

**From:** [REDACTED]  
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**Subject:** Proposed Canal Strategy

**Categories:** Canal Strategy 2022 response

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Hello Planning Strategy Team,

Thank you for the invitation to comment on the Proposed Canals Strategy for Stroud District.

The identification of separate character areas is a really neat approach. The proposed strategy is successful in balancing the flexibility to respond to variance in areas along the canal while at the same time, leveraging the canals linear form to deliver substantial social and environmental benefits associated with multifunctional green/blue infrastructure. Great to see this systems based approach in planning practice.

As much as there is to celebrate about the proposals, in a bid to be a constructive response that is useful to the project team I have provided a few further questions for consideration:

### **Applying the Strategy in Planning Decision Making**

The urban design principles being applied in the strategy clearly reflect the identified core drivers of change which are informing the vision. Specifically, the ambition to improve how buildings interface with the canal is very much welcomed. If the canal is to become a vibrant public realm filled with activity this is a key move.

In terms of delivery, is there a mechanism within the project delivery tool to identify policy conflicts in the wider suite of decision making tools and guidance. I'm thinking specifically about the Stroud District Local Plan and the Industrial Heritage Strategy here as there would be conflicts (as they are currently adopted). These will need to be balanced in the decision making process. Will there be guidance to planning case officers on how this strategy should be applied and weighted for planning application decision making?

### **Climate Change Adaptation**

- It's fantastic to see the net zero agenda placed at the heart of the strategy and the climate change mitigation drivers and subsequent proposed interventions are commendable. I do however wonder if greater emphasis could be given to climate adaptation. How will the canal thrive under the predicted future climate change scenarios say in 2050, or 2100? How are these informing the strategy? Are there key design interventions that can be embedded into the strategy which foster greater resilience to our changing climate? Does a changing climate present challenges which may undermine the vision for the canal? What benefits can the canal provide under the predicted climate scenarios? Is there data available at a local level which can be extrapolated (much like what has been done for the carbon calculator) to provide design responses at both the strategy area and wider landscape (Canal) scale?

I'm sure much of the thinking around climate adaptation is already sitting behind the strategy but perhaps it could be better articulated?

Thanks again, there is a lot to celebrate with the proposed canals strategy documentation. Developing a spatial framework tool that stretches across the canal geography is an extensive piece of work.

Good luck with the remainder of the project.

Best Wishes

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**POP Planning Director**  


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