neutral commitment.

Strategic Objectives

Questions 3.2

The strategic objective on climate change and environmental limits (SO5) should be made consistent with the Carbon Neutral 2030 commitment and become *the over-arching objective* in the Emerging Strategy. It should also draw substantively on good practice¹. The other 4 objectives must be aligned with the over-arching objective and the Council's carbon reduction targets, and contribute to their achievement.

Future Growth Strategy and Making Places

Questions 4 and 5

It is essential that plan-making and development management fully supports the transition to a low-carbon future in a changing climate. The approaches to future growth strategy and 'making places' should therefore be reviewed and revised in the light of ways of 'meeting needs' and strategic objectives which are aligned with the Carbon Neutral 2030 commitment. They should also build on the building blocks for action anticipated in the forthcoming GES, and on the key principles and good practice on plan-making for mitigation and adaptation recommended in the TCPA/RTPI guide², including the allocation of areas for renewable energy development³. The guide's advice on delivery and development management should also be followed⁴.

¹ See in particular, section 4.1, 'Over-arching climate change objectives in local planning' in TCPA/RTPI guidance, ['Rising to the Climate Crisis: A Guide for Local Authorities on Planning for Climate Change'](#).

² See sections 4.4 and 4.5 in the TCPA/RTPI guide.

³ See section 4.5.2 in the TCPA/RTPI guide.

⁴ See section 5 in the TCPA/RTPI guide.